



Pakistani Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz offers smog diplomacy to India

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has announced her intention to collaborate with India to address the pressing issue of smog. During a Diwali celebration in Lahore, she highlighted the importance of diplomatic efforts, asserting that both Indian and Pakistani Punjab must work together to find effective solutions.



Rauf Ata of Asma Jahangir Group wins SCBA top slot

Rauf Ata of Asma Jahangir Group won the Supreme Court Bar Association top slot after securing 558 votes against Hamid Khan Group's Muneer A Kakar who got 484 votes. Ata expressed his gratitude after winning the election. "I thank everyone for placing their trust in me. We will ensure that the dignity of the black coat is upheld. Our group has always worked for the supremacy of the Constitution and the law, and we will continue to do so" he said.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Press Conference

RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Minister for Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Engineer Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Advisor at the Saudi Royal Court Mohammad Bin Mazayad Al-Tuwajiri in a joint press conference on the sidelines of the 8th Future Investment Initiative Conference on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Chairman JCSC called on President of Azerbaijan



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman JCSC on an official visit to Republic of Azerbaijan called on President of Azerbaijan His Excellency Ilham Aliyev, Minister of Defence Colonel General Hasanov Zakir Asgar, Foreign Minister Mr Jeyhun Aziz Oghlu Bayramov, 1st Deputy Defence Minister and Chief of General Staff Colonel General Karim Tofiq Oghlu Valiyev and Minister of Defence Industry Mr Vugar Mustafayev. During the interaction, both sides appreciated deep and historic relations between the two countries and discussed matters of mutual interest including evolving security dynamics of the region and enhancement of existing defence ties in multiple domains. Chairman JCSC highlighted the importance of enhanced military cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, and reaffirmed collective commitment towards peace and stability. Azerbaijani leadership appreciated the professionalism and sacrifices of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged the commonality of views to expand existing cooperation by exploring multiple avenues to forge deeper ties with Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia to increase visas for Pakistani workers, raise cooperation to \$2.8 billion

Spokesman Report

JEDDAH: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Pakistan has expanded their partnership to \$2.8 billion by adding seven new Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to the 27 signed earlier this month. This announcement was made by KSA's Minister for Investment, Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Falah, on Wednesday. "I am pleased to announce that the total number of MoUs has risen to 34," the Saudi minister stated.

In Riyadh, Al-Falah was accompanied by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Advisor at the Saudi Royal Court, Mohammad Bin Mazayad Al-Tuwajiri. "More importantly, the value of these agreements has also increased to \$2.8 billion, with many agreements still being assessed for their exact valuation," he noted, indicating an additional investment of \$600 million into Pakistan. The kingdom will also increase the number of visas provided to Pakistani workers. Earlier in October 2024, a

Saudi investment delegation led by Al-Falah visited Pakistan, where they signed 27 MoUs and agreements valued at \$2.2 billion. Al-Falah mentioned that work has already commenced on five of the 27 MoUs signed earlier. "These five agreements will soon be announced by the respective companies, covering key sectors such as healthcare and energy," he said. He also shared that Saudi investors have secured land and assets to develop an integrated medical complex in Pakistan.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) released on Thursday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, along with Saudi Investment Minister Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Royal Court Advisor Mohammad Bin Mazayad Al-Tuwajiri, reviewed the progress of various economic initiatives between the two nations in a recent meeting. Reflecting on Al-Falah's recent visit to Pakistan, the Prime Minister noted that the B2B MoUs signed during that visit have begun to turn into tangible

investments and commercial agreements. He encouraged maintaining the momentum to create new opportunities for strong economic partnerships and emphasized the need to leverage the significant economic opportunities arising from Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. Prime Minister Shehbaz is currently on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia to lead Pakistan's delegation at the 8th edition of the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh on October 29-30, 2024.

Intelligence-based operation in general area of Zhob District 'indicates' Khawarij presence: ISPR

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On night 29/30 October 2024, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in general area Sambaza, Zhob District, on the reported presence of Khawarij. During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between troops and Khawarij, as a result of which, one Khawarij was sent to hell, while one Khawarij was apprehended in injured condition. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from them. Sanitization operation is



being conducted to neutralize any other Khawarij present in the area. Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

At least 72 die in floods in Spain's Valencia

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: At least 72 people have lost their lives due to flash floods that swept through Spain's eastern region of Valencia following heavy rainfall, authorities reported. Severe storms on Tuesday caused floods across southern and eastern Spain. Social media footage depicted vehicles being carried away by the muddy waters. In response, over 1,000 soldiers from Spain's emergency response units were deployed to the affected areas, and the central government established a crisis committee to coordinate rescue operations. Emergency services in Valencia urged residents to refrain from road travel and to stay updated through official channels. By Wednesday, emergency services in Valencia confirmed a death toll of 70, with an additional two fatalities reported in the nearby Castilla La Mancha region. Carlos Mazon, the regional leader of Valencia, stated in a news conference that some individuals remained stranded in areas that were difficult to access. Meanwhile: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended deepest sympathies and solidarity to the people of Spain and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez over loss of lives due to floods.

Inflation lowest in 3.5 years, finance ministry says

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ministry of Finance has released its monthly economic outlook report, claiming a significant improvement across various economic indicators. The report highlights that inflation has reached its lowest level in 3.5 years. Key improvements cited in the report include substantial increases in remittances, exports, and foreign investment. The report states that the national economy demonstrated stable recovery during the first quarter. Specifically, the report notes that inflation in September fell to 6.9 percent, its lowest point in 44 months. The report attributes this positive trend to several factors: the receipt of a \$1.03 billion tranche from the IMF, a boost in business and market confidence following the SCO conference, and ongoing efforts towards sustainable economic recovery. Remittances increased by 38.8 percent, reaching \$8.78 billion. This significant rise in funds sent home by overseas Pakistanis has provided a crucial boost to the national economy. Exports also saw a positive trend, increasing by 7.8 percent and reaching \$7.49 billion. This growth indicates increased international demand for Pakistani goods and services. Foreign investment experienced a substantial surge, increasing by 70.4 percent, exceeding \$900 million. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) specifically saw a 48 percent increase, reaching \$770 million,

demonstrating growing confidence in Pakistan's investment climate. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) foreign exchange reserves also saw a significant increase, rising from \$7.61 billion to over \$11 billion. This bolstering of reserves strengthens Pakistan's economic stability and resilience. The stock market showed remarkable growth, exhibiting a 78.4 percent increase and surpassing 90,000 points. This signifies investor optimism and confidence in the country's economic future. The exchange rate also saw positive movement, with the dollar rate decreasing from Rs280.29 to Rs277.62 in one year. This slight but positive shift indicates improved currency stability. Tax Revenue from July to September increased by 25.5 percent, reaching Rs2563 billion. This indicates improved tax collection efficiency and compliance. Non-Tax Revenue also experienced growth, increasing by 20.8 percent to Rs341 billion. This further contributes to the overall improvement in government revenue. While the report highlights positive trends, it also acknowledges a 4.3 percent increase in the fiscal deficit during the first two months of the fiscal year, exceeding Rs41 billion. However, it also highlights a significant 92 percent decrease in the current account deficit, reducing it to \$98 million. This reduction in the current account deficit is a significant positive development.

Foreign govts raise issues over termination of IPP contracts

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government has reportedly begun receiving troubling messages from various foreign governments regarding "one-sided" agreements with certain Independent Power Producers (IPPs) through the energy task force, Business Recorder reported. According to these sources, the German government has expressed concerns about M/s Rousch Power Project Limited (RPPL), a power company owned by the family of former Minister of Commerce and Industries Abdul Razak Dawood. Under the Negotiated Settlement Agreement (NSA) with RPPL, several key points were established: (i) As part of a BOOT arrangement, the company will transfer the Complex to the Government of Pakistan or its designated entity for just one USD, payable in equivalent PKR at the current exchange rate; (ii) the company will receive Rs 5.5 billion for the early termination of the OFME period; and (iii) it will be compensated Rs 2.8 billion for maintaining the Complex until the transfer occurs. Sources indicate that Georg Klusmann, Head of Division for Pakistan at the German Federal Foreign Office, communicated to Pakistan's Embassy in Germany that the German government is concerned about the negotiation process with RPPL and its shareholder, Siemens.

PM condemns Israel's obstruction of UNRWA operation in Palestine

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned Israel's actions aimed at obstructing the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The prime minister, who is currently on a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia to attend the Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh, wrote on his X timeline that by preventing critical relief assistance from reaching millions of helpless Palestinians, Israel was committing yet another blatant violation of international humanitarian law and the UN Charter. He also called for the international community to hold Israel accountable for such



violations. The prime minister, in his address at the FII moot on Tuesday had said that the global dream of progress and prosperity would never be fulfilled and transformed into action unless peace was restored in Gaza and bloodshed immediately stopped over there. He categorically referred to the situation in Gaza and observed that without peace and an immediate end to bloodshed there, the world would not progress and prosper.

Murad says Karachi generates highest revenue because govt provides business opportunities

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah, in his meeting with a KCCI delegation, said that Karachi is the highest revenue-generating city because the provincial government has provided ample business opportunities to the traders, but nobody was ready to acknowledge.

"The credit of Karachi's highest revenue generation in the national exchequer not only goes to the traders but to his government also which has developed a congenial environment for trade and commerce," he said adding what he wanted from the business community to portray the city as peaceful, business and investment friendly city of the country.

Mr Shah pointed out that for the one last month, a World Cultural Festival with artists from 44 countries has



been in progress. "Various national and international events take place at the Expo Centre Karachi every month, he said, adding that these are loud indicators of improved law and order, stability, ample business opportunities and a conducive environment

for people of different professions. "Everyone must recognise and propagate," he said.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers—Sharjeel Memon, Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Jam Ikram Dharejo, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Secre-

tary Energy, chairman P&D, Secretary to CM, Secretary Industries, Secretary Local Govt, Secretary Transport, Secretary Health and Additional IG Javed Odho. The KCCI delegation comprised Javed Balwani, Mian Abrar, AQ Khalil, Ziaul Arfeen, Mian Faisal and others.

A five-day national polio vaccination campaign is underway in Swat

Correspondent

SWAT: A five-day national polio vaccination campaign is underway in Swat, aiming to immunize 482,066 children under five years old from 325,831 households.

District Health Officer Dr. Salim Khan appealed to the public to cooperate with the 2,115 polio teams, comprising 100 Union Council Medical Officers and 468 area in-charge officials. The teams are going door-to-door to administer the life-saving vaccine.

"The success of this campaign relies on community support," Dr. Khan emphasized. "We urge parents to ensure their children receive the polio vaccine and vitamin A drops, also being administered during this campaign."

This intensive drive aims to make Swat polio-free, aligning with Pakistan's nationwide efforts to eradicate the disease.



Drug peddler sentenced to 16 years in prison

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A special court for the Control of Narcotic Substances (CNS) in Pindigheb on Wednesday sentenced 16-year imprisonment to an accused involved in a drug peddling case. The accused Furqan Abbas was arrested by Pindigheb Police in September 2023 after recovery of heroin and hashish from his possession subsequently a case was registered against him under section 9-C of control of narcotics substance act 1997. The judge after hearing the arguments of defense and prosecution counsels announced the verdict as the convicted was found guilty of selling drugs, subsequently awarded 16-year imprisonment and fine worth Rs 0.15 million. During the proceedings, the public prosecutor for the state argued that the accused was caught red-handed while smuggling the contraband and the evidence on record fully connected him with the commission of the offence. He maintained that the accused was charged for a heinous offence and he did not deserve any leniency. In case of non-payment, the accused will have to face jail for another six months.

Meanwhile, Fatehjang Police on Wednesday arrested a female drug peddler and recovered hashish from her possession. The Police spokesman has said that Farzana Bibi was involved in drug peddling and arrested red handed while carrying 1.85 kilogram hashish. A case was registered against the lady drug peddler under section 9-C of control of narcotics substance act 1997.

Motorcyclist knocked to death

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A motorcyclist was knocked to death by a Suzuki van near Haji Shah chowk in the limits of Attock Police station on Wednesday, rescue 1122 and Police sources said. The Police spokesman has said that 19 years old Muhammad Haris was going on his motorcycle when a speedy Suzuki van while overtaking another vehicle collided head on with his motorcycle resultantly he died on the spot. Police registered a case against the van driver and launched further investigation.

Sooraj Kumar presents his PhD seminar in Chemical Engineering

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: In the Makhdoom Daud (MD) Hall of Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, Engineer Sooraj Kumar successfully presented his final PhD seminar in Chemical Engineering. His research was supervised by Dr. Khanji Harijan, Dr. Muhammad Aslam Uqaili, and Dr. Suhail Soomro.

During the seminar, advanced aspects of chemical engineering were discussed, and Sooraj Kumar shared innovative methods relevant to energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

The event was graced by experts from across the country, including Professor Dr. Abdul Haq Tanyo (Director of Postgraduate Studies), Professor Dr. Shaheen Aziz, Professor Shiraz Memon, and Professor Dr. Waheed Bhutto (Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dawood University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi). The attendees also included Dr. Sushel Kumar, Dr. Adeel Bhatti, MPhil scholars Pirsotam and Ijaz Shar, who praised Kumar's work.

Muqam holds meeting with Nazriati Group

BUNER, OCT 30 (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr Amir Muqam held a meeting with Nazriati Group leaders on Wednesday.

During the meeting, held at residence of Ishfaq Chattan, the Leaders of Nazriati Group announced to abolish the Group and express full confidence on the leadership of PML-N, president Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Engr Amir Muqam and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, received a press release. Extending full support to provincial president Engr Amir Muqam, the leaders vowed to work together for strengthening the party.

The Nazriati Group leader Abdul Subhan Khan, Malik Imran, group president from Peshawar Arbab Ghulam Haider Khan, group leader from Abbottabad Sardar Abdur Rashid also spoke on this occasion.

Provincial President Engr Amir Muqam hailed their decision and termed the decision of abolishment of group as "better late than never".

He expressed the resolve to work under the dynamic leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. On this occasion President PML N Mardan Inayat Shah Bacha, Swabi President Shiraz Khan, Buner President Salar Khan, Shangla president Intikhab Alam, Babar Salim, Nawabzada Khan, Adil Khan, Ajar Akram Bacha, Shah Bakht Rawan, Amanullah Khan, Liaqat Khan, Ishtiaq Khan, Javed Ghazali and others were also present.

Dry weather likely in most parts of country; cold in hilly areas: PMD

ISLAMABAD, OCT 30 (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast mainly dry weather for most parts of the country during the next 24 hours.

While cold weather is expected in hilly areas during morning or night. According to the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country.

During the last 24 hours, dry weather prevailed in most parts of the country, while hot in Sindh.

However, rain-wind/thunderstorm occurred at isolated places in Islamabad, Potohar region, Gilgit-Baltistan, upper Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir.

The rainfall recorded was Punjab: Islamabad (A/P) 09mm, Bokra 02, City 01, Murree 07, Attock 03, Rawalpindi (Shamsabad, Kacheri) 01, Gilgit-Baltistan: Skardu 09, Astore 03, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa: Pattan 09, Dir (upper), Malam Jabba 09, Saidu Sharif 01, Kashmir, Muzaffarabad (City 03, A/P 01), Garhi Dupatta 02 and Rawalakot 01mm.

Assistance

ISLAMABAD: The 18th Consignment from GoP/Pak NDMA carrying 95 tons Landed at Beirut, Lebanon on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

A two-day Independence Day Sports Festival

Qayoom Sarohi

MIRPURKHAS: In Mirpurkhas, the Community Action for Rural Development (CARD) and the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Sindh, organized a two-day Independence Day Sports Festival for the youth. The festival was held at PSB Ground in Mirpurkhas, featuring games like cricket, volleyball, and tug-of-war. A total of 8 teams participated in cricket, and in the final match, Mirpurkhas Academy team won the trophy by defeating Umar Eleven in a tough competition. In volleyball, the Juniors Eleven emerged victorious, while Shahid Team won in tug-of-war.

Trophies and prizes were distributed among the participating players. The closing ceremony was attended by special guests, including District Sports Officer Wasdev, Mirpurkhas Academy coach Shahid, CEO of Mirpurkhas Academy Imam Bakhsh, Coach of Kosar Academy Asghar Khan,



and Volleyball Association Manager Ashok Kumar. District Sports Officer Wasdev inaugurated the festival and

later, speaking to the media, highlighted the importance of sports for a healthy society. He praised the CARD

team for organizing the event and assured full support and assistance in future events.

Expression of concerns over air pollution & govt's policies to control smog

Special Correspondent

MULTAN: Chairman of the SM Group of Industries, Member of the National Export Development Board, and Member of the Board of Investment, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, has expressed serious concerns about air pollution. He stated that after Lahore, Multan has now become the second most polluted city, with the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching a dangerous level of 301.

Renowned industrialist mentioned that strict instructions have been issued to the boiler operators of his factories to comply with the government's policies and SOPs by using wet scrubbers. This process effectively removes pollutants from the gas, preventing air pollution.

A few years ago, only media professionals were aware of air pollution or smog. News about smog engulfing



major cities of countries like the United States, China, and India used to appear on TV screens and in newspapers. However, Pakistani citizens have now experienced the harsh reality of smog, affecting millions across the country.

In the past, factories and transportation systems existed, but pollution

levels were not as alarming. Zulfiqar Ali believes that in a country like Pakistan, factors other than coal burning play a bigger role in winter smog. He emphasized the need for regional and global cooperation to address this issue effectively.

He said the expansion of new cities and housing colonies has led to deforestation, reducing the availability of oxygen. It takes 20 years for these colonies to develop fully, contributing to rising pollution levels. He stressed that a ban on cutting trees should be enforced.

The city streets are crowded with rickshaws, cars, and other vehicles, whose silencers emit carbon pollutants responsible for air pollution. This pollution, known as photochemical smog, is exacerbated by emissions from transport sources like buses, trucks, and cars, particularly in densely populated areas, leading to severe smog

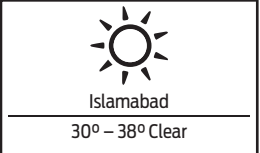
conditions.

He stressed the urgent need for effective measures against smog and control over its contributing factors, as it poses severe health risks to a large population. He highlighted the importance of collective efforts to tackle the issue.

During early winter, several crops, especially rice, ripen and farmers burn the leftover stubble, heavily polluting the air. He called on the government to educate farmers about alternative ways of disposing of crop residues.

In addition, low-quality petrol use has increased in Multan, with substandard fuel openly sold in local markets, contributing to pollution. He urged the authorities to ban the sale of non-standard fuel.

Anjum praised the Punjab government's policies to control smog, describing them as effective and beneficial.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:01 am
Zohr 11:51 am
Asr 3:39 pm
Maghrib 5:17 pm
Isha 6:41 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4

AIOU approves new BS Programs in International Relations and Psychology at faculty board meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) held a Faculty Board meeting for its Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities yesterday, presided over by Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. During the session, two new four-year undergraduate programs—BS in International Relations and BS in Psychology—received formal approval. In addition to these new programs, the board endorsed the academic schemes for BS, MS/MPhil, and PhD programs across various departments, along with other curriculum and teaching-related matters.

Addressing the faculty, Dr. Sahir highlighted AIOU's commitment to introducing educational programs that address contemporary social and economic demands, aligning with the vision of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood. He stressed the importance of prioritizing educational quality, emphasizing that fostering genuine knowledge is more valuable than merely awarding degrees.

Dr. Sahir directed faculty members to place particular emphasis on professional and technical education, noting that skilled societies are essential for national progress. He also instructed them to ensure that all new programs adhere to the standards and credit hour requirements set by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) before submitting them to the Academic Council for final approval.

Hashoo Group and Mujahid Properties Launch PC Residences in Landmark Development Project

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Hashoo Group's Real Estate Division, Pearl Real Estate Holdings Pvt. Ltd. (PREH), is pleased to announce a landmark partnership with Mujahid Properties to bring PC Residences to the heart of Islamabad. This transformative project is set to redefine the city's commercial and residential landscape, combining the expertise and resources of both entities to deliver world-class real estate. The signing ceremony, held in Islamabad, was attended by Murtaza Hashwani, Deputy Chairman & CEO of Hashoo Group, alongside senior management teams from both Hashoo Group and Mujahid Properties. Commenting on the partnership, Shakir Bhura, Chief Executive Officer of the Real Estate Division and Group Chief Financial Officer of Hashoo Group, said, "This joint venture with Mujahid Properties is a pivotal step in our mission to reshape Islamabad's real estate landscape. PC Residences merge the best of serviced hotel apartments

with managed residential living, setting new standards of luxury, convenience, and hospitality."

Hashoo Group's Real Estate Division provides comprehensive services, including hospitality, residential, corporate, and commercial assets, and development services that facilitate luxurious and welcoming experiences nationwide. With a proven track record of excellence, the Division has successfully delivered notable projects such as Pearl City Multan and is working on exciting new developments with DHA and other notable private sector real estate developer groups across the country.

Amanah is the exclusive sales and marketing partner of 16 Sina that is offering a shariah compliant investment model in PC Residences and Mujahid Properties, a strategic alliance at 16 Sina located at the heart of New Blue Area Islamabad.

Hashoo Group is Pakistan's premier conglomerate, boasting a diversified business portfolio that spans national and international markets. The Group



owns and operates the Pearl-Continental Hotels & Resorts, PC Legacy, and Hotel Amanah in Pakistan and maintains interests in the information technology, fintech, water, investment, travel and tourism, and real estate sectors.

Pink October

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights Saba Sadiq and Deputy Director Women Welfare and Development Centre Ismat Afridi, cutting the cake during a ceremony Breast Cancer title "Awareness seminar and Medical Camp" at Women Welfare and Development Center, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Faisal Sami honoured with UK Volunteer of the Year award 2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Syed Muhammad Faisal Sami, UK Head of Faizan Global Relief Foundation (Dawat-e-Islami), won the 'UK Volunteer of the Year 2024' award for his humanitarian work in the UK and globally. His efforts include food distribution, health checks, drug prevention, and disaster relief in regions across the world.

Syed Muhammad Faisal Sami has been awarded the prestigious 'UK Volunteer of the Year 2024' award by Charity Today. This recognition celebrates his exceptional contributions to humanitarian efforts in the UK, and around the globe, where he has tirelessly worked to support vulnerable communities.



Faizan Global Relief Foundation (FGRF) is renowned for its commitment to humanitarian work, focusing on relief efforts both domestically and internationally.

The foundation's activities encompass a wide array of initiatives, including disaster relief, food distribution, educational programmes, and health services. FGRF aims to empower communities, alleviate poverty, and foster social welfare through its outreach programmes and charitable projects.

Lee B Rayment, Founder & Editor of Charity Today, expressed "It is my great pleasure to present Syed with this UK Volunteer of the Year award 2024. The Awards continue to grow from strength to strength, and seeing people like Syed, doing the wonderful that he does in communities, for the people in and around the world, is just fantastic."

Pakistan's second hand textile sector bears massive potential for founding circular economy model



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Union, organized a workshop titled "Criteria and Guideline Development for Used Textiles Trade" under the framework of the Circularity and Used Textiles Trade in Pakistan.

Asad Naqvi from UNEP appreciated the workshop outcomes for debunking myths about the secondhand textile industry in the country and underlined the need to study early supply chain components of the sectors, particularly the farmers.

Mustafa Sattar, CEO of Retex Global, Pakistan's largest clothing grading facility, discussed the crucial role of reuse in the textile sector, emphasizing that 90% of garments are recycled without water or gas.

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI, lauded the initiative's progress and expressed optimism for the future of Pakistan's circular economy, particularly with the removal of regulatory duties on second-hand clothing.

Dr. Syed Jaffar Ahmed appointed as GS of Pakistan Historical Society

City Desk



KARACHI: Ms. Sadia Rashid, President-Hamdard Foundation Pakistan and the Pakistan Historical Society (PHS), has appointed Professor Dr. Syed Jaffar Ahmed, a distinguished expert in social sciences, as the General Secretary of the society, following the recommendation from the PHS Executive Committee.

Dr. Syed Jaffar Ahmed brings extensive experience in education, teaching, and research, having served as the Director of the Pakistan Study Centre at the University of Karachi for 18 years. He currently holds the position of Director at the Institute of Historical and Social Research and serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Sohail University, Karachi. The Pakistan Historical Society is a research organization established in 1950 by history researchers to promote and advance research on various aspects of the national history of Pakistan. The founder of Hamdard Pakistan, Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, accepted the patronage of the society in 1978. Since 1953, the society has

Traders playing an important role in running the country's economy: MPA Asma Abbasi

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Member Provincial Assembly Malik Iftikhar Ahmed said that what happened in the Punjab Assembly should not have happened. Traders are our brothers, these traders are playing an important role in running the country's economy. MPA Ms. Asma Naz Abbasi will also be discussed. A whole city of restaurants can't be blamed because of a few. If there is a problem of sanitation or dengue, there are relevant institutions for that which are doing their work.

On Wednesday, Rawalpindi Restaurants Caters Sweets and Bakers Association Core Committee members met Member Provincial Assembly Malik Iftikhar Ahmed and Member Provincial Assembly Malik Mansoor Afsar under the leadership of President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry at a private food center. The duties of the host were performed by Patron-in-Chief Chaudhry Muhammad

Naem. On this occasion, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed, Group Leader Sain Mohammad Ejaz, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Imtiaz, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zahid, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Imtiaz, Deputy General Secretary Hashim Ejaz Butt, Vice President Huzaifa Ansar, Vice President Nadeem Alam Kayani, Deputy President Sardar Ejaz Wilayat, Vice President Chaudhry Shahzad, Executive Member Naveed Ahmad Abbasi were present. Concern was expressed by MPA Asma Naz Abbasi in the Punjab Assembly over the poor cleanliness of restaurants across Rawalpindi and the submission of an adjournment motion against the Punjab Food Authority, and it was strongly condemned.

President of the association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry said that it would not be correct to say that there are no cleaning arrangements at all the food points of Rawalpindi, this cannot be agreed at all. If the member

of the provincial assembly did not see cleanliness at any food point, then he is authorized to take action. If the business runs, then the country runs. It seems that not all food points are clean in her eyes.

Traders are the backbone of the country's economy. The sentiments of the business community have been badly hurt by this statement of MPA Asma Naz. It is our strong request that Chief Minister Punjab Ms. Maryam Nawaz should be informed about our concerns. As always, we are ready to fully support the government and the district administration. But where we are criticized unjustly and attempts are made to affect our business, then also to the Chief Minister Punjab Ms. Maryam Nawaz should be noted. Patron-in-Chief Chaudhry Muhammad Naem criticized the adjournment movement and said that in this regard, we have taken out the checkbook record from the Punjab Food Authority and placed it before you.



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Can the 26th Constitutional Amendment be Challenged?

There are numerous grounds for challenging the 26th Amendment, including constitutional, political, logical, and juristic objections. Politically, the issue is clear: the assemblies were formed based on Form 47 rather than Form 45. The Election Tribunals have not been constituted nor are they functioning; additionally, the Senate is incomplete, as the senators from the KP Assembly have yet to be elected. Furthermore, the Supreme Court's majority judgment restoring the PTI as a parliamentary party and allocating reserved seats has not been implemented. These and other unresolved issues have rendered this parliament highly controversial. Therefore, from a political and logical perspective, until these concerns regarding the parliament's authenticity and legitimacy are resolved, it does not — and should not — have the legal, moral, or ethical standing to introduce far-reaching constitutional amendments that fundamentally alter the structure, nature, and spirit of the constitution.

In Thailand in 2006 & 2014 the parliament was restrained from pushing through constitutional changes due to controversies surrounding the electoral process and legitimacy of the parliament itself. After military takeovers, temporary constitutions were issued to suspend amendments until free elections and legitimate parliamentary functioning were restored, signaling that amendments by controversial or incomplete assemblies could not proceed.

Constitutionally, these amendments contradict the very essence of the constitution. The spirit — or "DNA" — of the constitution is rooted in the trichotomy of power, which requires a clear separation between the branches of government, ensuring that no branch interferes in the internal matters of another and that no branch is subordinate to another. However, the 26th Amendment disrupts this balance by placing the judiciary under the administrative authority of the parliament and government, creating a dynamic akin to that of master and servant. Under this arrangement, judicial appointments, promotions, and transfers would be determined by the government or parliament, undermining judicial independence.

Additionally, by reconstituting the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), the amendment grants the parliament and government a controlling veto power over judicial members. This structure ensures that decisions made by the JCP require the consent of non-judicial members, meaning that even if all five judicial members agree on a decision, it will only hold weight if endorsed by non-judicial members. This scenario can be illustrated by imagining a government cabinet of 25 members, with 15 of those members coming from the judiciary. In such a situation, it would be the judiciary — rather than the government — controlling the executive. Similarly, the amendment enables the parliament and government to exert control over the judiciary, encroaching on its autonomy. There has been many examples where amendment made to give power to one pillar over the other were challenged and were annulled.

In the United States (Marbury v.

Madison, 1803) landmark case established the principle of judicial review, empowering the judiciary to challenge and nullify laws or amendments that infringe upon its independence. Although not a direct amendment case, it set a precedent by declaring that laws infringing on judicial authority are unconstitutional.

In Turkey (2008), the Turkish government attempted to amend the constitution to limit judicial independence, granting parliament increased authority over judicial appointments. Turkey's Constitutional Court ultimately annulled the amendment, ruling that it violated the principle of separation of powers.

In India (NJAC Case, 2015) the Indian government attempted to pass the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, which sought to restructure the judicial appointment process by granting the executive a say in judicial appointments. The Supreme Court of India struck down the NJAC, ruling that it infringed upon judicial independence and violated the basic structure of the constitution.

In Poland (2019) the Poland's government passed amendments giving parliament control over judicial appointments and disciplinary actions. The European Court of Justice (ECJ) found these amendments unconstitutional, asserting that they compromised judicial independence, a principle essential for EU member states.

In Hungary (2013), Hungary's government sought to curtail judicial inde-

pendence by amending the constitution to centralize power over the judiciary within the executive branch. The European Commission and Hungarian Constitutional Court intervened, reversing parts of the amendments due to their impact on judicial autonomy.

However there were many other instances where constitutional amendments expanding one branch's authority over another were upheld. In South Africa and Germany, amendments granting limited executive oversight of the judiciary were maintained by the courts, justified by pressing national security or social needs.

But these amendments were generally made by parliaments recognized as legitimate, functioning within established democratic and constitutional frameworks.

Unlike Pakistan's situation, where unresolved issues around election tribunals, incomplete parliamentary representation, and the unaddressed Supreme Court rulings have raised concerns about legitimacy, these other examples involved decisions from parliaments whose authenticity was not in question. The context and procedural integrity of a parliament play a crucial role in determining the acceptability of constitutional amendments, especially when they impact the balance of powers.

The 26th Constitutional Amendment, passed by a parliament facing serious legitimacy issues, stands a reasonable chance of being challenged and potentially invalidated by the courts in Pakistan.

Writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD and SRBC



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Pakistan calls for steps to offset threats to regional, international security

Reaffirming that international peace and security depended on stability at the regional levels, Pakistan has called for the preservation of balance in the defence capabilities of states at the lowest level of armaments and military forces.

Speaking at a key U. N. panel, Pakistani delegate Atif Raza also underscored the special responsibility of militarily significant states in promoting regional security.

"Several regions have reaped the benefits of applying these principles: Conventional arms control, risk reduction, and confidence-building measures (CBMs) have laid the groundwork for peace in many regions of the world," Raza, a Counsellor at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, told the General Assembly's First Committee, which deals with disarmament and international security issues.

"However, when a state spurs these regional approaches because it perceives its global ambitions as incompatible, it obstructs the path to peace," he said in the debate on 'Regional Disarmament and Security'.

"Such denial isn't just a regional issue; it destabilizes the entire global order," the Pakistani delegate added.

Confidence-building measures could lead to favourable measures for the peaceful settlement of existing disputes, he said, adding they should not become an end in themselves.

"They (CBMs) also cannot act as a substitute nor a precondition for steps towards peaceful settlement of disputes," Raza said. "Without progress towards eliminating underlying disputes and causes of mistrust between states, the utility of CBMs diminishes."

A stable balance of conventional forces and weapons, he said, was necessary to ensure strategic stability, particularly in regions mired in tensions. "Preventing the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression remain important goals of conventional arms control".

In short, he added, regional security is global security, and denying one imperils the other.

At the outset, the Pakistani delegate said the complementarity between global and regional approaches is grounded in a simple reality — most threats to peace emerge from within regions or sub-regions where neighbouring States are the first to feel the heat of a conflict.

Regional disarmament must address the accumulation of conventional weapons that exceed legitimate self-defence needs. When countries amass more than necessary, they destabilize the entire region.

For several years, he said, Pakistan has led initiatives at the United Nations to promote the goals of regional disarmament, conventional arms control, and CBMs.

In this regard, he told the committee that the Pakistan delegation will present three resolutions on regional disarmament; confidence-building measures in the regional and sub-regional context; and conventional arms control at regional and sub-regional levels.

"These draft resolutions recognize the significance of and complementarity between regional and global approaches to arms control, disarmament and confidence building to promote international peace, security and stability," Raza said, as he called for their adoption.



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

Element of Impatience in Pakistani Politics

The political landscape of Pakistan has often been marked by volatility and rapid changes in power. A significant factor in this instability is the pervasive impatience that influences decision-making and shapes the outcomes of various political events. Imran Khan's political journey underscores the risks associated with impatience in Pakistani politics. His rapid rise to prominence in 2018, marked by promises of reform and anti-corruption, highlighted his impatience with the established political order. Khan's administration aggressively pursued reforms and adopted a confrontational stance toward opposition groups, fostering a polarized atmosphere. His impatience with complex governance issues and inability to effectively manage dissent led to a loss of parliamentary confidence and his ousting in 2022. This example illustrates how hasty political maneuvers can lead to significant setbacks and a loss of political capital.

The media landscape in Pakistan has intensified the impatience in politics. The 24/7 news cycle and social media platforms encourage instant reactions and quick decisions over thoughtful deliberation. This environment pressures politicians to respond rapidly to crises or controversies, often resulting in hasty choices that lack depth. The emphasis on immediate media coverage can detract from long-term policy planning and effective governance.

In the context of Imran Khan, leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former Prime Minister of Pakistan, it's evident that he has used a range of tactics throughout his political career to boost his popularity and consolidate power. His strategies reflect a unique approach to politics amid a complex political landscape. Khan's tenure as Prime Minister was marked by significant controversies. His political maneuvers often came at a considerable cost, most notably

a decline in public trust. His administration's poor management of economic issues, such as inflation and unemployment, drew criticism from both the public and opposition parties. The promise of a "Naya Pakistan" (New Pakistan) faced skepticism as economic challenges persisted, leading to disillusionment among his supporters. This erosion of trust diminished his political capital and made it harder to mobilize and retain public backing.

Khan's confrontational style and frequent attacks on political opponents and institutions strained his relationships with potential allies. This approach alienated various political entities, resulting in reduced support from coalition partners and the broader political landscape. Such isolation hindered his ability to build consensus and govern effectively, impacting his capacity to advance key legislative agendas and reforms. His government faced criticism regarding its economic performance, as the implementation of promised reforms and development projects often fell short. Issues like rising inflation, a depreciating currency, and high public debt became major concerns, affecting public confidence and complicating efforts to fulfill campaign promises and achieve long-term economic stability. Khan's vocal critiques of international institutions and foreign policies strained Pakistan's diplomatic relations. His rhetoric on issues like the Kashmir conflict and his criticism of global powers impacted Pakistan's international standing and its ability to cultivate strategic partnerships. This stanced led to tensions with important allies and international stakeholders. Additionally, Khan's frequent confrontations with Pakistan's judiciary and military created a perception of instability and weakened trust in these essential institutions. His criticisms and political maneuvers contributed to a polarized political environ-

ment, complicating governance and institutional functioning. The resulting friction with established institutions affected the effectiveness of his administration and fueled political instability. Within his party, PTI, Khan faced internal challenges and dissent. As the party grappled with the complexities of governance, disagreements over policy directions and administrative decisions emerged. This strain on party unity impacted PTI's coherence and its ability to present a united front, ultimately affecting its overall effectiveness and electoral prospects.

A significant factor in Khan's approach is his impatience. He seeks power and governance by any means, fair or unfair, lacking the patience necessary for effective leadership. Throughout his political career, he has demonstrated a relentless desire for power, often at the expense of principles. Incidents like the Cypher drama and his correspondence with the IMF illustrate his tendency to prioritize his own political interests over those of Pakistan. This attitude is common among many Pakistani politicians, who often disregard public opinion and defeat, using their loyal supporters to pursue personal agendas. They resist giving their opponents a fair chance and lack the moral courage to wait for their turn.

Imran Khan and several other political leaders are involving innocent people and their unwitting followers in protests, aiming to escalate them into violence. Their actions and intentions seem to prioritize personal gain and political advantage over the genuine issues facing the public. In the current situation, the country cannot afford chaos, and these individuals must be held accountable under the law.

It is crucial for the public to understand politicians' true intentions and distinguish between good and bad leaders. People must recognize which leaders and parties are genuinely committed to the welfare of Pakistan and which are driven by personal interests. Voter maturity is essential; citizens should be cautious in blindly following their political leaders and parties.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

A Double Whammy Threat to Rural Sustainability

Tanzeela Jaffar

The world population is growing, and rural areas are coming under heavy pressure through overpopulation and overconsumption. Both factors affect the sustainability of resources primarily through environmental degradation, economic instability, and social challenges in rural areas. To design efficient sustainability and resilience strategies, it is essential to know how these factors affect rural areas.

Rural population buildup can stretch local resources, from water to land, and food. The more people that occupy these areas, the more housing, infrastructure, and services would be required. This usually causes:

Increased Generation of Waste: Increased populations in cities lead to increased waste. Local sanitation management systems may be interfered with, and poor disposal may lead to soil and water pollution, hence affecting public health and local ecosystems.

Infrastructure Pressure: rural areas lack enough infrastructure; that is, roads, schools, and health facilities—causing a low quality of life and potential outmigration.

Overconsumption combines to worsen the consequences of overpopulation. In many rural areas, especially in those areas in direct contact with the urban market, the consumption pattern would typically assume unsustainable practices where resources, no matter how fast they are consumed, will become depleted faster than they are replenished.

Overconsumption leads to habitat degradation because land for agriculture or development clears areas that would be natural habitats. The reduced biodiversity will start making the ecosystems more vulnerable, and collapsing the local food systems.

The problem of population increases and overconsumption has its underlying causes in devel-

opment that require corrective measures in rural farms:

In the quest to promote the use of practices such as organic farming, agroforestry, or crop rotation, productivity will be improved and yet retain the health of the soil and biodiversity. Farming as a business also calls for this knowledge to be imputed into the farmers for sustainability to be realized.

Constructing adequate irrigation structures and incubating waterproof technology can effectively counter the water shortage phenomenon prevailing in overpopulated regions. Water management policies have to encourage the utilization of water in a sustainable manner so as to sustainably consume societies in the future.

Empowerment of local people in the management of projects gives a feeling of stewardship to the resources. Community-supported agriculture initiatives can help consolidate local food systems and advance these objectives.

The use of inexpensive renewable energy sources such as solar energy or wind energy will decrease the use of fossil fuels and consequently decrease the emission of greenhouse gases. The rural areas should find organizational partners involved in clean energy projects.

The effects of overpopulation and overconsumption on sustainable rural communities are very significant. If we begin to understand their impacts on natural resources and develop successful strategies for sustainable development, we will then generate resilient rural environments that can sustain today's residents as well as their children in future generations. A sustainable future will be fostered by coordinated engagement of stakeholders within the community, policymakers, and various organizations to maintain thriving rural areas within changing global dynamics.

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‘China at 75’ International Conference

Dar acclaims China’s ‘magnificent gift of CPEC’, Amb. Jiang terms Terrorism as ‘unacceptable’

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Institute, chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, hosted an international conference “China at 75: A Journey of Progress, Transformation and Global Leadership,” celebrating 75 years of the founding of People’s Republic of China, where Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar was the Chief Guest. Distinguished participants included China’s Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong; renowned economist and former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Dr. Ishtat Hussain, and Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs. The conference was uniquely marked by international representation from South Asia, featuring Mahub Alam, Leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party; Ahmed Thariq, Member of Parliament from the Maldives; and Achyut Prasad Mainali, Member of the Federal Parliament of Nepal.

In his introductory remarks, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, highlighted some unique aspects of China, emphasizing the nation’s peaceful rise without invasion, aggression, occupation or colonisation—reflecting the essence of China’s 5000-year-old civilization. He described Pakistan-China relations as unique as these are neither transactional nor tactical but rooted in deep strategic cooperation. Reflecting on China’s recent history, Senator Mushahid Hussain summed up China’s 75 years in what he termed were ‘3 R’s’: Revolution under Chairman Mao, Reform under Deng Xiaoping and now peaceful Rise under President Xi Jinping. Analysing reasons for China’s rise, he listed quality of leadership, continuity in policy, unique ability to make course corrections and humility in learning from others plus peaceful foreign policy.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Pakistan expressed heartfelt gratitude to Senator Ishaq Dar for his attendance, despite his 32-hour journey from Samoa, underscoring the significance attached to the event. Ambassador Jiang celebrated the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), now joined by over 150 countries, as a testament to China’s commitment to shared prosperity. He further emphasized



the pivotal influence of President Xi Jinping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, which has guided China’s progress and resilience in this new era. Expressing appreciation for hosting China’s Prime Minister at the recent SCO summit, Ambassador Jiang advocated for deeper, more comprehensive cooperation among Global South nations to foster equitable development and shared progress.

In his Keynote Speech, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan highlighted China’s unprecedented pace of transformation, stating that its rapid development is unmatched in modern history. He commended China’s proactive approach to climate change, transforming Beijing from a polluted city to one with clear skies within less than a decade. Reaffirming Pakistan’s unwavering support for the One-China policy, he expressed gratitude for China’s stance on Kashmir.

Dr. Ishtat Hussain, Economist, Former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan highlighted China’s extraordinary journey, achieving unprecedented progress through strategic shifts from a rural to an urban economy and transitioning from a command-driven to a market-oriented system.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs of Pakistan affirmed the enduring bond between Pakistan and China, describing the two nations as “iron friends” bound by an all-weather friendship and emphasised the role of Gwadar Port as centrepiece of CPEC. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Spokes-

person of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized Pakistan’s commitment to South-South cooperation, underscoring its importance for capacity building among developing nations in pursuit of shared objectives.

Mahub Alam, Leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Dhaka highlighted China’s remarkable ascent to global power since 2013, attributing this progress to its focused vision of national rejuvenation.

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO of Asian Institute of Ecocivilization Research and Development highlighted China’s transformative approach to poverty alleviation, attributing its success to practical, common-sense solutions.

Tariq Fatemi, Former Diplomat and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, addressed misconceptions about China’s rise as a threat to global stability, emphasizing that China has never harboured extraterritorial ambitions.

Ambassador (r) Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Former Foreign Secretary and Chairman, Sanobar Institute, Islamabad emphasized that, despite being the world’s second-largest economy.

Ahmed Thariq, Member of Parliament, Maldives highlighted China’s pivotal role in shaping global politics and steering the world towards a multipolar order, with President Xi Jinping at the forefront of this shift.

Dr. Major (r) General Raza Muhammad, President, Islamabad Policy Research Institute questioned the concept of a “rules-based world

order,” asking what rules and whose order truly govern international relations.

Aisha Humera Chaudhry, Additional Secretary (In-charge), Ministry of Climate Change commended China’s leadership on climate change, emphasizing that Pakistan has much to learn from its proactive approach.

Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan described the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as “Globalization 2.0,” highlighting its core philosophy: “your prosperity depends on your neighbor’s prosperity,” achievable only through robust connectivity.

Senator Sherry Rehman, PPP Parliamentary Leader in the Senate of Pakistan—praised China’s extraordinary success in poverty alleviation and its expansive connectivity ambitions, which extend well beyond Europe.

Achyut Prasad Mainali, Dr. Erfa Iqbal, Additional Secretary and Executive Director General at the Board of Investment, Mr. Farhan Talib, Head of International at HBL, Zhang Jianyu, Executive Director of the BRI Green Development Institute and Dr. Khalid Waleed, Research Fellow at Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), highlighted China’s role in maintaining peace and security across the region, emphasizing its benefits for neighboring developing countries.

The conference also saw the launch of a report by PCI Executive Director, Mustafa Hyder Sayed, titled China at 75: From Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping, which features insightful chapters penned by leading China experts. He highlighted China’s 75 years of economic growth and transformation serve as an inspiring model, showcasing how a nation can lift over 800 million people out of poverty, transition from an agrarian economy to the world’s leading industrial powerhouse, and launching pioneering projects like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The conference attracted a diverse audience of over 250 attendees, representing a wide spectrum of society, including students and scholars plus prominent figures from academia, think tanks, and the media, as well as different government departments. Industry leaders and professionals engaged in lively discussions on various facets of China’s changing role in a transformative world.

Diplomatic activities



The Ambassador-designate of Uzbekistan, Mr. Alisher Tukh-hyhy, presented his credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh of Vietnam on the sidelines of the 8th Future Investment Initiative (FII) Conference in Riyadh on Wednesday.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Muhammad Thoha, High Commissioner of Maldives to Pakistan, calls on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Ahad Cheema on 30th October, 2024.



Italian Ambassador, H.E. Marilina Armellini called on the Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain in Islamabad on Wednesday.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister’s Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins on Wednesday.

NUML Celebrates 101st Anniversary of Turkish Republic Day with a Spectacular Event

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Turkish Language Department at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), today hosted an event to celebrate the 101st Anniversary of Turkish Republic Day, honoring Turkey’s rich history and its enduring friendship with Pakistan. The celebration was graced by Dr. Mehmet Toyran, Education Counselor at the Turkish Embassy, as the esteemed guest of honor. Heads of Departments and faculty members from across the university also attended, contributing to the lively and enthusiastic atmosphere of the event.

In his address, Dr. Mehmet Toyran highlighted Turkey’s proud history and the visionary leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who led the country’s freedom struggle and established the independent Turkish Republic. Dr. Mehmet spoke passionately about the unique, lasting friendship between Turkey and Pakistan, rooted in shared



values, heritage, and culture. He expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad

Iqbal for Turkey’s independence, adding that both nations would continue to support each other across all spheres.

The head of the Turkish Language

Department, Nur Yasemin Rahojoo, and the Head of the Department of Azerbaijan also shared their reflections on the significance of the Turkish Republic Day and the strong ties between the two brotherly countries. They emphasized the celebration as a powerful reminder of the deep-rooted friendship and mutual respect between Pakistan and Turkey.

The highlight of the event was the heartfelt performances by students from the Turkish Department, who showcased their talents through poetry recitations and a theatrical presentation honoring the sacrifices made for Turkey’s victory. Their moving performances captivated the audience, earning enthusiastic applause.

The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony, symbolizing the unity and shared spirit between the people of Pakistan and Turkey. The celebration was an unforgettable tribute to the enduring relationship between these two brotherly nations.

Meezan Bank wins ‘Best Company in Financial Category’ Award at the 39th MAP Awards

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan’s leading Islamic bank, has been honored with the prestigious ‘Best Company in the Financial Category’ award at the 39th Corporate Excellence Awards, hosted by the Management Association of Pakistan (MAP) at the Marriott Hotel, Karachi. The event brought together prominent government officials, dignitaries, thought leaders, regulators, and leading business communities from across the country. Meezan Bank has won this prestigious award, for the third consecutive year, highlighting its contributions to the success of Islamic banking in Pakistan.



Syed Amir Ali—Deputy CEO, Meezan Bank, received the award from the Chief Guest, Mr. Murad Ali Shah—Chief Minister of Sindh, in recogni-

tion of the Bank’s outstanding performance in Pakistan’s banking sector. The distinguished audience also included Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Senator Sarmad Ali, President of MAP; and other notable dignitaries.

Recently, the Bank was honored by the CFA Society of Pakistan as the ‘Best Bank of the Year – Large Size Banks,’ marking its fifth consecutive year of receiving this prestigious award. Additionally, the Bank received awards for: ‘Best Islamic Bank of the Year,’ ‘Best Digital Banking Services of the Year,’ ‘Best Investor Relations (Runner-up),’ and ‘Best Transaction of the Year (Runner-up).’

Al Shifa Trust inaugurates Aesthetic Ophthalmology Centre

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: As the need for cosmetic eye surgery grows, Al-Shifa Trust (AST) has transformed its beautification unit into a full-fledged Aesthetic Ophthalmology Centre to meet patients’ medical and surgical needs.

Cancer patients could use the facilities for free, and the centre’s profits would help other patients who cannot afford quality eye treatment.

In this connection, AST in Rawalpindi held a seminar on cosmetic ophthalmology, which many doctors from the twin towns attended.

At the session, President AST Maj Gen (Retd) Rehmat Khan said that



cancer patients could use the facilities for free, and the centre’s profits would help other patients who cannot afford quality eye treatment. Speaking on the occasion the chief of Medical

Services and Dean, Prof. Dr. Wajid Ali Khan, Dr. Tayyab Afghani, HOD Oculoplastics Department, and other experts discussed how aesthetic ophthalmology aims to improve the look

and function of the eyes and structures around them.

They said that the field of aesthetic ophthalmology uses both surgical and non-surgical methods to treat problems such as drooping eyelids, dark circles, wrinkles, and loss of volume.

They added that because the eyes are so important to facial expression and communication, this gives people a more refreshed look without requiring a lot of surgery.

The speakers said blepharoplasty is one of the most popular cosmetic eye surgeries. It fixes droopy or puffy eyelids. Age, genes, or lifestyle can cause this problem.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
90,286.56	90,864.09	
Day's High	Day's Low	
91,872.63	90,003.31	
Index Value	Change	
20,757,553,839	-577.53	
Percentage	Time	
-0.64%	30 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,159.63	-59.98	
Percentage	Time	
-0.73%	30 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
42,348.50	+115.45	
Percentage	Time	
+0.27%	30 Oct, 1:15 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,277.39	+373.71	
Percentage	Time	
+0.96%	30 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

First Ever Consignment of Pakistani Tractors Arrives in Tanzania

Spokesman Report

TANZANIA: In a significant boost for Pakistan's export sector, the first consignment of Pakistani-made tractors arrived in Tanzania today, marking a major milestone in the country's trade relations with East Africa.

This development comes as a result of concerted efforts led by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Secretary for Commerce Mr. Jawad Paul, Chief Executive of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Mr. Zubair Multiwala, and Secretary TDAP Mr. Shehyar Taj.

The import process was facilitated by Pakistan's High Commission in Kenya, particularly in Nairobi, where High Commissioner Ibrar Hussain and Commercial Counsellor Adeela Younis coordinated closely with the Kenyan-Tanzania-based Masai Trekta Company Ltd to make the transaction successful.

Masai Trekta Company Ltd, having recently opened its tractor distribution head office in Tanzania, has become a key partner in distributing Pakistani ATS tractors across Tanzania and potentially expanding further across the region.

The tractors were imported from Pak-Tractors House, a prominent manufacturing company based in Lahore.

The arrival of these tractors is expected to strengthen Pakistan's export portfolio in East Africa and opens up the possibility for an increase in tractor exports to Tanzania and neighboring countries.



Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan praised the collaborative efforts between government officials, TDAP, and the Pakistani High Commission in Nairobi, expressing hope that this achievement would inspire similar partnerships in the future.

He emphasized that such trade developments not only support Pakistan's manufacturing sector but also enhance the nation's economic footprint in the African market.

This accomplishment reflects Pakistan's commitment to expanding trade partnerships

globally, with a strong focus on Africa.

The partnership with Masai Trekta Company Ltd is expected to drive further export growth, benefitting Pakistan's agricultural machinery sector and providing East Africa with high-quality, reliable equipment.

Appreciation

ISTANBUL: Group photo of media persons from GCC countries covering 15th Global Mobile Broadband Forum.



Photo: The Spokesman

Get Ready to Shine with Stylish and Durable OPPO A3

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: OPPO, a global leader in smart devices, has launched the OPPO A3 in Pakistan, a smartphone that is A Step Ahead in innovation with premium design, ultra-slim body, robust 5100 mAh battery and a bright 1000-nit display perfect in any lighting.

OPPO launched the A3 in an exclusive picnic event led by OPPO PK Ollie, creating an interactive and engaging experience for fans to connect with the brand. Ollie is also offering exclusive gifts, discounts, and exciting offers for OPPO fans. Follow OPPO PK Ollie's social media accounts for all the exclusive perks, leaks and more!

Cheezious Partners with MathMania

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Cheezious, A proud Pakistani brand is proud to announce a new partnership with MathMania. This collaboration aims to uplift students' mathematical skills and eliminate the fear often associated with the subject. MathMania, an innovative mathematics competition, will work closely with Cheezious to foster critical thinking, creativity, and a sense of achievement among students.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO Cheezious Imran Ijaz said, "We are thrilled to join hands with MathMania in an initiative that aims to transform mathematics into a subject of passion and excellence for students. At Cheezious, we believe that excelling in mathematics is synonymous with excelling in one's respective field of expertise. We are committed to being a part of this journey and positively impacting the next generation of leaders."

Coordinated efforts needed to check alarming Rise in Breast Cancer: Governor KPK

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The high incidence of breast cancer in Pakistan is alarming and demands critical attention to check its spread and create awareness about it. With approximately 1 in 9 Pakistani women at risk of developing breast cancer, the country faces a significant health challenge. This has been stated by Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi while addressing the awareness programme on breast cancer organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry here on Wednesday.

He said that if breast cancer was detected at early stages, 99% of its patients could be saved and could live healthy and normal lives. "If the cancer is detected at the 3rd and 4th stages, the 5-year survival rate is up to 86% and 28% respectively, which can be significantly increased if detected and treated at an early stage," he added.

On his part President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nasir Mansoor Qureshi pledged fullest support for the awareness campaign by recognizing the Chamber's social responsibility, he said that hiding the disease in the name of taboo is not a solution and it is essential to speak upon it to help the women get early diagnosis and thus protect their lives.



Dr. Saeeda Yasmeen, General Surgeon and Breast Expert in her detailed and comprehensive presentation highlighted the symptoms of the disease by emphasizing immediate treatment as early as possible on its appearance.

Cartoonist Ms. Nigar Nazar said that we have to resort to collective action against the fatal disease instead of resorting to mere campaigns.

Faryal Ali Gauhar, Political Economist and former UN Ambassador on Population Fund sensitized the attendees on the issue and highlighted the collective role in making Pakistan a healthier one.

ICCI Executive Member Fatima Azeem, ICCI Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, ICCI executives especially the students attended the session in large number.

DWP Technologies shines at Cisco and Ingram Partner award night 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: DWP Technologies, a division of Pakistan's leading business conglomerate, DWP Group, has secured two prestigious accolades at the Cisco and Ingram Partner Award Night held on October 23, 2024, in Karachi.

The company was honored with the Cisco Technology Partner of the Year and Security Partner of the Year awards, reinforcing its position as a leader in technology solutions and cybersecurity.

Muhammad Faisal, a key member of DWP's sales team, won the Outstanding Performer

Award, for his exemplary performance in the Central region. This individual honor celebrates his dedication, technical insight, and his exceptional contributions to client success.

Rohail Bashir, Chief Operating Officer, DWP Group, expressed his pride in the achievements, stating, "These awards are a testament to our team's relentless pursuit of excellence and innovation in the technology sector."

DWP Technologies remains committed to expanding its technological capabilities and strengthening its partnership with Cisco. The company continues to invest in developing innovative solutions, enhancing its security



offerings, and nurturing talent to meet the evolving needs of businesses across Pakistan and beyond. These awards mark another

milestone in DWP's journey of excellence and reinforce its position as a trusted technology partner in the region.

Tobacco Harm Reduction strategies essential to save lives in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Initiative on Risk-reduction & Dependable Alternatives (IRADA) hosted its third-round table discussion, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, including public health officials, experts, NGOs, medical associations, media, and local community members.

The primary focus of the discussion was to explore innovative solutions to reduce the health consequences of smoking.

Participants at the round table discussion emphasized the urgent need for Pakistan to adopt effective Tobacco Harm Reduction (THR) strategies.

THR offers a science-based approach to reducing the risks associated with smoking by providing less harmful alternatives to traditional cigarettes.

Renowned researcher and policy advisor, Dr. Muhammad Rizwan Junaid, highlighted the significant potential of less risky nicotine products, such as nicotine pouches, in reducing smoking-related harm. These products offer a significantly lower risk profile compared to traditional cigarettes, making them a valuable tool in helping smokers' transition away from combustible tobacco.

As Dr. Junaid emphasized, "Modern oral nicotine products provide a less risky alternative for smokers who are unable or unwilling to quit completely. By reducing their exposure to harmful chemicals released during combustion, these products can significantly improve the health and well-being of millions of people."

Drawing inspiration from global best practices, the round table participants discussed the experiences of countries like Sweden and New Zealand, where THR strategies have led to significant reductions in smoking rates. A recently published report by a leading endocrinologist of Pakistan, talks about the potential of saving 1.2 Million lives by 2060 through an integrated approach combining traditional tobacco control with THR strategies.

17th CNS Amateur Golf Cup 2024 kicks off at Margalla Greens Golf Club (MGGC)

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Opening Ceremony and Media Briefing of the 17th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup 2024 was held at Margalla Greens Golf Club (MGGC), Islamabad. During the media briefing, Patron of Pakistan Navy Golf (North), Commodore Saqib Ilyas, highlighted key aspects of the event and its organization across various categories.

The tournament will be played in four categories: Amateurs, Seniors, Ladies, and Juniors. In addition, an invitational match for guests and sponsors will also be held.

The Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup has been a regular and significant event on the national golf circuit since 2007. The event has become a platform for fostering healthy competition, providing a unique opportunity to showcase Pakistan's positive image to the world, while also promoting healthy activity within society. Last



year, around 300 golfers from across Pakistan participated in the Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup. Irtaza Hussain of MGGC would be defending his title. The regular conduct of this event demonstrates



the Pakistan Navy's commitment to promoting golf at both national and international levels. The Opening Ceremony was attended by golfers, sponsors, and media representatives.

Merit and transparency will be ensured in the Khelta Punjab Games

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Tahir Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal has said that a total of 120,000 players have been registered in Khelta Punjab Games which will be inaugurated in all districts of the province on Nov 1, 2024. He said this while presiding over an important meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday.

Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, all divisional and district sports officers of the province were present in the meeting.

While addressing the meeting, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that merit and transparency will be ensured in monetary and other affairs of Khelta Punjab Games. "No negligence and complicity will be tolerated in the smooth organization of Khelta Punjab Games," he warned.

Revealing more details of Khelta Punjab Games, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Pervez Iqbal informed that a Mobile App has been launched to keep a close eye on all



proceedings including matches of Khelta Punjab Games. All sports officers have been directed to send pictorial evidences of matches in their respective areas on the Mobile App.

Director General Sports and Youth

Affairs Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that in the first phase, the competitions of six games athletic (boys/girls), badminton (boys/girls), football, hockey, kabaddi and tape ball cricket will be conducted from Nov 1 to 14. "Apart from cricket,

the matches of all other games will be conducted under the league system".

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal has directed all the divisional and district sports officers of the province to send the list of match venues in their respective areas as early as possible. "Khelta Punjab Games are being organized to trace fresh talent from grassroots level in accordance with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz," he added.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that the participating players will be awarded biggest cash prizes of Punjab's history in Khelta Punjab Games. "Cash awards will also be given to those sports officers who exhibited best performance in Khelta Punjab Games," he added.

DG Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal appreciated the provincial sports officers for registering 120,000 athletes for Khelta Punjab Games. He also reprimanded and warned the District Sports Officers of Jhelum, Gujrat and Chiniot for their poor performance in the registration process of Khelta Punjab Games.

ICC appoints new Independent Chair of ACU

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday announced the appointment of Sumathi Dharmawardena P. C. as the new Independent Chair of the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU).

Dharmawardena replaces Sir Ronnie Flanagan who retired from the role after 14 years, said a press release.

Dharmawardena, who starts in the role on November 1, brings a wealth of experience including serving as an Additional Solicitor General at the Attorney General's Department of Sri Lanka, in which he represents the Government of Sri Lanka, including the Ministry of Sport, in a variety of legal matters.

In addition, the new ACU Chair has worked with Interpol and the United



Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, investigating corruption in sports, as well as overseeing several investigations and prosecutions under the Prevention of Offences relating to the Sports Act, an Act which he was instrumental in formulating. He has also represented the Government of Sri Lanka in discussions and negotiations with other global sporting organisations.

The Independent Chair of the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit is responsible for overseeing and leading the ACU, which is managed at the executive level by the General Manager - Integrity.

National Men's Netball Championship in Dec

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 24th National Men's Netball Championship under the auspices of Pakistan Netball Federation and Pakistan Sports Board will kick off from December 1 at Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Coaching Centre, Karachi.

According to Chairman Pakistan Netball Federation (PNF) Mudassar Arain a total of 17 teams from across the country are participating in the championship, including Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Navy, Wapda, Police, Pakistan Railways, Higher Education Commission, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, Azad Jammu

and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, LUMS University, PNF Elite Academy and Cosmopolitan Rose Netball Academy.

He said that invitations have been issued to all the relevant departments, academies, provincial and regional associations participating in the championship and the officials of all teams can register to participate in the championship before November 10.

The championship will continue till December 3 and at the end of the championship, prizes will be distributed among the winning players.

The top five teams of the championship will participate in the 35th National Games 2024-25 to be held in Karachi, he said.



Inter-collegiate girls table tennis tournament held

Sports Desk

SARGODHA: Under the auspices of the Board of Education Sargodha, inter-collegiate girls table tennis tournament was held here on Wednesday.

The tournament was organized at Government Graduate College for Girls Chandni Chowk ground.

Eight teams, including Government Graduate College for Girls Chandni Chowk, Government Girls College Farooq Colony, Superior Girls College Sargodha, City Standard Girls College 46 SB, Reader Girls College Sargodha, Superior Girls College Shahpur, Iqar Girls College Sargodha and Superior Girls College Sillanwali participated in the competition.

The Superior Group of Colleges for Girls secured the



first position, Government Graduate College for Girls Chandni Chowk clinched the second position and the Government Girls College Farooq Colony College table tennis team got third position in the tournament.

Director Sports of Education Board Sargodha Roshan

Zameer said that the Board of Education was providing all possible facilities for the promotion of sports.

Later on, Director Roshan Zameer and Principal Government Graduate College for Girls Chandni Chowk Dr Safana Shaheen gave trophies and certificates to players.

Ben Stokes' house in England 'burgled' amid his tour to Pakistan

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: England Test captain Ben Stokes on Wednesday, revealed that a few masked persons broke into his house in England while he was on tour to Pakistan for a three-match series.

Talking to X, formerly Twitter, Stokes shared he was robbed of jewellery and other valuables and a good deal of personal items and sought help in locating the burglars.

"On the evening of Thursday 17th October, a number of masked people burgled my home in the Castle Eden area in the North East. They escaped with jewellery, other valuables and a good deal of personal items. Many of those items have real sentimental value for me and my



family. They are irreplaceable," Stokes wrote.

"This is an appeal for any help in finding these people who carried out this act," he added.

The date of the burglary, mentioned by Ben Stokes, was

during the second Test between Pakistan and England.

The all-rounder also shared a series of pictures with a detailed statement, which suggested that his OBE medal was among the stolen valuables.

"By far the worst thing about this crime is that it was carried out whilst my wife and 2 young children were in the house.

"Thankfully, none of my family came to any physical harm. Understandably, however, the experience has had an impact on their emotional and mental state. All we can think about is how much worse this situation could have been."

"I am releasing photographs of some of the stolen items - which I hope may be easily identified - in the hope that we can find the people who are responsible for this.

"Although we have lost cherished possessions, to be clear, my sole motivation in sharing these photographs is not the recovery of material items. It is to catch the people who did this."

Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Rao Waqar and Muhammad Waqas Shine with brilliant Centuries

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Three More Matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various cricket Grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Centuries by Rao Waqar and Muhammad Waqas both scored 100 and equally excellent Batting by Abid Ali unbeaten 99.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Master Oil Lubricant.

Scores in Brief: Mehmood Khan Cricket Club beat Larosh Cricket Club by 4 wickets at Afza Ground. Larosh CC 299/8 in 40 overs. Rao Waqar 100 7x4 2, x6, Fahad Nadeem 62 10x4 2x6, Hamza Sarwar 62 8x4 1x6, Ali Haider 22, Muhammad Waqas 2/42.

Mehmood Khan CC 300/6 in 31 overs. Muhammad Waqas 100 9x4 7x6, Tayyab 81 8x4 5x6, Abid 27, Muhammad Hassan 24, Behra Mand 21. Rao Waqar 3/61.

In the 2nd Match Airport Star Cricket Club beat Landhi Gymkhana Colts by 19 runs at Student Sports Ground. Airport Star CC 210/7 in 40 overs. Abid Ali 99 12x4 not out, Shahid 33, Yasir Khan 26, Muhammad Faisal 2/37, Arif Shah 2/48.

Landhi Gymkhana Colts 191 all out in 33.4 overs. Shahid Ali Khan 64 7x4 not out, Arif Shah 39, Muhammad Hasnain 25, Ikramullah 2/19, Asad Ali Shah 2/20, Asadullah 2/20, Abid Ali 2/37.

In the 3rd Match Mujahid Gymkhana Dolphin Cricket Club beat Hyderi Cricket Club by 68 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Mujahid Gymkhana Dolphin CC 179/8 in 40 overs. Abdullah Ehsan 41, Zahid Noor 34, Shakeel Khan 27, Zaid Abdullah 2/30, Nasarullah 2/32.

Hydri Cricket Club 111/9 in 40 overs. Ashar Khan 17, Zaid Abdullah 17, Shakeel Khan (sla) 3/11, Saleem Nisar 2/32.

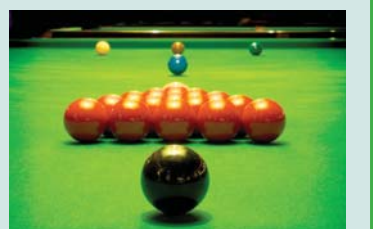
Asjad, Ahsan, Asif to play round 32 of World Snooker C'ship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani cueists Asjad Iqbal, Ahsan Ramzan and Muhammad Asif will play Round of 32 of the IBSF World Snooker Championship 2024 at Doha, Qatar.

According to details, in last 16 result, Simon Lichtenberg (Germany) beat Asjad Iqbal (Pak) 4-1 (44-62, 75(60)-06, 81(77)-0, 74-50, 54-10).

In Round of 64 Results, Ahsan Ramzan (Pak) beat Sami Al



Aggression

Above, damage in Al-Alaq town west of Baalbek, in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, after an Israeli strike on Oct. 29, 2024.



Photo: Reuters

PM arrives in Doha on two-day official visit to discuss trade, investment

Spokesman Report

DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday arrived in Doha on a two-day official visit at the invitation of Amir of State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

At the airport, the prime minister was received by Qatari Minister of State Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, Pakistan's ambassador and other diplomatic staff, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Federal ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Mohammad Aurangzeb, Jam Kamal Khan and Attaullah Tarar also accompanied the prime minister.

During his visit, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar and Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Prime Minister / Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In these meetings, the two sides will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations and



explore new areas of cooperation especially in trade and investment. The leadership level dele-

gations of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) and Qatar Businessmen Association (QBA) will call on the prime minister to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Sharif will also inaugurate the cultural exhibition "Manzar: Art and Architecture in Pakistan from 1940 to present" on 31 October 2024. The exhibition will showcase Pakistan's rich cultural and architectural heritage and underline deep people-to-people linkages between Pakistan and Qatar.

Ali Pervaiz Malik pledges government support to strengthen CCP

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The State Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, visited the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), underscoring the role of the Commission in checking market failure and protecting consumers from anti-competitive practices.

During his visit, Mr. Malik conveyed the Ministry's commitment to bolstering CCP's capacity to increase its effectiveness, whether through legislative reforms, follow-up on court cases or capacity-building initiatives. Addressing CCP's officials on Wednesday, he emphasized the need for a comprehensive review of the Competition Act to ensure it remains modern, effective, and relevant as well as to address the challenges being faced by the Commission.

"Competitiveness in markets is vital for protecting consumer interests. It also encourages new startups and



attracts investments," said Mr. Malik.

CCP Chairman, Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, briefed the Minister on the Commission's role, including its functions, performance, and ongoing inquiries in important sectors of the economy. Dr. Sidhu highlighted the challenges faced by CCP, including legal obstacles.

Minister Malik pledged his full support to CCP in overcoming its challenges. He requested a detailed list of pending court cases and stay orders, to take up with the Attorney General and Law Ministry for expeditious resolution. The Minister urged Dr. Sidhu to maintain close coordination with the Finance Ministry to ensure effective vigilance of consumer interests.

The meeting was attended by CCP Members Mr. Saeed Ahmed, Mr. Salman Amin, Mr. Abdul Rashid Sheikh, Ms. Bushra Naz, and Directors Generals.

President Zardari approves Special Court and Deposit Protection Bills for overseas Pakistanis

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has officially approved the Special Court (Overseas Pakistani Property) Bill, 2024 and the Deposit Protection Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024, under Article 75 of the Constitution.

"This act facilitates swift and efficient resolution of property disputes involving overseas Pakistanis," said the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development on its website.

The new legislation enables the federal government to establish special

courts specifically for overseas Pakistanis, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court. These courts will address applications regarding immovable property from overseas citizens, with judges endowed with the authority equivalent to district court judges.

Under the new provisions, applications must be resolved within 90 days, and affected individuals have 15 days to appeal to the High Court, which is also mandated to decide appeals within 90 days. The courts will prevent the transfer of property until a decision is reached, ensuring that it is transferred to the affected party.

Sheikh Rasheed says Afridi will raise voice of justice in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Interior Minister and leader of Awami Muslim League Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed said that Afridi has become the Chief Justice for the first time in the history of Pakistan. Afridis defeated forty-two countries including the Sikhs, British, Russia, and the United States in the past. In Shaa ALLAH Yahya Afridi will raise the voice of justice in Pakistan.

Yesterday, Leader of Awami Muslim League Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed was talking to journalists after appearing in court. On this occasion, senior lawyer Sardar Abdul Raziq Advocate and others were also present with him.

Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed said that Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Muneeb Sahib showed great wisdom. All the dreams they were seeing have been shattered. He said that I should be given one

month's space, as my health has not yet recovered. Sheikh Rasheed said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman will give a call against the 27th Amendment. Maulana Fazlur Rehman has made honor, all the others have done wrong side, they have swept away their honor. I don't need to tell what Qazi Faiz Isa is doing at this time. But I will once again request the Chief of Army Staff that the innocent poor and daily wage laborers who are victims of judicial proceedings should be released. Coming to court is not an easy task.

He further said that Ameer e Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman has taken out the funeral of the twenty-sixth amendment. And today I would like to tell the people that this amendment create problem for them, they will not gain anything from it. Stop dreaming about the 27th Amendment. If Maulana Fazlur Rehman calls on it, then everyone will know.

Abdul Aleem Khan Congratulates Officials of SC Bar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications and President of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Abdul Aleem Khan has congratulated the newly elected President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Mian Rauf Atta and other office bearers and expressed good wishes for them.

In his congratulatory message, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the role of the lawyers community has always been like that of the vanguard from the Pakistan Movement to the betterment of Pakistan and it is hoped that the new cabinet of the Supreme Court Bar Association will also fulfill its role in the supremacy of the Constitution



and the rule of law. He said that the political forces welcome the continuation of the democratic process in the Supreme Court Bar Association and pray for their success.

Dr Faisal highlights resolution of J&K issue according to wishes of Kashmiris

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: High Commissioner of Pakistan to the United Kingdom Dr. Mohammad Faisal on Wednesday said that Pakistan stood committed to the principled stance of resolving the Jammu and Kashmir issue according to the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

He said that holding sham elections in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) by the Indian government was a clear violation of the international law.

He expressed these views during a seminar and photo exhibition organized by Pakistan High Commission, London to commemorate Jammu & Kashmir Black Day, a press release said.

British parliamentarians including Lord Qurban Hussain, Baroness Nosheen Mubarak, Yasmin Qureshi MP, Mohammad Afzal Khan MP, Adnan Hussain MP; Councillor Yasmine Dar; Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman Jammu Kashmir Self-Determi-



nation Movement International; Kashmiris residing in UK and media representatives attended the seminar.

Dr Faisal highlights resolution of J&K issue according to wishes of Kashmiris Dr Faisal highlights resolution of J&K issue according to wishes of Kashmiris Dr Faisal highlights resolution of J&K issue according to wishes of Kashmiris Dr Faisal highlights resolution of J&K issue according to wishes of Kashmiris

to wishes of Kashmiris Dr. Mohammad Faisal said that use of illegal force, unlawful detention of Kashmiri leadership, human rights abuses against women, children and elderly, communication blackout and use of pellet guns on youth were all brutal actions taken by the Indian government.

Qaiser Shaikh Advocates Strategic Partnership to Strengthen Pakistan's Blue Economy



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs (MoMA), visited the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA). The event marked the critical importance of enhanced collaboration between MoMA and NIMA to drive Pakistan's maritime development and unlock the potential of the country's Blue Economy. The Minister expressed a strong desire in advancing key sectors including Aquaculture, Green Shipping, Maritime Tourism and Green Ship Recycling. During the visit, the Federal Minister received

an in-depth briefing on NIMA's roles i.e. maritime policy research, advocacy, capacity building etc. NIMA's ongoing partnerships with national and international stakeholders were also presented.

In the ensuing discussions, a need was felt to develop an all-inclusive National Action Plan to harness the country's maritime resources giving due regards to sustainability. In this regard, the Minister emphasized the value of coordinated efforts among MoMA, NIMA and other maritime stakeholders.

Reaffirming his commitment, the Federal Minister assured NIMA of his full support to achieve their objectives.