

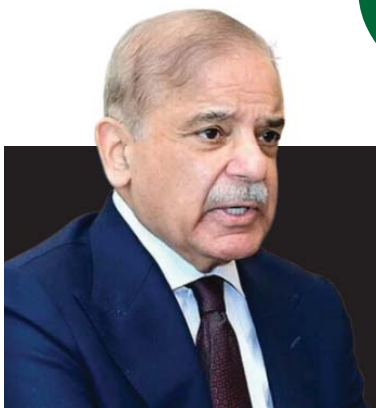
Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے عجیبے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے ابو القریظ نے کہا میں نے اسے نبی اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے سنا ہے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم ہم پرچوں سے بھی دل گئی کرتے، یہاں تک کہ میرے چہرے چھوئے جھانکی ابو عمیر نابی سے (مراغا) فرماتے «یا ابا عمیر! افضل انشیر» اے ابو عمیر! تیری انگریزی نامی چڑیا تیرے ہے؟
(سنن ترمذی، حدیث نمبر 6129)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI



PM Shehbaz calls for minimising clearance time at Port Qasim, Karachi Port Trust

"Modern system in ports and further improvement in accessing them, Pakistan can earn billions of dollars in foreign exchange," he said while presiding over a meeting regarding KPT, Port Qasim Authority, and Pakistan National Shipping Corporation.



Government announces increase in petrol, diesel prices

The Government of Pakistan increased the petrol price by Rs3.72 per litre and high-speed diesel by Rs3.29/ltr on Saturday, as the finance ministry announced new rates as part of the fortnightly revision. The new prices of petrol and HSD after the increase are Rs252.10 and Rs258.38, respectively. Moreover, rates of Kerosene oil and light diesel oil were decreased by 62 paise and 48 paise per litre respectively.

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Addressed

LAHORE: Federal Minister of Planning and Development, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal is addressing the Foundation laying ceremony of Information Technology University's (ITU) new Block at Barki Road.



Ishaq Dar dismisses claims of state brutality

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday strongly refuted allegations of state brutality and indiscriminate firing by law enforcement authorities during recent clashes with protesters.

In a statement issued by the Deputy Prime Minister Office, Ishaq Dar labeled the claims of gunshot wounds and unwarranted violence as "malicious" and "absolutely false," urging to provide evidence such as "graves and dead bodies" to substantiate the accusations.

He said the so-called protesters came armed with heavy ammunition and tear gas



canisters.

"The mob was determined to create chaos and ready to kill. Our security and law enforcement agencies exercised maximum restraint with patience despite deaths within their ranks," he said adding that the PTI leaders abandoned their workers and were now developing a ridiculous and lies-based narrative of state brutality.

Fresh clashes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram killed 80 people



Agencies

PESHAWAR: Tribal elders said on Saturday that a ceasefire at two locations in lower Kurram was reached between the two groups, however, police said firing was reported in upper Kurram's two areas.

Clashes erupted in the Kurram district on November 22, following an attack on a passenger convoy on November 21 that resulted in the deaths of 45 people, including women and children.

That sparked retaliatory attacks against the other community residents and there have been pitched battles between armed groups from both sides.

Armed men have engaged in a tribal and sectarian rivalry for decades over a land dispute in the Kurram district near the Afghanistan border.

Local authorities, police, military leadership, and tribal elders made efforts to establish a ceasefire, leading to a complete cessation of hostilities at two locations. But fighting remained active in two areas of upper Kurram.

Both sides targeted each other with heavy and automatic weapons. In the evening, a mortar shell fell in the village of Kanj Alizai, resulting in one death and three injuries.

Sources stated that crossfire continued between the areas of Pehwar, Trimangal, Kanj Alizai, and Maqbal. The district administration officials stated that recent clashes have killed 80 people, with over 150 more injured. In the past 10 days, various incidents of gunfire in the Kurram district have resulted in 124 fatalities.

After a week, internet and mobile services have been restored in Kurram district. It merits here mentioning that 4G internet service was suspended for two months.

Furthermore, the Parachinar-Tal Road and the Pak-Afghan Kharlachi border remain closed for all traffic and trade activities.

PM offers sympathies to Malaysian Prime Minister over loss of lives in recent floods

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed deepest sympathies on behalf of the Pakistani people for the brotherly people of Malaysia over the loss of lives and property caused by recent floods due to torrential rains in several states of the country.

The prime minister in his telephonic conversation with his Malaysian counterpart Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, assured that the people of Pakistan stood in solidarity with their Malaysian



brothers and sisters during this challenging time. He also appreciated the swift and effective

measures taken by the Malaysian government to address this natural calamity.

The Malaysian prime minister thanked Shehbaz Sharif for Pakistan's support and agreed that both nations needed to work together to enhance relations in all key sectors. The two leaders also agreed to continue high-level visits.

The prime minister, as well as the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, are expected to visit Kuala Lumpur early next year, a press release issued by the PM Office said.

In his post on X, the prime minister said during his conversation with the Malaysian PM he also expressed deep admiration

for the swift response of the Malaysian government to this natural calamity.

In response, the Malaysian prime minister in his post on X, extended gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his generosity.

Anwar Ibrahim said "PM Shehbaz offered prayers for the well being of the more than 140,000 Malaysians affected and conveyed his intention to send aid as a gesture of support and friendship between our nations".

He invited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to visit Malaysia early next year.

PTI is creating false propaganda on bodies: Khawaja Asif



Faisal Butt

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is spreading false propaganda about the bodies, saying that the PTI has always practiced the politics of chaos.

He expressed these views at a press conference at his residence at the cantonment here today. "We have to destroy the evil intentions of our enemies. The important and concrete steps taken by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during the current and previous government have started producing positive results. The PIA is moving towards improvement. Permission to fly in the European Union and the United States will take it to new heights. We found the country's economy in ruins, which is improving day by day and the country has embarked on the path to development and prosperity, while we are continuing our journey under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for the complete restoration of the economy," he added.

PTI's false narrative of dead bodies, an effort to cover up embarrassment of fleeing: Tarar

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Saturday regretted that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was now resorting to a "false narrative of dead bodies" to cover up the embarrassment of fleeing from the protest site in the Blue Area.

In a media talk regarding fake photos and posts uploaded by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on social media, he said the party had failed to produce even a single video of the firing.

He pointed out that the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences and Polyclinic Hospital had clearly stated that they did not receive any dead bodies.

At first, the PTI claimed that the sniper shots were fired, then it was claimed that there was direct firing on the violent protesters, he said. The minister remarked that three days had passed, but the PTI could not even produce even a single video of direct firing.

Instead, they were sharing old photos and artificial intelligence-generated images on social media including those of Gaza victims of Israeli atrocities. Even one footage of an incident in 2019 was shared when ironically PTI itself was in power.

The Information Minister said that on the contrary, the violent PTI protesters used different weapons against the security personnel and also inflicted damage on public property.



200,000 youths to be equipped with IT skills annually: Ahsan Iqbal

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that Information Technology is bringing revolutionary changes in almost every sector of life.

He said this while addressing foundation stone laying ceremony of a multipurpose building at Information Technology University (ITU) on Saturday.

"ITU is among best IT universities of the country and credit goes to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who had laid the foundation of the university knowing the importance of IT, being the then Punjab Chief Minister. Progress of every sector that is linked with the economy is connected with IT," he added.

Fazlur Rehman opposes governor's rule in KP

Mushatq Ahmad

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Friday opposed the imposition of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Addressing media in Rahim Yar Khan, Fazlur Rehman said that he does not support the imposition of governor's rule in KP, terming that it is against the democracy. However, he said that it can be imposed in unavoidable circumstances if there is scope in the constitution.

Fazlur Rehman said that I consider that it is my right to hold public rallies and stage a protest and I consider it a right for others as well.

JUI chief said that issues



could be resolved through dialogue and added that anarchy in the country is not a solution to any problem. There is a need to give right direction to the nation.

He urged the government to take all political parties onboard. The government should hold new elections and real representatives should come to the assemblies.

Pakistan Peoples Party 57th Foundation Day Celebration in Multan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended the Pakistan Peoples Party 57th Foundation Day ceremony at Domra House, Multan as the Chief Guest. The ceremony was attended by MNA Syed Ali Qasim Gilani and Member Provincial Assembly Ali Haider Gilani, Senator Rana Mehmood-ul-Hasan. Member Provincial Assembly Rana Iqbal Siraj, Malik Wasif Ran, Rana Shahid Mahmood. PPP South Punjab Senior Vice President Khawaja Rizwan Alam. PPP City President Malik Naseem Labar. AD Baloch. PPP Multan District General Secretary Rao Sajid. Party Senior Leader Khalid Hanif Lodhi. Hashim Khan Babar. Salim-ur-Rehman Mayo. M. Saleem Raja. Chaudhry Yasin. Khawaja Imran. Peoples Lawyers Forum South Punjab



President Sheikh Ghiyas-ul-Haq. District Bar Association Multan General Secretary Syed Arif Shah. Ms. Zile Huma. Rubina Shaheen. PPP party leader Malik Manzoor Ahmed Domra and others.

Addressing the ceremony, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the leadership that the Pakistan Peoples Party has is not with anyone else. He said that the foundation of the PPP was laid by Shaheed

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto never bowed down before any dictator. The Punjab Governor said that Benazir Bhutto took a bullet for the sake of Pakistan and democracy. He said that Bilawal Bhutto is from the generation of martyrs. The Punjab Governor said that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has to save Pakistan. He said that Insha Allah, Bilawal Bhutto will be the Prime Minister in the upcoming elections. He said that we have to regain our lost place and position with hard work and dedication. The Punjab Governor said that even if a worker of the Pakistan Peoples Party gets bitten by a thorn, I will stand with that worker. Talking to the media on this occasion, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the PPP is not in favor of Governor's Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The PTI should consider its behavior.

Workshop urges media advocacy to tackle malnutrition in AJK



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Speakers at a workshop held on Monday called for sustained and collaborative efforts to combat malnutrition in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), highlighting the vital role of media in promoting maternal, child, and adolescent nutrition. However, the event, organized by Save the Children International in collaboration with UNICEF and the Nutrition Wing of the Ministry of National Health Services, aimed to engage media professionals as advocates for advancing nutrition across the region. Further, the Key speakers included Mohammad Azam Kiani, National Project Manager; Dr. Yozan Shahid, Technical Adviser for Health and Nutrition at Save the Children; Mohammad Younis Mir, Special Secretary Health, GoAJK; Dr. Farooq Awan, Director Health Services; Dr. Abdul Mateen, Director of the Lady Health Workers Program; Dr. Shiza Hameed, National Project Coordinator from Save the Children; and Aurangzeb Mughal, Nutrition Coordinator from AJK's Health Department. Moreover, they presented concerning data from the National Nutrition Survey 2018, which revealed a dual burden of malnutrition in AJK. This includes widespread undernutrition—stunting, wasting, and underweight—alongside a growing prevalence of overnutrition, such as overweight and obesity. Further, Dr. Shahid noted that micronutrient deficiencies remain a significant barrier to improving health outcomes. "For example, 81.6% of women of reproductive age suffer from vitamin D deficiency, 53.5% of children under five are anaemic, and 43.7% face vitamin A deficiency," he explained. Consequently, Dr. Shiza Hameed underscored the media's potential to drive change. "This initiative is designed to equip journalists with the knowledge and skills to effectively report on nutrition issues, shape public opinion, and hold policy makers accountable," she said.

Further, the Leading gynaecologists, including Dr. Noshina Shabbir, Dr. Maryam Awan, and Dr. Shafaq, shared their insights and challenges faced in healthcare delivery. "There's a misconception that gynaecologists prefer C-sections over natural deliveries. Our priority is always the health and safety of both the mother and newborn," clarified Dr. Shabbir. At the end, Special Secretary Health, Mohammad Younis Mir, expressed his gratitude to Save the Children for organizing the workshop and pledged his department's commitment to implementing practical recommendations within available resources.

PTI demands release of Imran Khan and other PTI leaders

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: PTI Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) from Attock, Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari, stated that if the people of Punjab did not participate in the sit-in, then why did the state file FIRs against thousands of individuals? Why are they being detained in police stations? Why has the government become a tool in this process? He emphasized that protest is a constitutional right, whether it is exercised by an individual or a political party, and it cannot be suppressed. Violence is not the solution to any problem; dialogue is the only way forward.

Expressing his views while speaking to local journalists, Syed Ijaz Bukhari Advocate said that this storm, which seems temporary for now, will soon change its nature and sweep everything away. He further stated that imposing governor's rule is neither constitutionally nor legally feasible, and banning the party is not a wise move either. Referring to the ban on ANP in the past, he questioned what outcome it yielded.

In response to a question, he demanded the release of Imran Khan and other PTI leaders. He also pointed out that social media and foreign media have exposed the intentions of the authorities during the blackout at D-Chowk. Syed Ijaz Bukhari highlighted the sacrifices of Punjab workers, who traveled long distances on foot to join the rally despite the government's efforts to block roads and restrict citizens with containers in every city. Yet, Imran Khan's supporters managed to reach the sit-in by any means.

'Message of Latif' Program by City Cambridge Education System

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The City Cambridge Education System organized a remarkable program titled "Message of Latif" to highlight the teachings and philosophy of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. The event was held at the Senior Branch, Naseem Nagar, where students presented their thoughts on truth, tolerance, and justice as reflected in Bhittai's poetry.



The event was hosted by City Cambridge Education System's Director, Abdul Jalil Qureshi, Administrator Khadim Hussain Jalalani, and Madam Arifa Abro. A large number of parents and students participated in the program.

During the event, students showcased their creativity through arts, speeches, and dramatic performances based on Bhittai's poetry, earning much appreciation from the audience. Outstanding performers, including Adnan Sarohi, Tabeer Fatima, Hamza Salar, Roshni Kumari, Syed Hamraz, and others, were awarded certificates by the administration. Distinguished guests, including Qasim Bhan, Ghulam Rasool Utairo, Badar Qazi, and Altaf Malkani, praised the students' creative talents and encouraged them to pursue excellence.

This program not only served as an educational initiative but also became a beacon of moral and intellectual training for the students.

Muslim Conference calls for withdrawal of Presidential Ordinance, says it is black law

Bureau Report



RAWALPINDI: Muslim Conference Secretary General and former Deputy Speaker Ms. Mehru Nissa has called for the withdrawal of the Presidential Ordinance, calling it a black law. The implementation of controversial black laws banning public protests in a coalition government of democratic political parties is beyond comprehension. Ms. Mehru Nissa, while addressing the Prime Minister, said that what kind of democracy is it to take away the right of the people to protest? The Muslim Conference will not be a part of any law that leads to robbery of the fundamental rights of the people. She said that such tactics and laws have been used by the Indian government to suppress the freedom movement in the occupied territories. POTA and TATA laws were also similar tactics. Ms. Mehru Nissa said that the workers of the Muslim Conference should mobilize against this Presidential Ordinance at the public level.

PPP Foundation Day

ISLAMABAD: PPP leaders cutting the cake on the occasion of 57th Foundation Day ceremony of Pakistan Peoples Party at Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Zawar Malik Ghulam Jelani Arhti meets Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider

Ahmad Pur Sial

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chairman of the Punjab National Peace Force Committee for Interfaith Harmony Pakistan, Zawar Malik Ghulam Jelani Arhti, accompanied by Central Chairman Mazhar Sakhawat Wattoo, had a significant meeting with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in Toba Tek Singh.

During the meeting, Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan warmly embraced Zawar Malik Ghulam Jelani Arhti and lauded his dedicated efforts toward promoting peace and interfaith harmony.

Speaking at the event organized by the Pakistan Oad Movement, the



Governor assured attendees that the issues of the Oad community would be addressed on a priority basis.

Additionally, the Governor commended the role of the National

Peace Force Committee Pakistan in fostering interfaith harmony and paid tribute to Mazhar Sakhawat Wattoo for his contributions. In response, Zawar Malik Ghulam

Jelani Arhti expressed gratitude to the Governor for his commitment to resolving the community's concerns and for supporting their mission of peace and unity.

Preparations for Cultural Day in Sindh Reach Their Peak

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Preparations for the Cultural Day in Sindh are in full swing. The "Sindhi Cultural Day," celebrated annually on the first Sunday of December, is once again set to be observed with great enthusiasm. In anticipation of this day, cities and villages across Sindh have been adorned with cultural colors. People are enthusiastically purchasing traditional Ajrak, Sindhi caps, clothes, and jewelry.

From Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Larkana to small villages, both cities and villages are drenched in cultural hues. Numerous stalls selling Ajrak, caps, and other cultural items have been set up in various



areas, drawing large crowds. Schools, colleges, and universities are also holding cultural

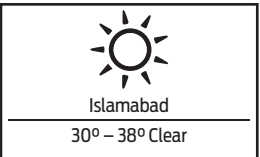
programs and rehearsals. There is a palpable sense of excitement, especially among

the youth and children. Preparations for rallies, fairs, and gatherings are in

full swing to mark the Cultural Day. Performances by artists, Sindhi music gatherings, and cultural exhibitions are becoming the center of attention for the public. Various social organizations, schools, and political parties are organizing events at their level.

This day is dedicated to highlighting and celebrating Sindhi culture and heritage. Everywhere, the use of Ajrak and caps symbolizes national unity. The Cultural Day brings with it a commitment to showcasing Sindh's history, culture, and traditions.

The enthusiasm among the people of Sindh suggests that this year's Cultural Day will be remembered as a historic and unforgettable celebration.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:26 am
Zohr	11:56 am
Asr	3:22 pm
Maghrib	4:59 pm
Isha	6:27 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

ICT Police honors bravery and sacrifices of its officers in special ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Territory (ICT) Police organized a prestigious ceremony on Saturday to pay tribute to its brave, fearless, and dedicated officers.

A public relation officer told APP that the ceremony was held at the Police Lines Headquarters to recognize the police officers who demonstrated exceptional bravery and courage during recent law and order.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, was the chief guest, while DIG Syed Ali Raza, DIG Headquarters/Security Muhammad Jawad Tariq, all AIGs, SSPs, SPs, and police officers from all divisions were present.

IGP Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, paid tribute to the officers who displayed unmatched bravery and made eternal sacrifices to uphold law and order in the federal capital.

He said, "I am proud to lead this brave force, and I will always remember my time serving with Islamabad Police. Every officer in this force is chosen and appointed by Allah. By renewing your commitment to Allah, you have safeguarded the lives and property of the people and thwarted the miscreants in their nefarious plans."

He further emphasized, "My force has shown extraordinary bravery in serving and protecting the citizens, as well as maintaining law and order in the city."

CDA to install permanent decorative lights on major avenues

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to install decorative lights permanently on major thoroughfares to enhance the beauty of the federal capital.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by the authority's chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Saturday to review the Islamabad beautification plan.

In the first phase, LED floodlights will be installed along Constitution Avenue.

The Chairman CDA stated that the lights should be energy-efficient and cost-effective. He emphasized that effective and permanent measures should be taken for protection of lights.

He was instructed to prepare PC-I of the project and to present it for approval at the earliest.

The Chairman CDA directed to carry out repair of all sign and direction boards installed in the city immediately under



the Beautification. He instructed that a plan be presented to beautify the city's key buildings.

He directed that a team consisting of architects be formed to assist with the beautification plan.

The meeting decided that all avenues in the city would be beautified in phases.

During the briefing, it was informed that under the Beautification Plan, plants have been planted that will ensure the city remains adorned with beautiful flowers throughout the year.

The meeting was informed that the plan aims to balance the city's natural beauty with modernity. It was also mentioned that symmetry will be ensured among the elements contributing to the beautification of the city.

Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa also said that a plan to enhance the facilities at F-9 Park should be presented.

He stated that Fatima Jinnah F-9 Park will be developed as a center for recreational activities

Christmas Market

ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas participate in Annual Christmas Market under the auspices of the German embassy at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Allied School chief outlines vision for uplifting school and school-leisure

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Mr. Inam Mateen, Managing Director of Allied School, Gulberg Campus, outlined his educational vision, highlighting his dedication to offering students a diverse range of extracurricular activities aimed at fostering excellence in sports and achieving recognition at the interschool, provincial, and national levels. By producing students who excel academically and in sports, he is making a valuable contribution to society. To facilitate this, he has set up a sports arena where students can engage in both indoor and outdoor sports. Notably, female students are showing a keen interest in sports and are eager to participate under the guidance of experienced trainers. Mr. Inam Mateen's long-term goal is to establish a cadet school and college, with plans already underway to upgrade the system. Policies are being finalized, and future plans are being developed. Parent teacher conferences are a routine at the campus to address the feedback of both sides.

DFP condemns fresh arrest spree of youths in IOK, seeks early release of political prisoners

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has strongly condemned recent arrest spree of Kashmiri youths by Indian occupation forces in the held territory and termed the move as part of government's policy to choke every kind of dissent in the region.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal, while citing the violent cordon-and-search operations in various districts, including Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Reasi, and Doda where dozens of youths were arrested, said that the occupation forces deployed in length and breadth of the state have unleashed a reign of terror in the region.

Seeking an early release of all the illegally detained Kashmiri prisoners, he urged the international community to pressurize India to release all detainees and resolve the lingering dispute of Kashmir that has been the main cause of bloodshed and violence in the region.

AIOU announces Matric and FA Results

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced the results of its Matric and FA programs for the Spring Semester 2024. Students can check their results on their CMS portals. Results of the Associate Degree programs are being finalized and are expected to be declared by mid of this month.

The university's academic activities have been streamlined, and the timely release of results is a testament to good governance. Under the leadership and strategic guidance of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, there has been a significant reduction in student complaints. Students' trust in the university has grown, which is reflected in an increase in enrollment each semester compared to the previous one.

WPC to host two-day workshop to promote women's rights, inclusive politics

ISLAMABAD: The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) will host a two-day workshop from Sunday to promote women's rights and foster an inclusive political environment, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) of Pakistan's 16th National Assembly, under the leadership of Secretary WPC Dr. Shahida Rehmani, will host the "Thought Leadership Workshop" on Sunday (December 1st) and the "Digital Democracy Workshop" on Monday (December 2nd), Pakistan's cuisine

These workshops are a key component of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a global call to action for the protection and empowerment of women. They will focus on addressing critical issues such as ending gender-based violence, ensuring women's physical, social, legal, and online safety, and combating all forms of harassment.

The workshops are designed to facilitate a powerful dialogue and equip participants with the skills, knowledge & tools needed for identifying, sensitising and tackling women-related issues through informed legislation and promoting and upholding digital democracy.

Secretary of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus and a Member of the National Assembly, Dr. Shahida Rehmani will deliver keynote addresses, outlining the core objectives of the workshops. She will emphasize the importance of empowering Women Members of the National Assembly to ensure robust women participation in Pakistan's General Elections.

CBD Punjab Resumes Construction Activities Post Smog Restrictions

Cit Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has resumed construction activities on its projects following the relaxation of smog-related restrictions. The initiative reflects the commitment of CBD Punjab to deliver world-class infrastructure and drive urban development.

To assess the progress, CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, chaired a comprehensive progress review meeting attended by key officials including Executive Director Technical Riaz Hussain, Director Project Management Asif Iqbal, Director Construction Asif Babar, Director Engineering Umar Hayat, representatives from NESPAK, and project contractors. The meeting



served as a platform to discuss ongoing construction activities and ensure alignment with the project's timeline and quality benchmarks.

During the meeting, CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin was briefed on the latest developments in the construction of CBD Punjab Phase 1 and Phase 2. The updates highlighted steady progress including infrastructure development, hardscaping, landscaping, and tile work. Additionally, the installation of

poles for streetlights along Walton Road is underway, enhancing the project's connectivity and visual appeal.

CBD Punjab continues to set new standards in urban development, focusing on sustainability, advanced infrastructure, and community-centric planning. With the resumption of construction, the authority reiterates its mission to contribute significantly to the economic growth and urban transformation of Punjab.

Can Pakistan improve economically?

The Pakistani economy can improve, but it will require adopting the following suggestions.

1) "Fiscal discipline and debt management"

Reduce fiscal deficits by curbing non-developmental expenditures and increasing revenue collection through better tax administration.

Restructure public debt to reduce reliance on costly external borrowing.

2) "Enhance tax revenue"

Broaden the tax base by reducing exemptions and addressing tax evasion. Modernize the tax collection system and make it more transparent.

3) "Boost Exports"

Diversify exports beyond textiles by promoting high-value sectors such as technology, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture. Focus on trade agreements and improve the competitiveness of domestic industries.

4) "Energy sector reforms"

Resolve circular debt issues and invest in renewable energy to reduce reliance on costly imports.

5) "Investment in Infrastructure"

Enhance infrastructure to support industries, trade, and foreign investments. Strengthen projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) while ensuring sustainable debt management.

6) "Agricultural productivity"

Modernize agricultural practices to increase yields and export potential. Address water management challenges and invest in irrigation technology.

7) "Focus on human capital development"

Invest in education, skills training, and healthcare to create a more productive workforce. Encourage innovation and entrepreneurship.

8) Political stability and Governance

Ensure political stability to build investor confidence. Strengthen institutions to reduce corruption and ensure accountability.

9) "Foster foreign direct investment (FDI)"

Improve the ease of doing business to attract international investors. Offer incentives for investments in technology, energy, and manufacturing.

10) "Manage inflation and currency stability"

Implement policies to stabilize the Pakistani rupee and manage inflation to maintain consumer purchasing power.



Saad Akhtar

Analysis

11) "Challenges to overcome security concerns"

Continued focus on maintaining domestic peace.

12) Geopolitical pressures Navigate complex international relations effectively.

13) And finally, reduction of profit on deposits kept by the people, who kept their money in banks.

By giving above suggestions Pakistan's economy can improve. Although it's difficult to implement. Yet it's to be tried with iron hands.

With a strategic approach and consistent efforts, Pakistan has the potential to overcome its economic challenges and achieve sustainable growth. LONG LIVE PAKISTAN.

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

How did Ali Sobh become a Megamillionaire? - II

But life had one more cruel twist in store. His uncles, now bankrupt due to poor decisions, came to Ali for help. Despite their past betrayals, he lent them \$10,000, trusting in their need. Only later did he discover the bitter truth: they had used his money to open a car wash modeled after his brand, stealing his customized designs and goodwill. The betrayal stung deeply, but Ali chose to rise above it. He had built his empire with integrity and resilience, and no one could take that from him.

When Ali earned his first \$100,000, he didn't splurge on luxury or status. Instead, he bought a truck to support his business, reinvest in his dreams, and expand his operations. Practical and determined, he saved every penny he could, eventually buying out his uncle's failing car wash. This marked the beginning of a remarkable turnaround—not just for his business, but for his life. The "golden dream" his mother had once seen now seemed to be unfolding before their eyes.

By the age of 35, the boy once dismissed as handicapped had become one of the most successful businessmen in Detroit. His empire had grown to over 40 companies, a testament to his resilience, vision, and relentless drive. Yet, success did not make him complacent. Ali never forgot the education he had been forced to abandon as a young boy. Determined to fulfill that lost dream, he enrolled at the University of Michigan. Despite managing a rapidly expanding business empire, he graduated with straight As in

every subject, proving that his pursuit of knowledge was as unyielding as his pursuit of success.

Amid his achievements, Ali embarked on a deeply spiritual journey, performing Hajj. This pilgrimage transformed him. The profound experience rekindled his faith and gave him a renewed sense of purpose. In a moment of spiritual clarity, Ali made a solemn contract with God. He gave up the vices he had gradually indulged in and resolved to live a life guided by integrity, humility, and generosity.

As part of his newfound commitment, Ali pledged to donate one-fifth of everything he earned to those in need. This act of devotion wasn't a fleeting gesture but a lifelong commitment. Millions of dollars now flow each year from his businesses to charities across the United States and his homeland of Lebanon. His contributions support education, orphanages, authentic organizations, and countless individuals in desperate need. Yet, true to his values, Ali never sought recognition for his charity. He believes that giving is an act of faith, not a transaction for applause.

By the age of 45, Ali had achieved a level of success most could only dream of. He owned luxurious villas, a fleet of high-end cars, a collection of wristwatches—the cheapest of which cost \$50,000—his own luxury yachts, and over 40 thriving

companies generating millions of dollars every month. From a life of poverty and struggle, Ali had risen to the pinnacle of wealth and achievement.

Yet, despite his immense success, Ali felt a deeper calling. He realized that his journey, marked by adversity, resilience, and faith, held valuable lessons for others. He wanted to inspire struggling men and women around the world to rise above their hardships, to stay connected with Allah, to work hard and smart, and to set goals so high that they not only achieved them but surpassed them. He believed that self-belief, coupled with determination, could turn even the most daunting dreams into reality.

This calling brought him to social media. Determined to share his hard-earned wisdom and life experiences, Ali assembled a team of talented individuals to help him amplify his message. Within just six months, Ali became one of the most influential social media figures in the United States and Lebanon. Posting inspirational videos on Instagram under the username Alisobh_official, he garnered 170,000 followers and over 30 million views in half a year. His powerful, heartfelt videos, rooted in his real-life struggles and triumphs, resonated deeply with his audience.

Ali didn't stop at Instagram. His videos, brimming with raw emotion and practical advice, reached millions more on

TikTok, Facebook, and YouTube. His story—of rising from rags to riches with nothing but his mother's dream and his indomitable spirit—captivated hearts worldwide. Followers flooded his inbox with messages of gratitude, sharing how his words had transformed their lives, helping them to overcome adversity and rekindle their faith in themselves and Allah.

For many, Ali's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and belief. Unlike many millionaires and billionaires born into privilege, Ali had started with nothing but his mother's vision of a "golden boy." His rise to success wasn't handed to him—it was earned, one hard-fought step at a time.

In one particularly emotional conversation, Ali shared his story with me, and tears filled his eyes. He admitted that even now, when he feels overwhelmed by challenges or weighed down by life's hardships, he turns to his own videos for strength. "I listen to my own words," he said, his voice trembling, "and they remind me of where I came from and where I'm going. They give me the energy I need to conquer whatever difficulty comes my way."

Ali Sobh's life is more than a story—it is a beacon of hope for anyone facing adversity. It is proof that with faith, hard work, and unwavering self-belief, even the most impossible dreams can become a reality.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



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

Uzbekistan Airways first direct flight lands in Lahore

First direct flight from Tashkent to Lahore was launched on Friday and it was welcomed by Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtayev along with local industrialists and business community at Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore.

The Uzbekistan Airways flight landed at 9 am which was warmly welcomed with a Water Salute at the airport.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, Uzbek Ambassador Alisher Tukhtayev said that this important step is creating new opportunities to strengthen economic, cultural and tourism ties between two countries.

He said that the flight was possible due to the vision of President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the joint efforts of the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan and the Ministry of Transport.

The Uzbek ambassador said that the flight was fully booked, which shows the importance of this route.

Alisher said that the flight is not just a common air trip, but a symbol of friendship and cooperation that is taking our relations to a new level.

He said that the start of this flight between Uzbekistan and Pakistan will further strengthen the economic, trade, cultural and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), business organizations and various chambers of commerce of the country have described this flight as important for the promotion of economic relations between the two countries.

The FPCCI and other business bodies have hailed the commencement of the direct air link between Pakistan and Uzbekistan as it would help to enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

This direct flight would prove to be useful in forging bilateral business and economic integration with the Central state of the Central Asian region, Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states, President, FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh, said while talking to the media.

He said the Uzbekistan Embassy in Islamabad deserved appreciation for playing a significant role in launching direct air links between the two countries.

President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mian Abuzar Shad said Uzbekistan is an important country in the Central Asian region and the direct flights between Tashkent and Lahore would strengthen business relations between the two countries and all the credit in that regard goes to Islamabad and Tashkent embassies.

President of the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), Rana Muhammad Siddique Khan hailed the direct flight and said that the role of the business community of Gujranwala is significant in increasing bilateral trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

He said GCCCI, traders and the business community are already doing business in Uzbekistan in different sectors, and the direct flight operation will benefit the business community of Gujranwala.

President of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rehan Naseem Bharara said besides trade relations, the direct flight link would also help in enhancing tourism and cultural ties between the two countries.

Pakistan's Strategic Posturing in the New Cold War: U. S. vs China

Muqaddas Tariq

As the 21st century progresses onward, the global order is undergoing a radical change, and two superpowers, the United States and China, are competing to dominate this new global order. Graham Allison in *Destined for war (2017)*, discussed this rivalry between United States and China as "New Cold War." "However it is unlike the old cold war, that centered on ideology and military power between the U. S. and USSR. Instead, today's rivalry involves economic and technological dominance, global influence, and strategic alliances. In today's complex geopolitical dynamics, each country holds its own significance, and their decisions will not only shape the global order but also shape their future. Pakistan due to its strategic location at the crossroads of Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle, combined with its historical role as the key ally of the United States during the original cold war against the USSR, and deepening ties with China make it a crucial player in this "New Cold War" era. Pakistan finds itself right in the middle of this rivalry.

Historically Pakistan due to its strategic location played an important role in global politics. During the cold war, it allied with the USA against the USSR, which brought military and financial support for Pakistan, but also made it dependent on the USA and often forced to follow American policies. As the world has changed and the U. S. sees China as its main rival. For Pakistan it brought new challenges and decisions to make.

As the CPEC and China's BRI, has

brought significant investment into Pakistan. New roads, power plants, railways, and ports are being built, which providing a much-needed boost to Pakistan's economy and addressing its energy problems. CPEC is not just an economic project but also a source of strengthening Pakistan's position in the region, especially against its historical rival India. However, such close ties with China also comes with a risk. As critics raised concerns that Pakistan could become too much dependent on Chinese loans and investment and if Pakistan is unable to repay its debts, it can fall into "debt trap". Pakistan could lose control of important ports, and infrastructure and it could also weaken Pakistan's ability to take independent decisions on the global stage.

At the present time, Pakistan's relations with the United States have become complicated. For decades, USA was Pakistan's main ally, providing economic and military support, especially during cold war and war on terror. However, in recent years, USA has shifted its focus towards India and provided strategic support, to counter China's growing influence and accused Pakistan of not doing enough to fight terrorism. Such situations had strained bilateral relations between the U. S. and Pakistan, yet USA remains a crucial actor for Pakistan as a key market for Pakistani export, and still holds significant influence on international institutions like IMF, World Bank, on which Pakistan relies for loans.

Now, Pakistan is caught between tough situations. If Pakistan leans much towards the USA, it can damage its partnership with China, a powerful neighbor, can damage developing projects like CPEC, and weakens Pakistan's position against India. And if

Pakistan leans towards China, it may lose access to European markets, can damage ties with global financial organizations, where Washington has significant influence. Overdependence on China can create a "debt trap" and could also weaken Pakistan's ability to take independent decisions on the global stage.

So, how should Pakistan posture itself during "New Cold War"? The answer lies in adopting a policy of Strategic neutrality and avoiding leaning towards either China or the USA. As Charles de Gaulle famously remarked, "No nation has friends, only interests." Pakistan must avoid playing into the hands of global superpowers and becoming a tool for the USA or China to promote their agendas. Pakistan should prioritize its own self-interests and maintain balanced relations with both global powers, benefiting from projects like CPEC and also taking advantages like trade and technological advancement from the USA, and should strengthen its economy which is crucial for resisting external pressure and making independent decisions on the global stage. Pakistan should also expand its ties with other countries and organizations like ASEAN, EU, instead of depending on a single country. The main focus of Islamabad should be being a peacekeeper in the regional conflicts; and can improve its image without risking its sovereignty. So, by adopting such policies, Pakistan can serve its national interests, can ensure its prosperity and can emerge as a stabilizing force in the South Asian region and a self-reliant country in the face of global challenges.

Writer is student of International Relations at National Defence University. He can be reached at muqaddastariq052@gmail.com

Toxic Clouds Over Lahore

Recently, air pollution has emerged as one of the major environmental challenges affecting the health of the masses in Pakistan. Major cities of Pakistan are ranked among the most polluted cities in the region in the world regularly and Lahore is among top. The unprecedented increase in emissions of toxic gases and aerosols from vehicles, industrial units, power generation, biomass burning activities have impaired the air quality resulting in various harmful effects including monetary losses. Severe smog episodes during the months of November-December have emerged as a regular phenomenon, in addition, to a rise in aerosol pollution levels throughout the year. Especially, extreme smog hangs over the plains of Punjab Province and is causing severe disruption in the socio-economic circles during the post-monsoon and winter seasons.

These smog episodes are causing unprecedented damage to the health and environment of the local inhabitants. Pakistan being an environmentally vulnerable country, is ranked as the country with 3rd highest premature deaths with around 22,000 premature deaths as per the estimate by WHO.

As smog is prevalent everywhere in Lahore spreading to the other cities of Punjab also. Recently serious smog episodes hit several regions of KPK also. The provincial government of Punjab recently announced a Smart lockdown at Lahore where all the businesses and shops were instructed to close it before 8PM. Government also announced temporary school closure, which now gets open after reduction in smog episodes, as the AQI was found to be better last week. Extensive exposure to smog may cause respiratory diseases such as wheezing, asthma, eye irritation and coughing symptoms especially young men and women are even more susceptible to it as they are more fragile.

Lahore's smog is not just a visibility issue; it has severe health implications. Hospitals and clinics across the city have reported a surge in cases of respiratory illnesses, including bronchitis, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Children are the most affected along with old age people and those who are already facing severe respiratory issues are even more exposed to serious threat because of smog episodes. Doctors are raising the alarm, advising inhabitants to abate outdoor activities, use face masks, and Portable air cleaners. According to health professionals, continuing exposure to the existing levels of air pollution can lead to permanent impairment to the lungs, cardiovascular issues, and an enhance threat of lung cancer. The air quality index (AQI) of the city recurrently surpasses hazardous levels, even reaching 1193 last week which is recorded as the highest ever AQI recorded in Lahore, making Lahore the world's most polluted city. It is the need of the hour that the citizens should collaborate with the government to tackle this serious issue of smog. Government needs to take hard decisions and it needs

to be strictly implemented by enforcing the emission standards. Federal government also needs to raise this serious issue on a global scale by sitting with the Indian government on the smog issue as a major chunk of smog comes from Indian Punjab due to crops burning. Government needs to encourage citizens to use public transport to reduce vehicular emission. As this is a long term issue so a sustainable policy should be made to tackle this issue for the long term, such as transitioning to battery driven motor bikes, Trees plantation, switching towards LEED certified green buildings. Training programs and awareness sessions need to be conducted to encourage citizens in adopting sustainable practices which can make a substantial difference. This smog episode is an alarm bell for the government to reform environmental policy. Without effective and sustained interventions, Lahore's smog problem will continue to endanger the health of millions, disrupt daily life, and degrade the city's environment. It's high time for both policymakers and citizens to take responsibility and act decisively to clear the skies over Lahore.



Analysis

Waleed Imran

Writer is student of BS International Relations from National Defence University

UAE Commemoration Day

President pays tribute to fallen heroes, says sacrifices 'forever engraved'

WAM

President Sheikh Mohamed has affirmed that the UAE will continue to uphold the values exemplified by the sacrifices of its fallen heroes, who gave their lives defending justice, peace, and the principles of humanity. He stated that the country's message remains one of stability, unity, and cooperation, dedicated to the well-being and prosperity of all.

In a statement to mark Commemoration Day, observed on November 30 each year, His Highness noted the significance of the occasion that honours the brave individuals who gave their lives for the UAE. He recognised their ultimate sacrifice as an enduring symbol of patriotism and loyalty to the nation.

The President also expressed deep gratitude to the heroes' families, reaffirming the UAE's unwavering commitment to supporting them. He emphasised that their loved ones' sacrifices will forever epitomise selfless dedication to the progress and prosperity of the UAE.



Below is the statement of the President in full:

"Commemoration Day is a distinguished national occasion on which we pay tribute to the heroic individuals who gave their lives to protect the UAE and its people. Their sacrifices are forever engraved in the most cherished chapters of our nation's history, standing as a timeless inspiration for patriotism and unwavering dedication to the homeland.

Our fallen heroes reflect the noble spirit of the Emirati people and their unyielding willingness to answer the nation's call, no matter the time or place. With God's grace and the unwavering dedication of its citizens, the UAE will remain a symbol of pride and strength, its flag held high, and its sovereignty and achievements firmly protected.

Today, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the families of our heroes and renew our steadfast commitment to

supporting them. The sacrifices of their loved ones will never be forgotten; their deeds will forever epitomise selfless dedication to the progress and prosperity of our nation.

Our fallen heroes answered the nation's call with unparalleled courage and selflessness. Today, the call of the homeland is one of building and advancing towards a brighter, more prosperous future. Inspired by their legacy, our youth, with gratitude and determination, are now leading the charge in service to our nation, seizing every opportunity to drive progress and innovation.

The UAE will continue to uphold the values exemplified by the sacrifices of our heroes, who gave their lives defending justice, peace, and the principles of humanity. Our enduring message remains one of stability, unity, and collaboration, dedicated to the well-being and prosperity of all.

May God honour our fallen heroes, keep the UAE strong and proud, and bring peace and stability to our region and the world."

Netherland, UNFPA and School of Leadership Foundation Launch "Aghaaz"



Bureau Report

QUETTA: In a transformative initiative to provide young people with a safe and friendly community space, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Netherland, and the School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF) launched their first Adolescent and Youth Friendly Space (AYFS) in Quetta today.

This launch marks a critical step in a four-year initiative titled Aghaaz, aimed at establishing AYFS in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Peshawar, and Quetta to promote youth engagement and holistic development.

The AYFS located in NUML Quetta initiative is designed to provide safe, inclusive environments for adolescents and young individuals to access essential resources, psychosocial support, and skill-building opportunities. These spaces will prioritize inclusivity by catering to diverse youth populations, including those with disabilities, and will operate under minimum standards and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure accessibility and quality services.

"This initiative is a beacon of hope for Balochistan's youth. It creates a bridge for young people to access vital resources, build leadership skills, and promote community-driven solutions. I'm inspired to see such a commitment to inclusivity and youth empowerment," said Muhammad Tariq Qamar Baloch, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Balochistan.

The AYFS launch in Quetta also featured insights shared by representatives of UNFPA, and the local government, alongside dynamic activities led by facilitators.

Speaking at the event, Sadia Atta, Provincial Coordinator, UNFPA Pakistan, emphasized the importance of the initiative, saying, "Adolescent and Youth Facilitation Spaces are more than just physical centers; they represent a commitment to nurturing the potential of our youth and ensuring they have access to resources and opportunities that enable them to thrive. This launch in Quetta is a step towards building a stronger, more inclusive future."

Over the coming months, AYFS in Islamabad and Peshawar will further amplify the initiative's impact, creating a nationwide network of youth-friendly spaces that prioritize health, well-being, and leadership development.

Nepalese PM KP Sharma Oli to visit China

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli will pay an official visit to China from December 2 to 5, Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on Friday.

During his upcoming visit, President Xi Jinping will meet with him, and Premier Li Qiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji will have talks and meet with him respectively, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said during her regular briefing.

The two countries leaders will have in-depth exchanges of views on deepening our traditional friendship, expanding Belt and Road cooperation and exchanges and cooperation in various fields, as well as international and regional issues of mutual interest,



she added.

Mao Ning said that China and Nepal are neighbours with enduring friendship connected by mountains and rivers. She said that over the past 69 years

since China and Nepal established diplomatic relations, despite the changing international and regional landscape, bilateral ties have maintained sound and steady growth, setting a fine example of equality and win-win

cooperation between countries of different sizes.

In 2019, President Xi Jinping paid a historic state visit to Nepal and the bilateral relationship has been elevated to the strategic partnership of cooperation featuring everlasting friendship for development and prosperity, she added.

In recent years, the two sides have been earnestly delivering on the important common understandings between leaders of the two countries and achieved fruitful outcomes in our bilateral ties.

China stands ready to work with Nepal through Prime Minister Oli visit to enhance strategic mutual trust, expand practical cooperation, deepen high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and strive for new progress in China-Nepal strategic partnership of cooperation, she added.

Romania's path to progress, National Day highlights achievements, future goals: Envoy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Romania's National Day on December 1 celebrates more than the historic union of 1918, which marks the nation's journey of transformation, its growing role in Europe, and its partnerships worldwide, including with Pakistan.

Dan Stoenescu, ambassador-designate of Romania to Pakistan, in his message on National Day, said that December 1 stands as a significant day for Romanians, and commemorates the 1918 union of Transylvania with the Kingdom of Romania, a milestone that shaped the modern state. It is also a time to reflect on Romania's achievements since joining the European Union in 2007 and its evolving role in a complex global landscape.

He said Romania's history has been marked by resilience and growth. After the fall of the Iron Curtain 35 years ago, the country transitioned from totali-

tarism to democracy. "Now, in the face of challenges like Russia's aggression in Ukraine and regional instability, Romania remains committed to European values of solidarity and determination", he added.

As a NATO member for 20 years, he said Romania has bolstered its security and international standing. NATO's 75th anniversary this year underscores the alliance's role in fostering unity and protection for its billion-strong population. He said Romania actively supports NATO's principles, the "open door" policy, and partnerships with countries sharing democratic values.

While appreciating his country's effort joining the EU has been a turning point for Romania. Over the past 17 years, EU membership has transformed the nation's economy, infrastructure, and quality of life, he said, adding that Romania has received over €60 billion in EU funds, driving projects in transport, healthcare, educa-

tion, and environmental protection.

He said the impact is visible: Romania's GDP has tripled, and GDP per capita has nearly quadrupled since 2007. Citizens enjoy higher wages, improved infrastructure, and greater opportunities for education and work across Europe. By 2025, Romania is set to join the Schengen zone, enabling visa-free travel globally, including to the U.S.

The ambassador-designate said the EU programs like Erasmus have connected Romanians to the world, with over 44,000 students benefiting from international study opportunities. Meanwhile, investments in digitalization and infrastructure have prepared the nation to address future challenges effectively.

He also indicated future the Romania stands at a crossroads, with €79 billion allocated from the EU budget for 2021-2027, including the Next Generation EU recovery plan.

This funding offers opportunities to accelerate reforms in healthcare, education, and digitalization, he mentioned.

The government aims to strengthen infrastructure and tackle global challenges like the Ukraine conflict and pandemic recovery, he said and added that Romania's commitment to EU principles positions it as a vital contributor to European resilience and unity.

"Support for the European integration of Moldova and Ukraine highlights Romania's dedication to regional stability. As a key player in the EU, Romania continues to advocate for a secure and prosperous Europe", he added.

Highlighting Romania's bilateral relations with Pakistan, he said the relations between the two countries also play an essential role in its global outreach, adding, "This year marks 60 years of diplomatic ties between the two nations, characterized by political dialogue and cooperation in areas of



mutual interest".

He said Romania and Pakistan are working to deepen their collaboration, particularly within the EU-Pakistan framework and international platforms like the UN, adding strengthening this partnership is a priority as both nations aim to address shared challenges and advance common goals.

He said Romania's National Day is a

celebration of progress and a commitment to the future. The country's integration into the European project has brought economic growth, democratic stability, and global connectivity, he added.

This National Day serves as a reminder of the road traveled and the potential ahead for Romania and its people.

My Travels of Bukhara

The ancient city of Bukhara, now a part of modern-day Uzbekistan, was a vassal state of the Persian Empire by 500 BCE. It was a center of commerce and a cult center for Anahita, the goddess of fertility. Hence Bukhara enjoys a rich history, it was one of the many settlements in the large oasis formed by the Zafarshan river in ancient Sogdiana. The city was officially founded in 500 BCE, when three fortified settlements grew together and were enclosed by wall. The name Bukhara may come from Sogdian word Buxarak, which means "fortunate place", or less likely, from a local form of vihara, a Buddhist monastery.

Later with the arrival of Islam, Bukhara converted as a

major center of Islamic studies and cultural hub of Central Asia, where Islam found its golden age, flourish with the knowledge of Art, Science, Medicine and Architecture etc. Further known with the reference of Imam Bukhari pbuh. Today it's a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is considered one of the best well-preserved Islamic cities from 10th to 17th centuries.

Today, Bukhara gets the attention of a traveler due to the overwhelming sites of its gigantic sapphire Domes still shedding the magnificence of the Sultans, its huge Madrasas echoing the formulas of Science and Arts, its

colorful covered Bazars telling the ancient Love tales, its flat roofed Houses of sun-dried bricks in which still you can see the images of inhabitants and the mesmerizing Artwork on the great walls.

Like the beauty of city's architecture, beauty itself lives in the city in the form of people, the ancient art found its home in the hands making exquisite designs on fabrics, pottery and tiles. On my visit I found the old city the most alive of whole of Uzbekistan, the most beautiful and most inviting.

To me the inhabitants of Bukhara seems to the descendants Persian and Bactrian people. The clothing symbolizes, as

the old generation still wears the traditional attire, a woolen long shirt, dressed in boots, and women covering their heads. The covered old bazars are still alive with the smell of teas, sounds of vendors, carts selling handicrafts, bargains of ladies and the slow sounds of musical instruments in the background. Moreover, most of the shops have workshops were men and women were busy in decorating fabrics with embroidery work or painting shapes of pomegranate, one artist told me "pomegranate is the symbol of fertility" and hence they considered it in high spirits. Next, you can find vendors selling homemade Samosa, however very different from one we have in Pakistan, plus there were merchants of Camels, Horses and few jugglers, all this got me the idea that the major occupation



the people there is still the traditional art, or the money associated with tourism.

In all Bukhara was a time

machine, a journey to the past, sitting idly by poolside sipping from the cup of tea or walking past in the gardens smelling the

black roses or lying on the staircase of Madrasa listening the ancient tales of Sultans from grandma.



Munaza Kazmi

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
101,357.32	100,082.77	
Day's High	Day's Low	
101,496.17	99,822.61	
Index Value	Change	
25,800,186,996	+1274.55	
Percentage	Time	
+1.27%	29 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,287.30	+6.08	
Percentage	Time	
+0.073%	29 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
45,060.94	+338.88	
Percentage	Time	
+0.76%	29 Nov, 12:20 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,208.03	-141.03	
Percentage	Time	
-0.37%	29 Nov, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180.00	182.25
Bahrain Dinar	731.05	739.05
Canadian Dollar	198.10	200.50
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	291.30	294.05
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.83	1.89
Kuwaiti Dinar	892.75	902.25
Malaysian Ringgit	61.55	62.15
New Zealand \$	160.03	162.03
Norwegians Krone	24.77	25.07
Omani Riyal	715.50	724.00
Qatari Riyal	75.62	76.32
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	206.25	208.25
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	311.45	314.25
Thai Bhat	7.91	8.06
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	349.50	353
US Dollar	277.60	279.10

Azerbaijan, Pakistan trade, investment progress 'very positive' - Minister

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The bilateral diplomatic activities between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, for the past several months, exchanges of high-level delegations and Pakistan's active participation in the COP 29 conference in Baku have started to surface positive results. Ambassador of Azerbaijan in Pakistan H. E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov called on in a meeting with Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in which they both agreed to promote joint projects and trade partnership for which practical work will be started in the coming days.

In this meeting, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan warmly welcomed the Azerbaijani Ambassador H. E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov and said that including tourism Pakistan can further increase bilateral cooperation with its friendly countries in various sectors. He said that we need to convert our mutual relations into business and bilateral trade for which



positive progress is being made from both sides. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan

while offering Azerbaijani Companies to invest and launch business in Pakistan said that in the current circumstances foreign investment can be made on the basis of G2G and B2B. Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan also discussed with the Azerbaijani Ambassador for investment in the M6 and M9 Motorways from Karachi to Sukkhar and Sukkhar to Hyderabad. Abdul Aleem Khan further said that there are huge opportunities in various sectors for foreign investors in Pakistan which should be fully utilized. Azerbaijani Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov assured his full cooperation and said that his country would work with Pakistan on investment and joint projects. The meeting also considered the joint efforts of the three countries of Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Türkiye, while on the instructions of Federal Minister for Investment Abdul Aleem Khan, it was also decided to nominate a Focal Person from the Board of Investment to maintain close liaison with the Government of Azerbaijan.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Trade & Commerce H. E. Jam Kamal Khan, discussed about international trade initiatives and opportunities acquired in delegations, delegation held meeting under Mazhar Thathal Chairman/ CEO Global Trade & Expo Centre Pakistan at Ministry of Commerce.



Photo: Ramzan Mughal

Mobilink Bank named 'Best Microfinance Bank' at Pakistan Banking Awards 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance institution, Mobilink Bank was honored as the 'Best Microfinance Bank' at the Pakistan Banking Awards 2024. The recognition highlights the Bank's pivotal role in advancing financial inclusion and digital empowerment, and underscores its prowess in leveraging innovative fintech solutions to shape a digitally future-ready Pakistan.

Commenting on the achievement, CEO Jazz and Chairman, Mobilink Bank, Aamir Ibrahim said, "This award is a testament to the trust placed in Mobilink Bank by millions of Pakistanis and reflects our collective mission to uplift society through financial inclusion. Mobilink Bank's success lies in its commitment to empowering individuals, particularly women, by providing them with the tools and resources to thrive. This recognition resonates with our ongoing efforts to foster economic growth, resilience, and progress across the country. I commend the entire team for their dedi-



cation and look forward to their continued impact in transforming lives."

Interim CEO Mobilink Bank, Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary said, "The award is an honor that reflects our unwavering commitment to empowering small businesses, women, and underserved communities through innovative, digital banking

solutions that drive meaningful change. Looking forward, we remain committed to expanding access and creating lasting opportunities for those who need it most, as we work towards building a more inclusive, future-ready digital financial ecosystem for fostering sustainable growth and economic progress."

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of National Bank of Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Exuberant celebrations filled with unwavering dedication and opulent prestige marked the 75th anniversary of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP). Held at the historic Mohatta Palace in Karachi, the event was attended by eminent dignitaries from the government, business community, and customers from across the country.

Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President

NBP, warmly welcomed the Chief Guest, Mr. Jameel Ahmad, Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), industrial catalysts, and other distinguished guests alongside members of NBP's management.

In his inspiring address to the distinguished gathering, Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie reflected on the institution's remarkable evolution over the past seven decades. He emphasized NBP's central role in facilitating transformative govern-

ment initiatives, promoting financial inclusion, and spearheading the digital revolution within Pakistan's banking sector.

Mr. Jameel Ahmad, Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) highlighted, "The 75-year journey of NBP is not only a celebration of past triumphs but a resolute pledge to the future. Our legacy is built on resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to the nation's prosperity.

The event brought together a distinguished assembly of government officials, business leaders, and representatives of civil society, underscoring NBP's pivotal role as a trusted partner in driving the nation's economic progress. Guests had the opportunity to explore the bank's enduring legacy through immersive, interactive exhibits showcasing its rich history and visionary initiatives in sustainability, digital banking, and finan-

cial empowerment.

As the event concluded, NBP's leadership expressed heartfelt gratitude to its dedicated staff, valued partners, and loyal customers, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in the bank's remarkable success. As NBP embarks on the next chapter of its legacy, it reaffirms its mission to remain at the forefront of Pakistan's financial sector, committed to fostering innovation, inclusivity, and prosperity for all.

UBG chief calls for steps to help business thrive in times of crisis

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Patron-in-Chief of UBG (FPCCI), S. M. Tanveer, has stated that the business community is the backbone of the national economy. In the current circumstances, the business community faces challenges such as the energy crisis, rising interest rates, and policy instability. The government must urgently address these issues by taking practical steps to reduce business costs, ensure financial stability, and create a conducive environment for entrepreneurs.

UBG (FPCCI) Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, Founder President of Talagang Chamber of Commerce Malik Shabbir Awan, President of Mardan Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries Taj Muhammad Khan, Group Leader Ihsan Bacha, Haji Afzal, Javad Kazmi, and Nawaz Manduri, inaugurated the exhibition.

Zafar Bakhtawari, in his speech, said that the business community of Mardan has proven through this event that Pakistan's entrepreneurs are not only committed to improving the national economy but are also incorporating innovation in their fields by keeping up with modern demands.

Taj Muhammad Khan emphasized that the business community of Mardan has always played its part in stabilizing the national economy. "This exhibition reflects our efforts to promote modern practices in energy and agriculture," he said.

Ihsan Bacha highlighted that this event is not only a means to develop businesses in the region but also an excellent platform for providing future opportunities to the youth.

Earlier, S. M. Tanveer, Zafar Bakhtawari, Malik Shabbir Awan, and other guests visited various stalls at the exhibition, which featured solar energy solutions, modern agricultural equipment, and other business products. They appreciated the cutting-edge technology and creative ideas showcased at the stalls and remarked that these companies have the potential to compete internationally.

India issues notice to German automaker Volkswagen

Reuters

DELHI: A notice dated Sept. 30 says Volkswagen used to import "almost the entire" car in un assembled condition - which attracts a 30-35% import tax in India under rules for CKD, or completely knocked down units, but evaded levies by "mis-declaring and misclassifying" those imports as "individual parts", paying just a 5-15% duty.

Such imports were made by Volkswagen's India unit, Skoda Auto Volkswagen India, for its models including the Skoda Superb and Kodiaq, luxury cars like Audi A4 and Q5, and VW's Tiguan SUV. Different shipment consignments were used to evade detection and



"willfully evade payment" of higher taxes, the Indian investigation found.

"This logistical arrangement is an artificial arrangement ... operating structure is nothing but a ploy to clear the goods without the payment of the applicable duty," said the 95-page notice by the Office of the Commissioner of Customs in Maharashtra, which is not public but was seen by Reuters.

Gold rates in Saudi Arabia today - 30 November 2024



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The price of 24-karat gold per tola in Saudi Arabia experienced a surged-on Saturday, November 30, settling at 3,740 Saudi Riyals (SAR).

Additionally, according to forex.pk, the price for 10 grams of 24-karat gold is currently SAR 3,209 while the price per ounce of gold is set at SAR 9,983.

It is essential to recognize that gold prices vary on a global scale, including

within Saudi Arabia, and there may be discrepancies in this information as the last update occurred at 10:42 AM on November 30, 2024.

Moreover, the price of 24-karat gold per tola in Saudi Arabia experienced on Friday, November 29 at 3,711 Saudi Riyals (SAR).

Additionally, according to forex.pk, the price for 10 grams of 24-karat gold was SAR 3,169 while the price per ounce of gold is set at SAR 9,858.

Second Day

52nd National Athletics Championship Competitions Successfully Continued

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The four-day 52nd National Athletics Championship competitions remained Successfully underway for the second day in Multan. Athletes from various cities of the country represented their respective institutions and showcased their talents. Today's events included long jump, sprint races, pole vault, high jump, shot put, and others.

In the women's 10,000-meter race, WAPDA's Maria Bibi secured first position, while HEC's Natasha Hussain claimed second. In the women's 400-meter hurdles, WAPDA's Musarrat Shaheen took the title, with her teammate Noreen Jabbar finishing second.

Similarly, in the 100-meter hurdles, WAPDA's Ghazala Ramzan emerged victorious. In the women's 800-meter

race, Army's Rabaila Farooq secured the first position, while WAPDA's Iram Shehzadi stood second.

In the men's 10,000-meter race, WAPDA's Sohail Amir secured first place, while Pakistan Army's Muhammad Riaz claimed second. The championship also featured women's long jump, where HEC's Amtal Rehman took first place.

In the men's pole vault, Army's Jafar Ashraf emerged as the winner, and in the 400-meter race, WAPDA's Shajar Abbas claimed the top spot. The women's 200-meter race was won by Army's Tamim Khan. In the women's high jump, WAPDA's Rubab secured first position, while HEC's Amtal Rehman stood second.

In the men's shot-put event, Army's Jamshed Ali clinched first place, with WAPDA's Shafqat Ali finishing second.



A large audience, including people from various walks of life, citizens, and students, enthusiastically attended the ongoing championship events and cheered for the athletes.



Kasur, Nankana Sahib clinch Khelta Punjab Games hockey, football titles

Tahir Amin Malik

Kasur hockey team defeated Lahore's Khawaja Junaid Academy hockey team by 2-0 in the title clash of Khelta Punjab Games division level boys' hockey event at National Hockey Stadium on Saturday.

Kasur's M Adil and Salman Ashiq struck two field goals in the 3rd and 9th minutes of the match to seal a 2-0 title victory. Kasur team won the title with 9 points while Sheikhpura finished runners up with 6 points followed by Lahore's Khawaja Junaid Academy hockey team who scored three points in the event.

In Khelta Punjab Games division level football event final, Young Blood Football Club Nankana Sahib stunned strong Real Lahore Football Club by 2-0 to win the title. In the earlier matches, Real Lahore trounced Sheikhpura by 2-0 while Nankana Sahib toppled Kasur by 2-0.

Following are the results of Khelta Punjab Games division level girls taekwondo matches:

- 38kg: 1st Madeeha Imran, 2nd Abeera Sharaf
- 42kg: 1st Sundas Zara, 2nd Hifza Aslam
- 46kg: 1st Eman Zahra, 2nd Eman Fatima



49kg: 1st Sehar Shabbir, 2nd Zahra 53kg: 1st Zainab, 2nd Irsa Fatima 57kg: 1st Afifa, 2nd Meerab Asghar. DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry congratulated

the Kasur and Nankana Sahib teams for winning Khelta Punjab Games division level boys' hockey and football titles. Director Youth Affairs/Divisional Sports Officer Lahore Rana Nadeem

Anjum, Olympian Kh Junaid, Deputy Director Chand Perveen, District Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Abbas and other officials were also present on this occasion.

43rd Punjab Open Golf Championship

Tahir Amin Malik.

Vibrant and lively competitive activity was discernible in the 43rd Punjab Open Golf Championship in progress at the fascinating Royal Palm Course as 98 illustrious and esteemed champion professional golfers of the national golf scene pursued the Punjab Open Golf Title for 2024-25 which brings with it huge honors and financial rewards. After the completion of 36 holes on Saturday the most dynamic player of the championship is Hamza Taimur Amin of Rumanza Golf Club. In the presence of many mammoth ones of the game, Hamza is proving to be a contender of merit and worthiness. After a grand show in the golfing 18 holes round on Friday which helped to the prestigious top position on the leaderboard, he played unerring golf on Saturday also. Excellent application of golfing skills enabled him to compile a perfect score of gross 69 and that added to his first days gross 68 gives him a two days aggregate of 137, seven under par. By virtue of this commendable effort he has developed a lead of three strokes over his adversaries who are four in number. These four challengers represent the best ones of the country and include Muhammed Alam (Garrison), M. Saqib (Garrison), M. Zubair (Karachi) and Muhammed Shabbir (Margalla Greens). Alam is placed at a two days aggregate score of 140, four under par and at the same score are M. Saqib, M. Zubair and M. Shabbir.



In line for good rewards are other contenders like Minhaj Maqsood followed by Asif Ali (Gymkhana), Anser Mehmood (Margalla Greens), and Talat Ijaz (Gymkhana). More notable ones are M. Munir, Tahir Bshir, Ashiq Hussain and Talib Hussain.

Pakistan face Nepal, Bangladesh take on Sri Lanka in 4th T20 Blind World Cup semifinals

Sports Desk

MULTAN: The lineup for the semifinals of the 4th T20 Blind Cricket World Cup is complete, with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal advancing to the knockout stage. Pakistan will clash with Nepal in the first semifinal, while Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka in the second semifinal. Both matches are scheduled for December 1 at Multan Cricket Stadium.

In the final round of group matches, Pakistan delivered a commanding performance, defeating Afghanistan by seven wickets to secure the top spot in the group. Electing to field first, Pakistan bowled out Afghanistan for a mere 94 runs in 19.2 overs, with Fakhar Abbas claiming 3 wickets for just 4 runs in 2.2 overs. Chasing the modest target, Pakistan achieved victory in 9.5 overs, led by Talha Iqbal's quickfire 32 off 15 balls. Fakhar Abbas was named Player of the Match for his exceptional bowling performance.

Meanwhile, in another group match at DHA Ground, Bangladesh overpowered South Africa with a dominant 10-wicket win. South Africa set a target of 150 runs, scoring 149/8 in 20 overs. Bangladesh's openers, Mohammad Salman (73 off 44 balls) and Arif Hussain (55 off 39 balls), comfortably chased down the target in 12.5 overs.

Pakistan Cricket Defeated Arch-rivals India's U-19 cricket team by 43 runs

Imran Usmani

DUBAI: Pakistan won the toss and decided to bat first in the ongoing U-19 Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan's team put up a brilliant performance and scored 281 runs for the loss of seven wickets. Shahzeb Khan played an unbeaten 159 runs for Pakistan. Samarth Nagaraj took three wickets for India.

India failed to achieve the desired target and returned to the pavilion after scoring 238 runs in 47.1 overs.

Nikhil Kumar stood out for India by scoring 67 runs.

Ali Raza took three wickets for Pakistan, while Abdul



Subhan and Fahm-ul-Haq Khan took two wickets each. Shahzeb Khan was awarded the Man of the Match award for his brilliant performance. At the end of the match, Pakistan Cricket Board chief Mohsin Naqvi congratulated the Pakistan Under-19 cricket team on their brilliant victory against India and said that Pakistan's Under-19 young cricketers have performed brilliantly in every aspect of the game against India, for which I congratulate all the young cricketers on my behalf and on behalf of the entire Pakistani nation and hope that the Pakistan Under-19 cricket team will perform similarly brilliantly in the upcoming matches of the Asia Cup.

South Africa thrash Sri Lanka to fuel World Test Championship bid

AFP

DURBAN: South Africa boosted their chances of reaching the World Test Championship (WTC) after a crushing 233-run victory against Sri Lanka on the fourth day of the first Test at Kingsmead here on Saturday.

The result lifted South Africa to second place in the WTC table, which is calculated on average points earned. With their remaining three matches to be played at home, South Africa are well-placed to qualify for the final at Lord's in London next June if they carry on winning.

"That's always been one of our goals as a team," said South African, captain Temba Bavuma.

"The conversation has always been there. We've not been loud about it but that conversation will probably become more alive now."

Set a massive 516 runs to win, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 282.

Left-arm fast bowler Marco Jansen, the destroyer in Sri Lanka's record-low first innings of 42, took four for 73 to finish with match figures of 11 for 86. He was named player of the match.

Bavuma said conditions had changed considerably during the match, in which South Africa battled to make 191 in the first innings before Sri Lanka were blown away in 13.5 overs, with

Jansen taking seven for 13.

"We were in a tough position and we knew we had to dig deep," said Bavuma. "We were quite confident that if they could put us under pressure with the ball we could do the same to them."

"We weren't expecting things to go so quickly but we knew the conditions (for bowling) were in our favour and that we could exploit them."

Referring to the Test championship, Bavuma said his team needed to continue to focus internally on what they needed to do, rather than be concerned about factors beyond their control.

Sri Lankan captain Dhanan-

jaya de Silva said the first innings had been decisive - "our bowling as well as our batting."

He said Sri Lanka could have bowled better to restrict South Africa to around 120, although he paid tribute to Bavuma, who scored 70 in the first innings and 113 in the second.

The collapse to 42 all out against a "brilliant" Jansen happened so quickly, he said, that "we didn't have time to think. We had better plans in the second innings."

In contrast to the first innings, the tourists made the South Africans work for their wickets on Saturday.

Dinesh Chandimal (83) and De Silva (59) put on 95 for the



sixth wicket and kept South Africa in the field for most of the morning after resuming at 103 for five.

The breakthrough for South Africa came when De Silva chipped a catch to midwicket off left-arm spinner Keshav

Maharaj. Kusal Mendis made an attacking 48 before he became Jansen's 10th victim of the match.

Foundation Day of PPP

HYDERABAD: Large number party workers listening to the speech of Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on live video link screen at Press club road.



Photo: APP

PPP chief Bilawal calls for 'National Action Plan 2.0' to combat terrorism

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has stressed the need for the 'National Action Plan 2' to combat terrorism in the country, following terrorist attacks against foreigners, civilians, and armed forces.

"The government never desires for any citizen to lose their life in incidents of unrest. We hope both the federal and provincial governments

will play their roles in the national interest," he said while addressing the party's gatherings across Pakistan via video link on Saturday. The Sindh-ruling party celebrated its 57th founding anniversary.

The country has seen an increase in militancy since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in 2021, with the Pakistani chapter of the movement carrying out attacks mostly targeting security forces. One of them was a blast at the Quetta

Railway Station that killed 27 people.

Earlier this month, seven security personnel were martyred in an exchange of fire with terrorists who attempted to attack a security forces' post in the general area of Shah-e-Mardan of the Kalat district in Balochistan.

In October, a militant attack killed two Chinese nationals and a Pakistani citizen just outside the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi.

Moreover, unidentified gunmen killed over 40 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram this month.

Bilawal called for a 'National Action Plan 2.0' to collectively combat terrorism and to reach a consensus on the critical issue.

The South Asian country introduced such a plan when the banned terrorist organisation TTP killed 131 children and 10 other people after attacking the Army Public School in Peshawar on

December 16, 2014.

He also highlighted the necessity of developing policies to engage with disgruntled individuals and terrorists, asserting that planning is essential to effectively defeat terrorism.

Bilawal was of the view that the country would have to develop policies to engage with disgruntled individuals and terrorists, saying: "Terrorism can only be defeated through planning."

Anyone who takes up arms will be labelled terrorist, says Gandapur

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Anyone who disrupts peace and takes up arms would be treated like a terrorist, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said on Saturday, as the provincial government has requested military deployment to ensure stability in the region.

"The fate of terrorists is hell, declaring. Anyone who takes up arms will be treated as a terrorist and their fate will be that of a terrorist," he said while addressing a grand jirga during his visit to Kohat.



It was focused on the Kurram situation.

Clashes erupted in the Kurram district on November 22, following an attack

on a passenger convoy on November 21 that resulted in the deaths of 45 people, including women and children.

That sparked retaliatory attacks against the other community residents and there have been pitched battles between armed groups from both sides.

Armed men have engaged in a tribal and sectarian rivalry for decades over a land dispute in the Kurram district near the Afghanistan border.

Fresh clashes in Kurram killed at least 80 people, with over 150 more injured. Tribal elders said on Saturday that a ceasefire at two locations in lower Kurram was reached between the two groups, however, firing was reported

in upper Kurram's two areas.

Gandapur noted that the military, police, and administration were making coordinated efforts to establish lasting peace in the area. The provincial chief minister also directed officials to dismantle all established fortifications without discrimination.

Gandapur urged the local community to identify those disrupting peace in the area. He announced that the grand jirga would remain in place until complete peace is restored and assured that the provincial government would provide all possible support.

UAE embassy observes Commemoration Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Officials and members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Embassy in Pakistan, along with representatives from its attached offices, stood in solemn silence on Saturday to honor the nation's fallen heroes.

This observance marked the UAE's Martyr's Day, also known as Commemoration Day, observed annually on November 30.

UAE embassy observes minute of silence to honor martyrs on Commemoration Day

The minute of silence served as a tribute to the courageous sons of the UAE who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty for their homeland. The occasion underscores the nation's enduring commitment to remembering and venerating the sacrifices of its martyrs.

Martyr's Day is a significant national event in the UAE, providing a moment for collective reflection on the sacrifices of soldiers, first responders, and other individuals who have served the nation. Events like the one held at the UAE Embassy in Islamabad are part of a broader initiative to foster a deep sense of respect and gratitude among Emirati nationals and communities abroad.

The UAE Embassy reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the values of unity and sacrifice that define the nation's identity, ensuring that the memory of its martyrs continues to inspire future generations.

ATC accepts Matiullah Jan's bail plea in narcotics case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad on Saturday accepted bail plea of senior journalist Matiullah Jan in case pertaining to sale and purchase of narcotics.

Justice Tahir Abbas Sipra of the ATC Islamabad conducted hearing into the bail plea of Jan for which the latter was also brought to the court.

The copy of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) order was also submitted in the court.

Later, the court accepted Jan's bail plea by ordering him to submit surety bonds worth Rs10,000.

ATC approves two-day physical remand of journalist Matiullah Jan

Earlier on Nov 28 (Thursday), the ATC had

granted a two-day physical remand of journalist Matiullah Jan, who faced multiple charges including assaulting police officers, stealing a weapon, and drug possession.

He was arrested by Islamabad police late on the night of Nov 28 at the I-9 checkpoint.

ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra issued the remand order after hearing arguments from both sides.

Prosecutor Raja Naveed sought a 30-day remand, which Matiullah's lawyer, Advocate Faisal Chaudhry, strongly opposed.

According to the FIR, Matiullah Jan's vehicle allegedly struck a constable, Mudassar, at the checkpoint. He is accused of stealing a government-issued weapon and threatening the officer.

The FIR also claims he was under the influence of drugs and that 246 grams of crystal meth (ice) were recovered from his car.

The journalist has been transferred to Margalla Police Station and is facing charges under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) 1997, anti-narcotics laws, and various sections of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

The case was registered on the complaint of Superintendent of Police Asif Ali at 3:20am on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) have condemned Matiullah Jan's arrest, expressing serious concern and demanding his immediate release.



ATC holds Imran Khan responsible for May 9 mayhem in written verdict



City Desk

LAHORE: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Lahore on Saturday issued the written verdict of denying bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in eight cases related to May 9 riots.

The ATC held the former premier responsible for masterminding May 9 riots.

Justice Manzoor Ali Gill of the ATC Lahore issued a six-page long written verdict.

It was said in the verdict that statements of those police officers who masqueraded as the PTI workers during meetings held in

Zaman Park to conspire May 9 vandalism were recorded, adding that audio evidences of Khan were also part of the record where he could be heard inciting people to resort to violence in case of his arrest.

Highlighting the PTI workers' participation in May 9 vandalism, the court order said workers alongside party leadership couldn't stifle the PTI founder's worst impulses by following all instructions given by Khan to seed chaos and cause disruption on May 9 by attacking military installations, adding that inciting people to violence wasn't an ordinary matter.

Punjab CM to lead high-level delegation to China



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Maryam Nawaz will be the first female Chief Minister of Punjab to visit China as Beijing has extended an official invitation for mid-December.

Senior official sources of PML-N told media that the Maryam Nawaz has been invited by the People's Republic of China for an official visit from December 8 to 15.

The invitation comes from ruling Communist Party of China, highlighting its interest in enhancing bilateral relations with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

CM Maryam Nawaz will be accompanied by a high-level delegation during her 8-day visit, which will take her to major Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangdong, sources said. Pakistan's cuisine

The upcoming visit will be historic milestone for Maryam Nawaz, who has taken the coveted role, marking the first instance of a woman serving as a Chief Minister in any province of the South Asian nation.

China's invitation to CM Maryam Nawaz underscores desire to further strengthen mutual cooperation between the two nations, especially

Amb. Iftikhar Ahmad reiterates commitment to diaspora's facilitation



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ambassador in France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad on Saturday reiterated that facilitation of the diaspora was a top priority of the government and the embassy was fully committed towards that objective.

The ambassador interacted with members of the Pakistan community in a Khuli Kuchehri at Pakistan Mission Paris which focused discussion on provision of efficient consular services and redressal of complaints, a post on X said.

He briefed the participants about the various mechanisms for

addressing issues and complaints pertaining to government departments, including the portal, OPF and the Ombudspersons Offices and encouraged the community to fully utilize those forums.

"Regarding direct flights between Pakistan and Europe, one of the main and longstanding demands of the community, he welcomed the announcement the same day regarding EASA authorization that would soon lead to resumption of PIA flights to Paris. This was the result of concerted efforts by the government," the post quoted the ambassador as saying.