

فرمان رسول ﷺ
رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ ہمارا رب تبارک و تعالیٰ ہر رات آسمان دنیا کی طرف نزل فرماتا ہے، اس وقت جب رات کا آخری تہائی حصہ باقی رہتا ہے اور فرماتا ہے کون ہے جو مجھ سے دعا کرتا ہے کہ میں اس کی دعا قبول کروں، کون ہے جو مجھ سے شکایت کرے کہ میں اسے دوں، کون ہے جو مجھ سے بخشش طلب کرتا ہے کہ میں اس کی بخشش کروں۔
(بخاری ص 621)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Punjab CM Maryam to 'depart' for London on Nov 5

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz likely to depart for London for medical treatment on November 5, citing sources. This would be Maryam's first foreign visit since assuming office as CM of Punjab. Sources revealed that Maryam is set to receive medical treatment in London for a persistent throat infection. Her week-long stay in London will include consultations with her personal physician.



Pak-Uzbekistan direct flights from November

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Ali Sher Tukhtaev announced that direct flight operations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan will start at the end of the current month of November 2024, describing it as important for the business community of both countries. At present, the businesses of both countries, including the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), want to take advantage of the direct flight operation.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Calls on

LAHORE: A delegation of leading businessmen of the United Kingdom calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Ensuring conducive environment for foreign investment top priority: PM

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that ensuring favourable environment for foreign investment in the country is top-most priority of the government. Talking to a business delegation from the United Kingdom (UK) during a meeting here on Sunday, he said immaculate services are being provided to the business and trader community through 'One Window Operations' under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in the country. The UK-based renowned business figure Zubair Isa led the business delegation during the meeting. Inviting the businesspeople to invest in Pakistan, the PM said country's economy had improved due to dedicated efforts of the government in the recent days, adding that the initiatives had increased confidence of the overseas investors to invest in various ventures in Pakistan. Ways to discover new vistas to enhance business-to-business ties

between Pakistan and the UK were also discussed during the meeting. The delegation hailed the economic policies of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, which had strengthened the economy and put the country on the path to sustainable development. Three terrorists shot dead, two arrested in Musakhel operation City Desk MUSAKHEL: At least three terrorists were killed and two arrested in a joint operation by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), Frontier Corps (FC), and police in Musakhel. According to CTD spokesperson, the operation, which took place at night, resulted in an exchange of gunfire that left three terrorists dead and two others in custody. The terrorists were planning to attack key installations, and a large cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the deceased and arrested terrorists. A case was also registered against the arrested terrorists, and investigations are underway.

Nawaz Sharif says Pakistan's economy is recovering

Spokesman Report
LONDON: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif has said that indicators show that Pakistan's economy is recovering. The PML-N supremo returned to London from the United States on Saturday night. Talking to the media, Nawaz Sharif said economic indicators are showing the recovery of the economy. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif left no stone unturned to steer the country out of quagmire of economic crisis, he added. The PML-N stalwart said his party knew the economic woes of the people of Pakistan and it would provide them with relief from inflated power bills and inflation. He said: "PIA is nearing default. Whatever we said about PIA, we have an intension to give it a practical shape." "Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is doing good work." During his visit to the United States, Nawaz Sharif met the PML-N workers and leaders and urged the American business community to invest in Pakistan.

Details of Practice and Procedure Amendment Ordinance 2024 revealed

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance 2024 is set to be introduced in the National Assembly on Monday (today). Details of the bill have emerged, indicating that cases will be resolved on a "first come, first served" basis. In September, President Asif Zardari signed the Practice and Procedure Amendment Ordinance into law. In October 2023, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the SC (Practice & Procedure) Act, 2023, designed to streamline the operations of the highest court in the country. Initially passed by parliament in April 2023, the law stipulates that a three-member bench—comprising the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and the two most senior judges—will now determine whether to take up cases on a suo motu basis. This marks a shift from the previous system, where the CJP held exclusive authority over such decisions. Furthermore, the Act enhances the court's review jurisdiction by allowing individuals to file an appeal within 30 days of a judgement in suo motu cases. Details Through the Ordinance VIII of 2024, 'clause 1' has been inserted in Section 2 of the Act, saying: "Every cause, appeal or matter before the Supreme Court shall

be heard and disposed by a Bench constituted by the committee comprising the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the next most senior judge of the Supreme Court and a judge of the Supreme Court nominated by CJP from time to time." Likewise, 'clause 2' has been inserted in Section 3 of the Act, stating that a bench hearing a matter under Article 184(3) of the Constitution, will decide and identify, before proceeding with the matter on merits through a reasoned and speaking order on the question of public importance involved in the matter and the fundamental right which was sought to be enforced. Moreover, Section 5 of the Act has been amended for clarity on bench composition. The provision (2) of Section 5 has been removed, and some additions have been made to the first clause to further clarify the composition of the bench. Similarly, sub-sections a and b have been inserted in Section 7 of the Act. Section 7 deals with the application for fixation of urgent matters stating that an application pleading urgency or seeking interim relief, filed in a cause, appeal or matter, shall be fixed for hearing within 14 days from the date of its filing. Now, Section 7A states that: "Unless a transparent criterion was already mentioned or the applicable law requires a decision within a stipulated time, every

cause, matter or appeal in the Supreme Court will be heard at its turn based on first in, first out, that is to say, the cases filed first will be heard first. Any bench hearing a case out of its turn will record its reasons for doing so." Section 7B, deals with the recording and transcript of the proceedings, and states "Hearing of every cause, matter or appeal in the Supreme Court will be recorded and transcript thereof duly prepared." Such recordings and transcripts will be made available to the public, the amendment said, adding that for the purposes of reliance, thereon in any court proceedings, only a certified copy of the transcript against the payment of a fee amounting to Rs50 per page will be used. The amendments have been made to further enhance the transparency and effectiveness of the Supreme Court's powers under Article 191 of the Constitution. According to the ordinance, decisions on cases can be made based on the principle of public importance under Clause (3) of Article 184 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance 2024 was issued by the President of Pakistan under Article 89 of the Constitution. This ordinance will come into effect immediately.

Lahore primary schools closed for one week due to smog

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb stated that schools from classes 1 to 5 will be closed for seven days, affecting both public and private institutions. She emphasized the Chief Minister's zero-tolerance policy towards smog. For days, the city of 14 million people has been enveloped by smog, a mix of fog and pollutants caused by low-grade diesel fumes, smoke from seasonal agricultural burning and winter cooling. The air quality index, which measures a range of pollutants, exceeded 1,000 on Saturday – well above the level of 300 considered "dangerous" – according to data from IQAir. The Punjab government also recorded peaks of over 1,000 on Sunday, which it considered "unprecedented". Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Aurangzeb attributed the worsening air quality to polluted air blowing in from India. She explained that the burning of crop residue in India significantly contributes to the smog.

Missing PTI lawyer Intizar Punjutha returns home

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Missing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Intizar Punjutha, on Sunday returned home. The Attock police earlier recovered Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawyer Intizar Punjutha, who had been missing since October 8, from GT Road, Attock. According to police, the law enforcers signaled a suspicious vehicle to stop on the GT Road but it refused, leading to a brief standoff. The police chased and intercepted the car on which the kidnappers fled, abandoning their vehicle and hostage. It is to be noted here that the PTI lawyer had been missing and a petition for his recovery was filed with the Islamabad High Court. During the hearing on November 1, Additional Advocate General had assured the court that Intezar Panjutha would be recovered by Saturday. Earlier in a report submitted to the IHC, IG Islamabad said, "As per the report, there are three sims in the name of Intizar Panjutha, one of the sims have Peshawar's location," IG Police said.

"Did you accessed the Peshawar location," the court asked. "The sim has been issued in the name of Intizar Panjutha and activated on December 10. Eight SMS came and two were sent," police chief said. The IG Islamabad said, according to the IB report, this sim is not being used for Internet. "We have asked to the FIA and the CTD Punjab for the IP address of the WhatsApp." "As per the report, there are three sims in the name of Intizar Panjutha, one of the sims have Peshawar's location," IG Police said. "Did you accessed the Peshawar location," the court asked. "The sim has been issued in the name of Intizar Panjutha and activated on December 10. Eight SMS came and two were sent," police chief said.



تدرت نے ذائقہ دیا احمد نے محفوظ کیا!

Sindh chief minister berates for Malir Expressway delays

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, during his visit to the under-construction 39.889 km Malir Expressway, evaluated the project's progress from Zero Point—near Jam Sadiq Bridge to Kathore, expressed his dissatisfaction with the administration due to their inability to relocate the K-Electric (KE) installations, which has consequently delayed the opening of the first segment of the expressway.

The chief minister reached the Zero point of Malir Expressway at Jam Sadiq Bridge, where he was received by Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, DG PPP Unit Asad Zamin, PD Niaz Soomro, Engineer Khalid Mansoor and others.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister expressed his displeasure upon discovering that the ready spans were lying on the ground and had not been installed on the pillars to create a traffic ramp to access the Malir Expressway at Zero Point. When he inquired about the delay, he was informed that K-Electric (KE) had not



yet relocated its overhead installation, which was preventing the spans from being fixed on the pillars.

The Chief Minister instructed the Deputy Commissioner to ensure that this issue was resolved within a week, warning that he would take action if it

was not addressed. He pointed out that since KE had already been paid for the relocation of its installation, their delays were unacceptable.

Mr Shah also directed the police department to prepare a plan for the establishment of police checkpoints

for the security of the Malir Expressway.

It may be noted that the Malir Expressway, from Zero Point to Kathore, has six Interchanges, three bridges, and five weight stations, and the project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025.

Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Ahmad Shah passes away in Islamabad

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Kashmiri leader Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Ahmad Shah has passed away in Islamabad.

He was the son of Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Yusuf Shah and uncle of All Parties Hurriyat Conference senior leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

The deceased leader always advocated for a peaceful settlement of the lingering Kashmir dispute. His funeral prayer was offered at Jama Masjid of Bahria Enclave in Islamabad.

APHC Spokesman said Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Ahmad Shah absentia (gaibana) for the departed will be held at 1 pm at Jama Masjid Srinagar tomorrow (Monday, 4th November 2024) afternoon. Condolences (Taziyat) will be received at Mirwaiz Manzil, Nigen — residence of the bereaved Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Molvi Muhammad Umar Farooq.



Sardar Attique mourns death of prominent Kashmiri leader Mirwaiz Maulvi

Abdu Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI/MUZAFFARABAD: President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of prominent Kashmiri leader Mirwaiz Maulvi Muhammad Ahmed Shah, former member of Kashmir Council, son of prominent Kashmiri leader and Ex President Mirwaiz Maulvi Muhammad Yousuf Shah, and said that the late Mirwaiz Maulvi Muhammad Ahmed Shah always emphasized on a just solution to the Kashmir dispute and highlighted the Kashmir issue in a comprehensive manner. He said that late Mirwaiz and his family have made invaluable contributions to the freedom movement which cannot be forgotten under any circumstances. The late raised the voice of Kashmiris till his death and highlighted the Kashmir issue at international forums. We pay tribute to the deceased for his services and pray that Allah Almighty grant him a high place in Paradise and grant patience to the bereaved family. Meanwhile, Muslim Conference leaders, former President of Muslim Conference Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jaral Advocate, General Secretary Mohtarma Mehr-un-Nisa, Chief Organizer Raja Saqib Majeed, Chairman of Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan, former government minister Shamim Ali Malik, Chairperson of Women Wing Samia Sajid Raja, Major Retired Nasrullah Khan, Maimuna Kayani Advocate, Syed Nazar Abbas Shah, Sardar Abid Razaq, Sheikh Maqsood Ahmed, Nasreen Akhtar Raja, Syed Yasir Naqvi Advocate Abid Munir Qureshi, Kausar Parveen Advocate, Raja Muhammad Latif Hasrat, Haroon Azad A Majeed Tahir Raja Zareen Khan, Ayesha Munisif, Dilawar Wani, Syed Saqlain Fida Kazmi, and others expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of prominent Kashmiri leader Mirwaiz Maulvi Muhammad Ahmed Shah, son of prominent Kashmiri leader Mirwaiz Maulvi Muhammad Yousuf Shah and former member of the Kashmir Council.



Out of reach

RAWALPINDI: People are busy buying fruits and vegetables in Sahulat Bazaar outside Allama Iqbal Park in the city.



Photo: Online

Cotton arrivals in Pakistan factories for 2024-25 season data released: PPCGA

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has released figures for cotton arrivals at factories. As of October 31, 2024, 4.291 million bales of cotton have arrived at the country's ginning factories. By October 31, 2023, 6.794 million bales had arrived at the factories. Compared to the same period last year, there has been a decrease of 2.502 million bales, showing a decline of 36.84%.

In Punjab, 1.842 million bales arrived at the factories, which is 1.154 million bales less than the 2.996 million bales that arrived during the same period last year, reflecting a decrease of 38.53%. In Sindh, 2.448 million bales arrived at the factories. Compared to the 3.797 million bales that arrived at factories during the same period last year, Sindh



saw a decrease of 1.348 million bales, reflecting a 35.51% decline. By October 31, 2024, a total of 3.791 million bales of cotton lint had been produced from the cotton arriving at factories. Currently, 560 ginning factories are operational nationwide.

Exporters/traders have purchased 31,000 bales of cotton this season, while the textile sector has purchased 3.535 million bales. The Trading Corporation

of Pakistan (TCP) has not made any purchases during the 2024-25 cotton season. In Punjab, 309 ginning factories are operational.

A total of 1,622,081 bales of cotton have been produced. Up to October 31, 2024, in the district of Multan, 37,300 bales of cotton, in Lodhran district 55,709 bales, in Khanewal district 131,653 bales, in Muzaffargarh district 44,922 bales, in Dera Ghazi Khan

district 166,542 bales, in Rajanpur district 14,794 bales, in Layyah district 92,232 bales, in Vehari district 135,731 bales, in Sahiwal district 105,224 bales, in Rahim Yar Khan district 222,824 bales, in Bahawalpur district 278,418 bales, and in Bahawalnagar district 418,150 bales have been delivered to factories.

In Sanghar district, 1,178,036 bales of cotton were produced; in Mirpur Khas district, 55,000 bales; in Nawabshah district, 49,989 bales; in Naushahro Feroze district, 171,400 bales; in Khairpur district, 195,700 bales; in Sukkur district, 295,258 bales; in Jamshoro district, 37,380 bales; and in Hyderabad district, 124,120 bales. In Balochistan province, 131,800 bales were delivered to factories. There is an unsold stock of 724,372 bales of cotton and raw cotton available.

Israeli aggression in Gaza and the massacre of Muslims

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

The ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza and the massacre of Muslims has become a profound question for the global conscience. Gaza, one of the most densely populated regions in the world, has long endured siege and conflict. Its population is largely composed of ordinary citizens, including many children and women, who lack basic necessities in their daily lives.

We speak of human rights principles worldwide, yet the silence over human rights violations and the killing of innocent people in Gaza presents a grim picture. The people of Gaza have long been deprived of fundamental rights, and efforts to seize their land have been ongoing.

In Gaza, Israeli bombings have resulted in numerous injuries and deaths, particularly among civilians and children. Many homes have been destroyed, and countless families have been shattered. Humanitarian aid, including access to medical assistance, food, and water, is extremely limited, making daily life increasingly difficult for the citizens.

In such a situation, the role of the international community, especially the United Nations, is of utmost importance. The global community must urge Israel to adhere to international laws and take concrete steps to protect civilian lives and property.

Muslim nations have a responsibility to show solidarity with their oppressed brothers and sisters and to jointly exert pressure on the UN and

other global bodies. Through unity and resolve, protection for the people of Gaza can be achieved.

The ongoing massacre and human rights abuses in Gaza are a grave question for the global conscience. Are human rights principles merely confined to speeches and resolutions, or will efforts be made to enforce them? Breaking the silence and ensuring justice for the oppressed is essential to preventing future injustices.

In today's global landscape, finding a real, effective solution for the people of Gaza and offering them humanitarian aid is a crucial necessity. The global community must ask itself: when, and how, will it stand up against oppression and raise its voice for justice?

DG Archaeology Punjab reopened Rohtas Fort Museum

City Desk

LAHORE: The Directorate General of Archaeology Punjab has reopened the Rohtas Fort Museum to the public following extensive maintenance and upgrades. This initiative aligns with the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, committed to preserving Punjab's rich heritage and ensuring historical sites are accessible to everyone. Under her leadership, the museum now provides a revitalized experience that celebrates the cultural and architectural significance of Rohtas Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Under the guidance of Mr. Zaheer Abbas Malik, Director General of Archaeology, Mr. Iqbal Khan, Deputy Director of Archaeology, personally supervised the upkeep and maintenance work.

Dengue outbreak in Punjab intensifies, with Attock bearing brunt of the crisis

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The provincial Health authorities reported 114 new cases on Sunday, spread across 36 districts in the province including inter provincial district Attock and Rawalpindi bearing the brunt of the surge. Health department spokesman said while briefing the media on Sunday.

Responding to different questions, he said that the dengue outbreak in Punjab including district Attock shows no signs of slowing, as the total number of cases has risen to 6,011 this year. Health authorities reported 114 new cases on Sunday, spread across 36 districts in the province, with Rawalpindi bearing the brunt of the surge.

According to recent Health Department data, Rawalpindi alone reported 105 cases in the past 24 hours, marking it as the hardest-hit area in recent weeks. Throughout Punjab, 954 cases were reported over the last week, further intensifying the situation. Lahore reported four new cases, while Attock, Multan, Khanewal, Sialkot, and Sahiwal each confirmed one new case during the same period.

For residents seeking information, treatment, or wishing to register complaints, the Health Department has set up a free helpline at 1033. Authorities are emphasizing the importance of vigilance and proactive measures to curb the dengue spread.

Senator Siddiqui, MNA Baig departing for Doha to attend Asian regional parliamentary summit

ISLAMABAD, NOV 03 (APP): A two-member parliamentary delegation, comprising Senator Irfan Siddiqui and National Assembly member Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, is scheduled to depart for Doha on Monday to attend the Asian Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Qatar.

The delegation, headed by PML-N parliamentary leader in the Senate and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Irfan Siddiqui, will participate in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, scheduled for November 4 to November 7.

AJK PM Anwar-ul-Haq calls on the State's President, Barrister Sultan

MIRPUR, NOV 03 (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq called on the AJK State President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Sunday and discussed the matters of mutual interest and concern, including the need for an early peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute, official sources said.

In a detailed one-on-one meeting, both the leaders discussed, in length, the issues of concern, with a special focus on the issue of Kashmir, AJK President office sources later told APP here Sunday night.

While expressing their grave concern over the worsening political and human rights situation in the region, both leaders agreed to accelerate efforts at the international level to seek an early and amicable settlement of the lingering disputes.

Terming the Modi government's Hindutva agenda as an existential threat to Jammu and Kashmir people, they emphasized that it was high time that the global community must take effective notice of the situation in the region.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:04 am
Zohr	11:51 am
Asr	3:35 pm
Maghrib	5:14 pm
Isha	6:38 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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249

Rawalpindi Cantt Board action Committee rejects FBR rate for old grant property

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantt Board Action Committee rejected the notification to adjust the rate of old grant property to the FBR rate. An increase of up to 80% in the old grant property lease prices will make it more difficult for people and make the lease policy impossible. The government should withdraw this increase immediately so that people can convert their properties into regular leases.

The Rawalpindi Cantonment Board Action Committee completely rejected the prices for leasing the Old Grant property. Cantt Board Action Committee Chairman Mohammad Farooq Chaudhry, President Central Association of Traders Sheikh Mohammad Hafeez, General Secretary Zafar Qadri, President of Anjuman Tajran Mithu Khan, Ajmal Khan, Sarfaraz Shams Raja Abid and Chaudhry Sultan Mehmood said in their joint statement that the lease policy of old grant property of Cantonment Board area came in November 2023 and it is for five years. There is a weld policy. Because the rates are already so high, it's been a grant property since the 1800s and people couldn't lease it. This property has been transferred to them from their ancestors, so unless there is a convenient rate for transferring this property, people will not be able to transfer this property on a regular lease.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif visits under construction PIC-II

Bureau Report

LAHORE: "Make PIC-II functional as soon as possible," Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed the authorities concerned during her visit to the under-construction PIC-II near the canal. She reviewed the ongoing construction activities in various sections of PIC-II like the installation of dry partition wall and HVAC, and said, "With the establishment of PIC-II, the pressure of patients on Punjab Insti-

tute of Cardiology will be reduced." She also reviewed the quality of construction materials, and other construction-related issues.

Madam Chief Minister highlighted, "Implementation of a plan to provide complete cardiology facilities in every district has started." She noted, "By introducing card systems for pediatric heart surgery, operations of hundreds of children have been completed quite easily."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was briefed in detail about the PIC-II



project by CEO Punjab Infrastructure Development Authority Shah Mir Iqbal. She appreciated his efforts and gave him guidelines to further improve the design. She directed the relevant authorities to

ensure the supply of machinery required for the PIC-II project.

Madam Chief Minister was apprised, "Punjab Institute of Cardiology-II project will consist of 250 beds, and state-of-the-art hybrid operation

theaters will be built in it." She was briefed further, "Emergency, surgical & medical units and ICUs will also be built in PIC-II." She was briefed, "More than 90% of the gray structure of PIC-II has been completed."

Preparation

ISLAMABAD: Preparations are underway for Lok Mela 2024 at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

AIOU hosts Pre-Conference Roundtable on AI and Academic Integrity

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Asia Middle East Africa (AMEA) Consortium on Academic and Research Integrity, with key support from Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), has scheduled its second conference on "Academic and Research Integrity" from February 13 to 15, 2025, at the University of Lahore. AIOU, as a principal collaborator alongside institutions such as the Center for Academic Integrity Pakistan, Chenab University, University of Wollongong Dubai, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Turkey, and King Fahad Medical City Saudi Arabia, is committed to fostering dialogue and solutions for upholding academic standards. The event will also receive support from the Punjab Higher Education Commission and the University of Lahore.

A pre-conference roundtable AI and Academic Integrity: Navigating Ethical Issues in Education was held yesterday at Allama Iqbal Open University under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir



Mahmood. Among the attendees were other prominent university leaders, including Professor Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid; Rector Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, Professor Dr. Bushra Mirza; Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah Women University, Professor Dr. Shahid Munir, Vice Chancellor University of Engineering and Technology Lahore, Professor Dr. Kanwal Amin, Vice Chancellor of Government College Women University Faisalabad, Dr. Muhammad Shahid Suriya, Director General Pakistan Institute of Education, Professor Dr. Mahmood ul Hassan Butt, former Vice

Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University, Professor Dr. Farooq Anwar; Vice Chancellor Noor International University Lahore; Professor Dr. Rauf Azam, Vice Chancellor Government College University Faisalabad, Professor Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti; Rector Virtual University, Professor Dr. Muhammad Ramzan, Vice Chancellor Emerson University Multan, and Ms. Amara Awais from the University of Lahore.

Opening the discussion, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized that academic and research integrity is a shared responsibility. He highlighted the importance of improving academic governance and assessment

systems and stressed the need for steps to curb fake publications to maintain standards. Other vice chancellors expressed that to tackle the challenges to academic integrity, it is essential to utilize modern technology and artificial intelligence positively while safeguarding students from its negative impacts. They emphasized the need for establishing core values of integrity, honesty, transparency, respect, and accountability in education. Additionally, they discussed the necessity of a unified policy to prevent plagiarism and eliminate cheating. They noted that upholding honesty in learning is a fundamental aspect of higher education.

Dairy and Food Industry Product/Catalogue Show at LCCI

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saturday successfully organized a product and catalogue show spotlighting the dairy and food industry. The companies showcased the sector's advancements and their products.

LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, flanked by Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry inaugurated the event. Former LCCI President Mian Anjum Nisar, FPCCI KPK VP Aun Ali, Founding President Sargodha Chamber of Small Traders Sheikh Mohammad Asif, LCCI Executive Committee Members Syed Hassan Raza, Omer Sarfraz Sheikh, Shouban Akhtar, Khurram Lodhi, Ahad Amin Malik, Firdous Nisar along with a substantial number of industry leaders and were present on the occasion.

Quick surge in non-communicable diseases will prove as atomic bomb



City Desk

LAHORE: The surge in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Pakistan and worldwide poses a dire threat to public health and economic stability. Accounting for nearly 60% of deaths in Pakistan, NCDs take a heavy toll on lives, disrupting the economy and burdening the health-care system. The rising consumption of unhealthy foods—particularly ultra-processed foods high in sugar, salt, and trans fats—fuels this health crisis, contributing to conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and kidney issues.

These insights were shared during a program organized by the civil society organization Meri Pechan and the Pakistan National Heart Association (PANA). Attendees included former Punjab Director General of Health Dr. Fayyaz Ahmed Ranjha, Kidney Transplant Surgeon and Head of Department at Jinnah Hospital Lahore Dr. Naveed Iqbal, Meri Pechan President Ms. Shahida Naveed, PANA Secretary General Mr. Sanaullah Ghumman, and other representatives from health, civil society, and media.

Dr. Naveed Iqbal underscored the alarming rise in kidney disease, noting that even young children are increasingly affected. He linked these diseases to ultra-processed foods, which are laden with sugars, salts, and trans fats, leading to conditions like diabetes and hypertension that exacerbate kidney problems. He called for immediate legislative action to curb the consumption of these harmful products.

Mr. Sanaullah Ghumman presented detailed data on the health risks associated with ultra-processed foods and their undeniable connection to rising NCD rates. He shared that other nations' policies, such as increased taxes, marketing restrictions, school bans, and warning labels, have effectively reduced the consumption of unhealthy foods, resulting in a noticeable decline in NCDs.

Ms. Shahida Naveed welcomed participants and emphasized the joint commitment of Meri Biraj and PANA to protect the health of Pakistanis. She expressed dedication to furthering public education and awareness on healthy dietary choices.

Speakers at the event collectively urged the government to implement critical policies that limit unhealthy food consumption and promote better health outcomes for all Pakistanis.

Delayed Justice in Pakistan: A philosophical Insight

Syed Muhammad Ali Naqvi

Aristotle, known for his theory of justice, said, "Justice is a virtue. It must be timely to be effective because delayed justice insinuates the fiasco of the legal system of a state."

Justice is a fundamental human right, yet in Pakistan its achievement remains an elusive dream for many.

The country's judicial system is plagued by inordinate delays, inefficiencies, and corruption, leaving millions of cases pending, and countless citizens frustrated. To understand the root cause of the same, we delve into the philosophical ideas of Aristotle, Plato and the likes. The archaic Greek philosopher Aristotle once said, "The whole is more than the sum of its parts." In the context of Pakistan's judicial system, this means that addressing individual components of the problem can lead to a better whole.

However, the notion that the "the cause and its result are not different" (Plato) is also evident, where one fault leads to another, bringing about a vicious cycle.

In the words of Cicero, the great Roman philosopher, "Justice must be swift and fair. Delayed justice erodes the authority of law, and the state."

One may ask: How long will it take for the judiciary to resolve the problem of the pending cases? The answer is bitter but simple: if the judiciary puts off its present work, and pays all heed to deciding only the pending cases then it will have to work for around 15 years

to cope with them.

So, it ain't that quick as it seems to an "ignorant critic."

Dr. M. Raheem Awan, a legal expert, emphasizes the need for an effective case management system to tackle the backlog. "Justice delayed is justice denied," after starting with this popular line he says, "We need to adopt modern techniques to streamline our judicial processes." This highlights the importance of change. An Urdu poet says, "Change runs the vehicle of the world smoothly. If there is no

change, then all life will, silently, erode."

Therefore, the Pakistani legal system requires a humongous set of reforms. India can be taken as an example that has recently introduced an out and out different criminal law model from the one that was inherited by both the states in 1947.

Indubitably, it's not a child's play to transform the centuries old system. It requires a great deal of assiduousness, and in the words of Justice (R) Nasir Aslam Zahid, "a multifaceted approach."

All that can be said is that the delayed justice system in Pakistan is an intricate issue requiring a comprehensive approach to resolve. By addressing the root causes and implementing scholarly suggestions, the system's boat can be directed towards a smooth sailing path. As Plato's critique said: "The whole is more than the sum of its parts." By fixing the individual components, we can create a better whole, ensuring justice is served. (Writer can be reached at naqvi7881@gmail.com)

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USA Elections 2024: Hinged and Unhinged

It is an exhilarating experience to be in one of the most pivotal states in the U.S.—Michigan, one of the seven key swing states that, alongside Arizona, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Georgia, and North Carolina, will shape the outcome of the presidential election, the future of America, and, by extension, the world. Swing states are crucial because Democratic (blue) states control 180 electoral votes, while Republican (red) states outside the swing states hold 186. Both parties are likely to retain their blue and red strongholds in the upcoming election, which is just two days away (November 5, 2024). As a result, the fate of both Democrats and Republicans hinges on these swing states, which hold the key to their success or failure.

The most impactful part of this experience has been the healthy and objective discussions among canvassers and with voters at their doorsteps. Canvassing door-to-door, particularly for me, was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to truly understand the sentiments of everyday people, not the elites in their luxurious homes. These door-step interactions with various segments and races revealed distinct preferences.

Among Michigan's population of 10,077,331, which is 73.9% white, I observed two notable trends. White men overwhelmingly support Mr. Trump, with only a few exceptions. On the other hand, white women are more divided, with many supporting Kamala Harris due to her stance on women's reproductive rights, particularly the right to choose regarding abortion. Meanwhile, the Black population, making up 13.7% of the state's population, is almost entirely in favor of Harris. Interestingly, when asked about the

main issue or problem in the upcoming elections, many respondents replied that "everything is a problem." They expressed a general dissatisfaction, feeling that nothing is right and that everything needs to be realigned with democratic values, emphasizing civility, forgiveness, and compassion for each other irrespective of creed, color or race.

A significant number of respondents voiced their dislike for both Trump and Harris, noting that candidates often promise paradise before the election, but once in power, they forget those promises and focus on enjoying the perks of power and wealth, which they believe was the primary motivation behind running for office.

These conversations reminded me of similar sentiments often expressed by people in my own country, where there's a shared frustration with political leaders who fail to deliver on their promises once they assume power.

During the group discussion, another hotly debated point was the use of divisive election rhetoric. Many noted that, despite knowing their slogans and rhetoric against races, immigrants, and opponents are irrational, illogical, and contrary to the norms of decency, political leaders continue to use them. They are aware that such rhetoric creates deep divisions and hatred among different racial groups, yet they inject this hateful "virus" purposefully to stir emotions, create frenzy, and push people toward extremist attitudes. The belief is that this tactic will solidify support

among less-educated and racially biased voters, whose strong sentiments against their opponents will translate into votes.

According to most individuals in the discussion, this is a narrow and parochial approach, which they view as highly detrimental to the security, safety, and well-being of the American people. Interestingly, this growing sense of insecurity has even permeated Working America, the agency conducting door-to-door surveys on behalf of the Democrats.

The agency has had to hire private security to protect its operations and personnel, highlighting the increased risks in the current political climate.

When it comes to election predictions, numerous surveys and polls have been conducted by various agencies and institutions, resulting in different and sometimes conflicting outcomes, making the prediction process even more complex. Having served in government roles in Pakistan, assisting ministers and even the President, I have insight into the mechanisms behind such surveys.

I quickly realized that during elections, poll-conducting agencies are often driven by profit. Political parties hire these agencies, either directly or through third parties, and, in exchange for payment, results that favor the hiring party are often injected into the media to create the perception of their widespread popularity.

For instance, according to "FiveThirtyEight", Harris leads with 48.0% compared to Trump's 46.8%, a margin of 1.2 percentage

points. Similarly, "RealClearPolitics" shows Harris ahead by 4 points in a CBS News poll and by 5 points in an NBC News poll.

According to the New York Post analysis, recent polls show Trump leading Harris. In Pennsylvania, Trump is predicted to be ahead by 48% to 47%; in Michigan, he leads 48% to 47%. In Arizona, Trump holds a 48% to 46% lead, and in Georgia, he leads 48% to 46%. However, Marist College finds Harris ahead by 3 points in Michigan, 2 points in Pennsylvania, and 2 points in Wisconsin. Additionally, the Australian Report states that national polls show Trump slightly ahead of Harris, with a poll average of 48.4% to 48.3%.

These diverse polling results reflect how polls can vary, possibly influenced by the interests of those funding the surveys, raising concerns about their objectivity and accuracy.

In Pakistan, we are familiar with how, seemingly overnight, the tide begins to turn in favor of a particular political party once the establishment has decided to install it in power as their preferred choice. Similarly, in the U.S., it appears that the election winds are now blowing in favor of Kamala Harris—not necessarily because people have deep faith in her or feel particularly passionate about her candidacy, but rather to prevent Donald Trump from returning to power. Trump, who former Democratic President Bill Clinton aptly described as "more unhinged" than he was during the 2016 elections, is seen by many as a greater risk, and this sentiment seems to be driving support for Harris.

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



Qamar Bashir

One journalist killed every four days in 2022-23

Between 2006 and 2024, over 1,700 journalists have been killed around the world, and around 85 percent of the cases did not make it to court, according to a report by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The dangers faced by journalists, including risks to their lives, are highlighted each year on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, which falls on 2 November.

This year, the International Day coincides with the biannual UNESCO Director-General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which recorded a 38 per cent increase in the number of journalist killings compared to the previous study.

In his 2024 message for the Day, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres pointed out that Gaza has seen the highest number of killings of journalists and media workers in any war in decades and called on governments to take urgent steps to protect journalists, investigate crimes against them and prosecute

The Israeli war in Gaza inevitably dominated the 2024 UN International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East on Friday, an event that has taken place annually for the past three decades, with the aim of enhancing dialogue and understanding between media practitioners and fostering their contributions in support of a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In a statement to the seminar, read out by UN head of global communications, Melissa Fleming, Guterres noted that journalists in Gaza have been killed "at a level unseen in any conflict in modern times", adding that the ongoing ban preventing international journalists from Gaza "suffocates the truth even further".

Since Oct 7 attacks against Gaza, access to information has been severely curtailed, it was pointed out. Journalists have been killed, newsrooms destroyed, foreign press blocked and communications cut. Israeli forces, as the occupying power, have systematically dismantled Palestinian media infrastructure, silencing voices through restrictions, threats, targeted killings and censorship.

In the past 380 days, over 130 Palestinian journalists have been killed by Israeli forces in Gaza. These were voices reporting on possible war crimes, silenced before their stories could be fully told.

Journalists in Gaza continue to report on the humanitarian crisis, often at great personal risk, providing the world with an accurate picture of the unfolding tragedy.

Under international humanitarian law, the occupier, Israel, has the obligation to protect civilians, including journalists. We are hearing from very senior politicians and leaders that it is okay to kill civilians in order to achieve insignificant military objectives during that process, which is a violation of proportionality, principle and also military need.

Every two years, the awareness-raising campaign for the commemoration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists coincides with the findings of the report outlining the current state of global and regional impunity.

UNESCO said that it is concerned that impunity damages whole societies by covering up serious human rights abuses, corruption and crime. To uphold the rule of law, governments, civil society, the media and everyone concerned are being asked to join in the global efforts to end impunity.

Pakistan's Army Chief: A Powerful Voice Against Extremism

Pakistan has consistently sought innovative strategies to bolster its defense capabilities and ensure citizen safety amid evolving security threats. Under General Asim Munir, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Operation Azm-e-Istehkam was launched as a comprehensive initiative to strengthen national security. Facing a range of security challenges, including terrorism, cross-border militancy, and internal unrest, the need for a cohesive and robust security strategy has become increasingly clear. Upon taking command, General Munir emphasized a multifaceted approach to security that integrates military operations, intelligence efforts, and community engagement. Operation Azm-e-Istehkam embodies this vision by addressing both immediate security threats and long-term stability. One of the operation's primary objectives is to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts by targeting militant groups that threaten peace and stability in Pakistan. The operation aims to bolster security along Pakistan's borders, particularly with Afghanistan and Iran, to prevent the infiltration of terrorists and smugglers. By tackling internal security challenges, the operation seeks to create an environment that promotes socio-economic development and national unity.

Since the operation began, there has been a noticeable decline in terrorist incidents in several regions, particularly in areas previously affected by violence. Enhanced border security has resulted in significant seizures of weapons and illegal goods, disrupting smuggling networks that often finance terrorism. The operation has

fostered greater trust between the military and local communities, leading to increased cooperation and intelligence sharing from residents. This collaborative approach has facilitated more effective responses to security threats, highlighting the importance of inter-agency cooperation in maintaining peace.

Under General Asim Munir's leadership, Operation Azm-e-Istehkam represents a proactive and comprehensive strategy to tackle Pakistan's security challenges. By focusing on counter-terrorism, border security, and community engagement, the operation aims to enhance immediate security while also promoting long-term stability and prosperity. As Pakistan navigates the complexities of its security landscape, the principles underlying Operation Azm-e-Istehkam will be vital for ensuring a secure and prosperous future for its citizens.

General Asim Munir's efforts have garnered widespread appreciation both domestically and internationally. The U.S. Central Command magazine, Unipath, recently described him as a "forceful voice against violent extremists" and praised him as a leader dedicated to the security, stability, and prosperity of Pakistan. The article highlighted General Munir's leadership, military background, and counter-terrorism initiatives, addressing his views on terrorism, fifth-generation warfare, and the capacity to respond to foreign aggression, alongside socio-economic measures.

The article commended the army chief's counter-terrorism actions, noting that decisive military operations—including 22,409 intelligence-based

operations—were conducted against extremist groups under his command, resulting in the elimination of 398 terrorists. It quoted COAS Munir stating that terrorists must submit to the authority of the state and emphasized that Pakistan would spare no effort to dismantle terrorist networks to protect its citizens. He further asserted the need for the armed forces to be fully prepared for the challenges posed by fifth-generation warfare. Regarding socioeconomic initiatives, the magazine noted that General Munir has been a strong supporter of the government's efforts with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and the Green Pakistan Initiative, both aimed at job creation and economic development. The quarterly also praised the army chief for his commitment to interfaith harmony and the protection of minorities, consistently condemning incidents of intolerance.

Highlighting the military diplomacy of Pakistan's army chief, the article commended the strengthening of military and diplomatic relations with countries like the United States, as well as joint military exercises conducted with various nations. It is worth noting that Unipath is a professional military magazine published quarterly by the Commander of the United States Central Command, serving as an international forum for military personnel in the Middle East and South and Central Asia.

The recognition and appreciation for General Asim Munir's exceptional service from foreign entities underscore his significant contributions to Pakistan's advancement. The people of Pakistan take pride in their Army Chief, General Asim Munir, and remain hopeful that the Pakistan Army will continue to serve with the same dedication under his leadership.



Abdul Basit Alvi



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

PAIDAR's Vision for Pakistan-Africa cooperation-II

Furthermore, PAIDAR should be given a conducive environment to penetrate the academic and research spaces in both regions. Academic collaboration is essential to foster understanding, share knowledge,

and promote mutual interests. By facilitating joint research projects, student and faculty exchange programs, and intellectual dialogue between Pakistani and African universities and think tanks, PAIDAR can serve as a platform for meaningful academic cooperation. Such collaborations can help build a foundation for long-term relations that are grounded in shared values and mutual benefits.

A practical step towards strengthening Pakistan-Africa relations could be the exchange of delegations consisting of experts, professionals, and laborers. These delegations can focus on key sectors such as agriculture, technology, healthcare, education, and particularly the blue economy. Such exchanges would allow both sides to learn from each other's experiences, best practices, and innovations, thereby building stronger economic and cultural linkages. It would also help foster people-to-people contacts, which are crucial for developing trust and understanding between different cultures and societies.

Additionally, Pakistan can offer African countries a strategic route for trade with Central Asian states. This geostrategic advantage could be leveraged to open new markets

and economic opportunities for African nations, thereby making Pakistan an essential partner in their trade and economic strategies. Such initiatives could pave the way for a new era of diplomatic and economic linkages that benefit both regions.

The creation of PAIDAR by Honorable Mushahid Hussain is a timely and visionary initiative that offers immense potential for enhancing Pakistan-Africa relations. However, for PAIDAR to achieve its full potential, it must receive robust support from both governments, as well as from academic, business, and civil society stakeholders. By providing PAIDAR with the necessary resources, policy backing, and collaborative environment, a new chapter of diplomatic, economic, and strategic partnership between Pakistan and African countries can be realized.

In conclusion, PAIDAR has the potential to serve as a catalyst for redefining Pakistan-Africa relations. By focusing on strategic areas like the blue economy, enhancing academic collaboration, promoting trade and investment, and fostering people-to-people contacts, a new era of cooperation and partnership can be established. This partnership would not only bring economic benefits but also contribute to regional stability, sustainable development, and prosperity, creating a win-win situation for both Pakistan and the African continent.

Writer is student at University of Sargodha. He can be reached at azamtariqalghaider@gmail.com



M Azam Tariq

Pakistan Week fosters Saudi-Pakistani cultural bonds through music, art, culinary experiences in Riyadh

Spokesman Report

RIYADH: A delegation of journalists from Pakistan, currently on an official visit to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, expressed on Sunday that Pakistan Week in Suwaidi Park has featured a vibrant celebration of Pakistani heritage.

The event included a variety of cultural elements, such as traditional music and dance performances, regional culinary experiences showcasing iconic dishes, art exhibits featuring Pakistani crafts and artwork, and fashion shows highlighting traditional attire like shalwar kameez.

They, expressing their views in an exclusive talk with media, said the week also incorporated film screenings, poetry recitals, and stalls featuring hand-made crafts, presenting a holistic view of Pakistan's rich cultural landscape to both Pakistani expatriates and Saudi nationals.

A senior journalist, anchor and news analyst, Shaukat Paracha said Pakistan Week served as a platform for fostering deeper cultural connections between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and by high-

lighting shared values, traditions and customs, the event promoted mutual respect and understanding between the two communities.

He said this cultural exchange not only helped Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia connect with their roots but also offers Saudi citizens an opportunity to experience and appreciate Pakistan's heritage. He said these initiatives contribute to building a strong foundation of people-to-people relationships, which aligns with the broader goals of Vision 2030 to embrace diversity and foster harmony among the Kingdom's multicultural residents.

At Suwaidi Park, a senior journalist, Tariq Chaudhry said a variety of activities were organized to entertain both the Pakistani community and Saudi visitors. He said these included live music concerts featuring Pakistani artists, traditional folk dances such as bhangra, and a showcase of Pakistani street food stalls.

He said the park also hosted interactive art installations, cultural parades, and storytelling sessions on Pakistani

folklore. He said family-friendly activities like face painting, henna application, and children's games inspired by Pakistani culture were available, making it a vibrant, inclusive celebration for all ages and backgrounds.

A senior journalist and anchorperson, Sohail Bhatti said the response from the Pakistani community was overwhelmingly positive. He said many Pakistanis felt a renewed sense of pride and connection to their culture and they were grateful for the opportunity to celebrate their heritage publicly in Saudi Arabia. He said the attendance at events had been high, with enthusiastic participation in activities ranging from culinary showcases to musical performances.

He said the community's engagement reflected their appreciation for the Saudi government's recognition and support of their cultural heritage, which strengthens their sense of belonging within the Kingdom.

An official said the Saudi Ministry of Media plays a crucial role in organizing and promoting cultural exchange events such as Pakistan Week. He said



the ministry collaborates with foreign embassies and community organizations to facilitate and support these events, ensuring they align with the Kingdom's broader goals of fostering diversity and inclusivity.

He said the ministry provides resources and media coverage to increase visibility and engagement, inviting international media to capture these cultural celebrations.

By supporting such initiatives, the offi-

cial said the ministry emphasized Saudi Arabia's commitment to cultural openness and its recognition of the valuable contributions of expatriate communities in enriching the social fabric of the Kingdom.

SOT Events 2024 concludes in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The second day of SOT Events Edition XVII, organised by Beaconhouse, continued today at the Hotel in Karachi. This year's event, titled 'Guardians of the Future: Shaping Tomorrow with Generative AI', is a future-oriented two-day event.

SOT also hosted the Beaconhouse Old Students Society (BOSS) Distinguished Alumni Awards presented by Shahid Afridi and Dr Amjad Saqib. The annual awards honour outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to their fields. An immersive science exhibition, developed with Magnificence, was also part of SOT this year.

With over 30 thought-provoking sessions across two days, SOT 2024 featured more than 100 influential speakers including social



media influencers like Mooro and Faiza Saleem; media personalities such as Tina Sani and Sanam Saeed; distinguished educationists Dr Sohail Naqvi and Dr Arfa Sayeda Zehra; renowned journalists Wusat Ullah Khan and Amber Rahim Shamsi; celebrated athletes Haider Ali and Faiza Riaz; and IT experts Dr Basit Riaz, Sheikh

and Jazib Zahir, among many others.

Speaking about the event, Kasim Kasuri, Chair SOT Events and CEO Beaconhouse School System, said, "As we navigate shifts in AI, the core theme of SOT, Guardians of the Future, takes on new meaning.

SOT is a free and open to the public event series

that started in 2000 and is organised by Beaconhouse as part of its social responsibility. SOT conferences have featured over 1,000 thought leaders and changemakers from across the world, including heads of state, prime ministers, heads of major global organisations, and other distinguished figures.

Japanese, Korean, Chinese firms looking at bringing in more high-end vehicles: Mashood Khan

News Desk

Mashood Ali Khan, an auto parts maker, exporter and industry expert said Japanese assemblers usually take rollers on board two years before rolling out a new locally assembled model.

New entrants need to interact with the vending industry to improve localisation before the expiry of incentives under the Auto Policy 2021-2026.

He talking to media during the launching ceremony of expensive hybrid electric vehicles in Karachi

"For big shots in trade and industry, bureaucrats, landlords, growers, etc, money is not a serious issue and saving any penny from petrol and diesel-



driven vehicles is not their target. They may also not hesitate in buying new HEVs and EVs," said Mashood

He opined that buyers of costly sedans like Honda Civic and SUVs will mainly switch to electric vehicles. However, the buyers of double cabin

vehicles (fossil fuels) may avoid EVs and HEVs as they have a culture of moving in style with two or three guards sitting on the back.

"With no liquidity issue, they may purchase NEVs as a second option", Mashood said.

The total market size of double cabins, SUVs, a few luxury cars, etc., of new and old entrants (Japanese, Koreans and Chinese) in Pakistan hovers between 25,000 and 35,000 units a year. The new buyers of EVs and HEVs will emerge from these volumes.

"It is really hard to estimate how these limited sales of EVs and HEVs will help curtail import bills of diesel and petrol," he said.

One more Kashmiri scholar passed away: Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Inna lillahi Wa inna ilayhi rajioon (To Allah we belong and to him we return)

We are saddened to know of the demise of prominent Kashmiri political and religious personality, Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Ahmad Shah. He was 93 years old. His Salatul Janazah took place today after Salatul Zhur at Jamia Masjid, Sector A, Bahria Enclave in Islamabad.

Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Ahmad Shah was elected member of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council or the Senate of Azad Kashmir. He was the son of a distinguished Kashmiri leader and Mufassir-e-Quran, Mirwaiz Muhammad Yusuf Shah, who migrated to Pakistan and later became the President of Azad Kashmir between 1952 to 1956.

I had the honor of meeting Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Ahmed Sahib in December 1994 in Haramain-al-e-Sharifain, while I was



performing Umarah along with my family.

He had also come to perform Umarah along with his family, including his daughter Talat and his son Yahya. It is in Medina Munawwarah that I also met Mirwaiz Noor-ud-Din Sahib who has also come along with Mirwaiz Muhammad Ahmad Shah.

Mirwaiz Noor-ud-din has also translated the Quran into Kashmiri language, 'Aechan Hund Ghash' (Luminescence of Eyes).

Mirwaiz Muhammad Umar Farooq, Chairman, APHC and Moulana Abbas Ansari were also there to perform Umarah. We all were together for more than three weeks, between Makkah Mukarramah and Medina Munawwarah.

It is worth mentioning here that when Ambassador Yusuf Buch passed away in New York in May of 2019, he wanted to be laid to rest at the compound of the mausoleums of Mirwaiz Yusuf Shah in the Capital City of Muzaffarabad.

Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Ahmad Shah was kind enough to join us in Islamabad.

He told me that both his father and Ambassador Muhammad Yusuf Buch resisted the Indian occupation of Kashmir till their very last breath and never compromised. And I agreed with him completely.

Let us pray to Allah to place the soul of Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad Ahmad Shah in Jannatul Firdous and give Sabr to the family! Ameen!



Karim Aziz Malik Chairman Capital office & Malik Sohail Hussain Chairman Coordination FPCCI & Secretary General USPICC @ PCTA with Donald Blome U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan in a reception in Islamabad.

National WASH Accounts for Pakistan vital to save lives: Experts

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The establishment of a National Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Account in Pakistan is essential for building robust WASH infrastructure, tracking financial flows, and monitoring spending to ensure accountability and resilience in WASH services, asserted policy experts at a policy dialogue today.

The event, organized by WaterAid Pakistan in partnership with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), also marked the launch of the policy brief, "Establishing National WASH Accounts for Pakistan: A Call for Evidence-Based Planning and Financing for WASH." The dialogue brought together policymakers, stakeholders, and WASH experts to discuss a

path forward for implementing National WASH Accounts through concerted efforts at both the federal and provincial levels.

WaterAid Pakistan's Country Director, Mian Muhammad Junaid, underscored that over 20 countries have already established WASH Accounts, leading to structured planning, improved resource allocation, and enhanced accountability.

The Deputy Executive Director SDPI and lead author of the Policy Brief, Dr Shafiqat Munir Ahmad, highlighted key features of the study proposing to set up a National WASH Account in Pakistan.

Asghar Ali Halepoto, Chief of the Water Resource Section at the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives raised concerns about accountability and resource management.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), represented by Deputy Director General Attiq Ur Rehman, underscored the role of WASH accounts in tracking Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Member Board of Governors of the Global Climate Change Impact Study Centre (GCISC) and former Chairman National Flood Commission, Engineer Ahmad Kamal, Daud Saqlain, Country Representative of Human, Asif Ali Sherazi, Country Director of Islamic Relief Pakistan and UNICEF Public Finance Expert Dr. Asim Bashir Khan highlighted the disjointed nature of WASH data across institutions, even with indicators from UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

The event concluded with a



strong call to action, emphasizing the urgency of implementing the National WASH Account. "Now

is the time for all stakeholders to come together and act decisively to ensure that every community

in Pakistan has access to safe water and sanitation. This is our opportunity to make a differ-

ence and secure a healthier, more resilient future for all," remarked the speakers.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
90,859.85	88,966.76
Day's High	Day's Low
91,133.28	88,852.68
Index Value	Change
18,264,341,311	+1893.09
Percentage	Time
+2.13%	1 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,177.15	+67.05
Percentage	Time
+0.83%	1 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,203.19	+439.73
Percentage	Time
+1.05%	1 Nov, 1:24 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,053.67	-1,027.58
Percentage	Time
-2.63%	1 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.29	184.54
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.60	203.00
China Yuan	38.88	39.28
Danish Krone	39.82	40.22
Euro	299.90	302.65
Hong Kong Dollar	35.36	35.71
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	897.37	906.87
Malaysian Ringgit	63.34	63.94
New Zealand \$	165.23	167.23
Norwegians Krone	24.98	25.28
Omani Riyal	715.71	724.21
Qatari Riyal	75.54	76.24
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	208.64	210.64
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	320.15	322.95
Thai Bhat	8.18	8.33
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	355.55	359.05
US Dollar	277.25	278.75

PIA privatisation to be done in best way: Aleem Khan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Privatisation Abdul Aleem Khan said on Sunday he had responsibility of selling Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and the best solution would be made in this regard.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that a framework had been made for privatisation of the PIA by the caretaker government. He said that the PIA had a debt of Rs 830 billion, adding that out of that debt, around Rs. 600 billion had been parked in Holdco Company, while Rs. 200 billion had been parked in the PIA. He said all these things had happened before he took charge of his office, adding that he could not change the process which had already been initiated.

Aleem said he had no power to change the framework of privatisation. He said there was procedure of privatisation under which he could privatise anything. He said he had a responsibility of selling PIA, and not to put it on the right track. He said that he was not responsible for the present condition of PIA and added that he could not deviate from



privatisation procedure given to him. A former privatisation minister was also giving him suggestions, he said and added that he should have implemented those suggestions

during his tenure as the minister. He said that the PIA was a national asset and could not be sold at throw-away price. Abdul Aleem Khan said that on the PIA bidding day, he was in Riyadh busy in a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Investment minister. He said that on the day of PIA bidding two meetings were held; one of the privatisation commission, which he presided over, and he also attended the CCOP meeting on the same day. He said, "We have no objection if Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh governments together want to buy the PIA."

Aleem said in present framework, there were limitations; but if new framework would be made, there was a possibility that the PIA would be privatised with zero liability and this might attract more buyers.

Regarding Pakistan Post, the minister said that 3,500 jobs had been abolished and that helped save Rs 2.8 billion.

To a question, he said that the number of memorandums of understanding with Saudi Arabia had increased to a 34-35 from the figure of 27. He said that implementation of some of the MoUs was under way currently.

Price Hike

RAWALPINDI: People selecting and purchasing used shoes from roadside vendors due to price hiking of goods.



Photo: APP

PIAF calls for proactive economic agenda for sustainable industry growth

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has stated that political uncertainty has rattled the Pakistan economy, asking the government to take proactive measures to encounter external and domestic challenges, besides stabilizing the economy.

In a statement issued here today, the PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol outlined a comprehensive economic agenda aimed at steering the country towards progress. He emphasized the critical need for a strategic approach to economic development, calling for concerted efforts from both the government and political parties.



He observed that industry was expecting to presage easing of all political uncertainty paving the way for economic stability that all stakeholders and associated media pundits insisted would be a key factor in turning the economy around.

This in the face of ever-rising electricity rates as pledged to the International Monetary Fund in an attempt to attain full cost recovery (instead of improving the management of the sector as is required).

UBG chief: Small traders and small industries are backbone of the national economy

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A member of the Central Core Committee of the United Business Group (UBG) and former president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, stated that small traders and small industrialists are the backbone of the national economy. He emphasized that sustainable economic growth is not possible without their development and support. UBG has always maintained that the challenges faced by small business people should be addressed on a priority basis to pave the way for their progress.

He expressed these views during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries, where he congratulated the newly elected cabinet of the chamber with a 40-member high-level delegation that included Shahzad Abbasi, Saqib Abbasi, Asad Aziz, Abdul Rahman, Zahir Abbasi, Raja Hassan Akhtar, Yusuf Rajput, Raja



Javed, Raja Daniyal, Umar Khayyam, Azhar Iqbal, Ajmal Baloch, Akhtar Abbasi, Altaf Shah, Nasir Chaudhry, Babar Chaudhry, Khalid Chaudhry, Irfan Chaudhry, Saif ur Rehman, Asim Sethi, Nisar Mirza, Akhtar Awan, Chaudhry Muhammad Ali, Faizan Mahmood, Zia Chaudhry, Malik Shabeer, Malik Mohsin, Muhammad waqas, Zahid qureshi, Zarif ahmed khan, Shahid zafar, Fasih ullsj khan and others. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari also offered

sweets to Qazi Ilyas, the founding president and group chairman of the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries, newly elected president Owais Satti, senior vice president Sheikh Tayyab, vice president Sardar Zaheer Ahmed, and other officials. He assured the newly elected cabinet that UBG would provide them with all possible assistance and cooperation and that serious efforts would continue to resolve their issues.

SMEs shocked over hike in petroleum prices despite cut in world market

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has rejected the recent increase in prices of petroleum products, as despite a decline in the international market, the government has increased the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel which is unjust and unfair. The APBF appealed the government to bring down the prices of utilities to the regional competitors besides lowering interest rate which is also very high when compared to the other countries.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood remarked that at a time of unsatisfac-

tory export volumes and low industrial growth, the hike in oil products along with constant raise in electricity and gas tariffs for the industry, especially for the SMEs, was really surprising. If the decision is not withdrawn, it will prove dangerous for the country's SME sector, he stressed.

The average prices of petrol and HSD decreased in the international market by about \$1.5 and \$2.5 per barrel, respectively, after October 15. The average price of petrol had dropped to about \$76 per barrel from about \$77.5. The price of HSD also declined to about \$84 per barrel from \$86.5 in the last fortnight.

Dr. Jacqueline Hughes Assume Role of Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes, outgoing Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), headquartered in Hyderabad, India, is set to take up the role of Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum in mid-November 2024. Her extensive career, marked by ground breaking work in sustainable agriculture, equips her to steer the Forum towards its mission.

Dr. Hughes has over 30 years' experience in agricultural research for development and is highly regarded for her leadership in tackling the pressing global challenges of food insecurity, sustainable agriculture, and rural development in some of

the world's most vulnerable regions. Trained in the United Kingdom, Dr. Hughes holds a PhD from Reading University and began her career with postdoctoral work before working with national partners in Ghana. Throughout her career, Dr. Hughes has held international leadership positions in prestigious agricultural institutes across Africa and Asia, equipping her with a profound understanding of the unique challenges faced by these regions.

A distinguished plant virologist, Dr. Hughes has strong interests in remote sensing, digitalisation, and gender equity. She continues to champion the integration of modern technologies, plant quarantine best practices, and the ethical use of intellectual property to enhance agricultural outcomes. Dr. Hughes believes



in both working locally for global impact and working globally for local impact.

As Director General of ICRISAT, Dr. Hughes adeptly led the Institute through the global pandemic, achieving significant milestones despite unprecedented challenges. Under her leadership, ICRISAT was honoured with the Africa Food Prize 2021 and welcomed the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, at the Institute's 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2022. Dr. Hughes further strengthened ICRISAT's influence as a leader in dryland agriculture in 2023, actively participating in the agriculture meetings of the G20 Summit held in New Delhi and serving as co-Chair of the International Steering Committee for the United Nations' International Year of Millets.

Rudy Rabbinge, Chairman of the World Agriculture Forum, remarked:

"Dr. Hughes brings to the World Agriculture Forum a wealth of experience and a commitment to agricultural innovation that is critical to achieving our mission. Her proven ability to deliver impactful results, her deep understanding of the international agricultural landscape, and her vision for sustainable intensification will strengthen the World Agriculture Forum's position as a leader and partner in addressing food and nutrition security worldwide."

As Secretary General, Dr. Hughes will focus on strengthening alliances and advancing innovative solutions in agriculture, ensuring the World Agriculture Forum is well-positioned to address the evolving needs of the sector globally. Her appointment is a testament to WAF's commitment to bringing visionary leaders on board.

BMP wants solid, serious reforms for long-term economic stability



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Businessmen Panel (BMP) on Sunday placed significant responsibility on the government to pursue reforms for long-term stability, as with continuous hike in cost of production in the country, what the Pakistan's economy really needs is persistent and sound economic management.

The FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said asked the authorities for undertaking economic reforms and improving the regulatory environment for better Ease of Doing Business level to boost foreign investment so that financial stability can be achieved in the long-run, warning the government that extensive borrowing is unlikely to put the country's economy back on track.

He said that Pakistan's industry had been harmed by the high cost of doing business, which discouraged investment in capacity and capability and called for easing the burden of heavy taxes on the power sector.

Mian Anjum Nisar stated that the constant increase in power tariffs on the pretext of fuel adjustment had increased electricity prices and added to the already high cost of trade and industry. Seeking comparable energy tariffs for domestic industries in order to capture the global market, he stated that due to high electricity rates, power theft became rampant as the tariff was unaffordable to consumers.

Ahmad Zafar Hayat clinches the Title of 17th Chief of The Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup 2024

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ahmad Zafar Hayat won the title of the 17th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup 2024, whereas Irtaza Hussain was declared the winner of Net Category. While Mr. Alam Afzal, Miss Humna Amjad and Master Abdullah Khan won the titles in the Senior, Ladies, and Junior categories, respectively. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the prize distribution ceremony as the Chief Guest.

While addressing the ceremony, the Chief of the Naval Staff congratulated the prize winners on their well-earned success, appreciated their skills and dexterity, and commended the high standard of golf displayed by all participants throughout the event. He also lauded the consistent and generous support from sponsors, the media, and the management of Margalla Greens Golf Club (MGGC); without whom, the event would



not have been such a resounding success.

The four-day-long Golf Cup was held from 31st October to

3rd November at the scenic Margalla Greens Golf Club (MGGC) in Islamabad. Around 300 golfers from across Paki-

stan participated in various categories, including Amateurs, Seniors, Ladies, and Juniors. The Golf Cup has been part



of the National Golf Circuit since 2007 and is considered one of the finest competitions. It symbolizes the Pakistan

Navy's steadfast commitment to promoting sports. The closing and prize distribution ceremony was attended

by various dignitaries, including officers, organizers, sponsors, golfers, and members of the media fraternity.

Pakistan Cricket Team will play first One Day International Cricket Match against Australia today

Asim Tanveer

MELBOURNE: Mohammad Rizwan's first outing as white-ball captain will begin on Monday when Pakistan take on hosts Australia in the three-match ODI series. The first game will be played at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground, while the second ODI will begin on 8 November at the Adelaide Oval in Adelaide. The both teams will then travel to Perth where the third ODI will take place on 10 November at the Perth Stadium.

The ODI series will be followed by three-match T20I series, which will be played on 14, 16 and 18 November.

Both sides last met in the 50-over format during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 on October 20 where Australia defeated Pakistan by 62 runs at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru. The last time both sides featured in a bilateral ODI series was in March/April 2022, when Australia visited Pakistan and the hosts won the series 2-1.

Pakistan have also announced their playing XI for the first ODI, with Muhammad Irfan Khan and Saim Ayub making their debut. 21-year-old Irfan has already featured in three T20Is for Pakistan, while he has played 24 List-A matches, scoring one century and three half-centuries. Left-handed opening batter Saim has been a part of six Tests and 23 T20Is for Pakistan and has featured in 35 List-A matches accumulating 1,472 runs with the help of four centuries and seven half-centuries.

Aamir Jamal, Arafat Minhas, Faisal Akram and Haseebullah are the other uncapped players in the ODI squad.

Mohammad Rizwan reflecting on team preparations ahead of the ODI series:

It is an honour to lead the Pakistan team and we are ready to take on Australia in their own backyard.

We all know Australia is a very good side, and world champions, but we look forward to competing hard as we have a number of young and exciting players in our squad and it is their chance to



grab the opportunities coming their way.

We have had productive training sessions here in Melbourne since

our arrival and with the support of Almighty, we look forward to producing positive results in the series.

We are scheduled to play a good

number of ODIs before the next year's ICC Champions Trophy back in Pakistan. The forthcoming series beginning with Australia, then Zimbabwe, South Africa and the home Tri-nation tournament will help us assemble a right combination going into the mega event at home.

We are expecting fans to come in good numbers to support us in this series, as they have been a huge support for the team wherever we have played in Australia."

Pat Cummins, Australia's ODI captain

It's always great to have such a high intensity game which makes the start of summer and it's a great opportunity for youngsters to get going.

Pakistan are quite a decent side and they have players who have scored big runs. We have played against them in recent years, so I think it's always a fairly even match.

There is going to be a good crowd tomorrow at the MCG as we are playing against Pakistan."

Playing XI for first ODI (in batting order): Abdullah Shafique, Saim Ayub, Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan (captain/wicket-keeper), Kamran Ghulam, Salman Ali Agha (vice-captain), Muhammad Irfan Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf and Mohammad Hasnain

Schedule of Matches:
4 Nov - 1st ODI vs Australia; Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne (2.30pm local time start)

8 Nov - 2nd ODI vs Australia; Adelaide Oval, Adelaide (2pm local time start)

10 Nov - 3rd ODI vs Australia; Perth Stadium, Perth (11.30am local time start)

14 Nov - 1st T20I vs Australia; Brisbane Cricket Ground, Brisbane (6pm local time start)

16 Nov - 2nd T20I vs Australia; Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney (7pm local time start)

18 Nov - 3rd T20I vs Australia; Bellerive Oval, Hobart (7pm local time start)

Sri Lanka dominate Pakistan to clinch Hong Kong Super Sixes title

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sri Lanka secured their second Hong Kong Super Sixes title with a thrilling three-wicket victory over Pakistan in the final held at Mong Kok.

Winning the toss, Sri Lanka elected to field first, and immediately put the pressure on Pakistan, dismissing two early wickets.

Only Mohammad Akhlaq offered any significant resistance for Pakistan, scoring a fighting 48 runs. Captain Faheem Ashraf contributed 13, Aamer Yamin managed 6, while Asif Ali and Hussain Talat both failed to make a significant impact, scoring 0 and 1 respectively.

Pakistan's innings ended prematurely, with the entire team bowled out for 72

runs in their allotted 6 overs. Dhananjaya Lakshan and Tharindu Rathnayake were the pick of the Sri Lankan bowlers, each claiming two wickets.

Chasing a modest 73 runs for victory, Sri Lanka started cautiously.

Despite losing three wickets, they managed to reach the target with one over to spare, securing a hard-fought win. Sandun Weerakkody top-scored for Sri Lanka with 34 runs, while Dhananjaya Lakshan added 2 and captain Lihuru Madhusanka contributed 19. Faheem Ashraf took two wickets for Pakistan in a losing effort.

Ajaz stars as New Zealand beat India 3-0 in historic Test sweep

Sports Desk
Islamabad: New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel took six wickets as his side sealed a historic 3-0 Test sweep in India

with a thrilling 25-run win in the third Test on Sunday.

Chasing 147 for victory, India were bowled out for 121 in 29.1 overs on day three, after Rishabh Pant hit a valiant 64 at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

Ajaz roared in delight as he bowled Washington Sundar to take the final wicket and the Black Caps celebrated a first Test series win on Indian soil in style.

It was the first time India had been swept in a Test series at home since South Africa's 2-0 win in 1999-2000 and the first time they were beaten 3-0 at home.

"This will be a very low point in my career, having lost three games at home," India skipper Rohit Sharma told reporters.

"I fully take responsibility for that. As

a leader, I have not been at the best of my abilities right from the start of the series.

"With the bat as well, I have not been good enough."

New Zealand did the unthinkable under new captain Tom Latham, and in the absence of senior batsman Kane Williamson, who was recovering from a groin injury back home.

The Black Caps turned around their fortunes from a 2-0 whitewash in Sri Lanka, and made India suffer their first Test series loss at home in 12 years.

"Very ecstatic," said Latham. "Looking back at the start of the series, to now be in this position, the boys have done a fantastic job over the last three Test matches."

Mumbai-born New Zealander Ajaz ended with a match-haul of 11 wickets at a venue where he created history by



claiming all 10 wickets in a Test innings in 2021.

In a tricky chase on a turning pitch,

New Zealand reduced India to 29-5, before the left-hander Pant made counter-attacked with his half-century.

Alpine Club of Pakistan conducts second sport climbing training session for Cadet College students

Abdul Wahid

ISLAMABAD: Continuing its endeavors to encourage youth participation in adventure sports, the Alpine Club of Pakistan conducted a second sport climbing training exercise for students from Cadet College Hasanabdal, the nation's premier cadet institution. The students engaged in bouldering on the school's designated sport climbing wall at the Aims School System in H-8, Islamabad, during this session.

The session commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran by Hanzla Hussain Zafar, which established a reflective and focussed environment for the participants. Subsequently, Karrar Haidri, Secretary of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, warmly welcomed the visiting Professor



Mr. Shahzad and team from Cadet College Hasanabdal.

Mr. Haidri emphasized the significance of healthy activities for youth, particularly in the swiftly evolving world of today, during

his address. He emphasized the Alpine Club of Pakistan's dedication to the promotion of mountaineering and mountain-related sports throughout the country, noting that sport climbing is exper-

riencing a surge in prominence among young people in Pakistan. "Our aim is to foster a passion for adventure sports and provide structured training to youth across Pakistan," said the representative.

Hanzla Hussain Zafar, Umar Bilal, Huzaifa Imran, and Abu Zar Faiz, the National Champion of Sport Climbing, were among the experienced climbers from the Alpine Club who participated in the hands-on training session. These trainers exhibited fundamental techniques for sport climbing and bouldering, providing students with practical advice to assist them in developing their confidence and proficiency in the sport.

Abu Zafar Sadiq, President of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, delivered his concluding remarks and communicated the organization's overarching objectives to the attendees. He emphasized the club's commitment to promoting adventure sports among Pakistan's youth, offering them the chance to engage in activities that cultivate



a sense of responsibility, mental fortitude, and physical resilience.

The students' ardent participation in the event was well-received, and they expressed a desire to continue learning and engaging in climbing activities. The Alpine Club of Pakistan is dedicated to

providing young adventurers throughout the country with the necessary resources and guidance to succeed in the exhilarating world of mountaineering and climbing. We are dedicated to establishing more opportunities for them.

Condolence

LAHORE: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani offered condolences on the sad demise of Khalifa Syed Muhammad Hassan on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Foreign Minister Dar seeks legal action against attack on former CJP Isa in London

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The foreign affairs ministry has instructed the Pakistan High Commission in London to take legal action against those who attacked former chief justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa's vehicle in the United Kingdom capital.

This comes after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters protested against the former jurist outside a building in London where Isa was honoured with a 'Bencher of Middle Temple' at a ceremony. Malika Bokhari, Zulfi Bukhari, and Azhar Mashwani addressed the demonstrators



at the event.

As the former chief justice was leaving the ceremony, PTI activists assaulted his vehicle and tried to block his vehicle's way.

In reaction to the incident,

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take "appropriate action."

The ministry regretted the incident against the former CJP. In its directives, the

ministry has called for legal action to ensure that the perpetrators receive "appropriate punishment and for strict measures" to be taken against those involved in the act.

Imran Khan has accused the former CJP of being anti-PTI and maintained that the latter was also responsible for his incarceration and crackdown on his party.

Naqvi has instructed the National Database and Registration Authority to take "immediate steps" to identify the assailants, stressing the need for locating them through available footage.

The interior minister

stated that legal action would be taken against the assailants of the former CJP. He confirmed that a complaint would be registered against them in Pakistan and further actions would follow, including blocking their identity cards and cancelling their passports.

The Interior Minister emphasized that citizenship revocation proceedings for those who carried out the attack will be initiated immediately. He added that the case for citizenship cancellation will be sent to the federal cabinet for approval, asserting that such attacks cannot be tolerated.

Pakistan's ports set for growth and global partnerships: Minister Maritime

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Sunday said that Pakistan's ports were on a promising trajectory, poised for significant growth in the near future.

Speaking to a private news channel, he said that Pakistan's plans was to establish business partnerships by supplementing nearby ports, with Karachi Port expected to play a pivotal role in bolstering the country's economic position.

"Leading global companies have

shown interest in investing in Pakistan's ports, which speaks to the potential for economic growth," he added.

Commenting on PTI's protest call, he said that has relied heavily on protest-driven politics over the past decade. The government, he asserted, remains focused on economic progress and providing relief to the public, rather than engaging in negative political propaganda.

He added, "PTI's protest politics lacks public relevance, as it is driven by personal agendas rather than public welfare."



Stressing the government's openness to dialogue, he said doors remain open for principled discussions with elected representatives to address the core national issues.

The minister highlighted recent diplomatic successes, with nine foreign prime ministers visiting Pakistan, which he viewed as a testament to a successful foreign policy.

This progress, he said, underscores the country's positive direction. He also urged the opposition to adopt a constructive role, prioritizing national interest for continued development and stability.

61,540 arrested over power theft in Punjab

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Police have launched a massive crackdown on power theft, resulting in the arrest of 61,540 individuals across the province, including Lahore.

As per details, the police have registered 99,572 cases against power thieves, completed challans for 60,278 cases, and convicted 8,424 accused.

In Lahore alone, 32,057 individuals have been arrested, with 31,559 cases registered and 8,722 challans submitted.

This year, 53,323 accused have been arrested, with 91,264 cases registered and 58,067 case challans submitted.

Earlier, K-Electric (KE) and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) jointly conducted more than 13 operations aimed at curbing illegal power theft in Karachi and its surrounding regions falling within the company's service territory spanning Sindh and Balochistan.

Recently in March 2024, operations have been conducted in coordination with the FIA targeting areas such as Marora Goth, Peer Abad, Ellahi Colony Metroville, Merchant Navy Housing Society, Johar Colony, Willayatnabad and Architects Society among others. As a result of these concerted efforts, six FIRs have been lodged against power theft.

Furthermore, four individuals have been apprehended with three remanded to jail custody and one released after paying the dues. To enforce governance and maintain accountability, a total fine amounting to PKR 44.33 million was also imposed.

Additionally in collaboration with FIA Balochistan, KE has also conducted anti-theft operations in Hub, where teams from KE and FIA thoroughly inspected sites including markets, shopping plazas, residential and commercial premises.

Israeli strike hits health centre as polio campaign resumes in Gaza's north; UN expert seeks 'decisive action'

UNITED NATIONS: The long-awaited final phase of a UN-supported polio vaccine campaign has begun in Israeli-bombarded, besieged northern Gaza even as reports emerged that one vaccination centre had been hit during a humanitarian pause, according to UN agencies on the ground.

Hours after the campaign rolled out, reports indicated that a healthcare centre in the north had been hit, injuring six people, including four children, in a location where a humanitarian pause had been in place, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) chief.

"We have received an extremely concerning report that the Sheikh Radwan primary healthcare centre in northern Gaza was struck today while parents were bringing their children to the lifesaving polio vaccination in an area where a humanitarian pause was agreed to allow vaccination to proceed," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a social media post.

"This attack, during humanitarian pause, jeopardizes the sanctity of health protection for children and may deter parents from bringing their children for vaccination," he said. "These vital humanitarian-area-specific pauses must be absolutely respected."

"To overcome challenges posed by the volatile security situation and constant population move-

ment, robust micro plans have been developed to ensure the campaign is responsive to the significant population shifts and displacement in the north following the first round in September," the UN agencies for health, WHO, and for children, UNICEF, said in a statement.

UN organizations and partners began phase one in September and have had more than 200 teams on stand-by since 23 October to unroll the campaign's final round, which had been delayed by constant Israeli airstrikes, clashes on the ground and no assurances of the required humanitarian pauses to stop the fighting during the delivery of the vaccines.

Polio had been eradicated in the Gaza Strip 25 years ago, but the ongoing war triggered multiple health crises, with a 10-month-old being diagnosed with the paralyzing virus earlier this year, prompting health officials to organize a campaign in the war-torn Israeli-occupied territory.

The campaign will be delivered by 216 teams across 106 fixed sites, 22 of which have been added to ensure increased availability of vaccination in areas where recently displaced people are seeking refuge, according to UN agencies. There will also be 209 social "mobilizers" deployed to engage communities and raise awareness around vaccination efforts, they explained. APP

PTI Govt befooling masses on hallow slogans: Engr Amir Muqam



Correspondent

SHANGLA: Federal Minister for SAFRON, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday said that PTI Government was befooling masses on hallow slogans and indulged them in lies based politics.

He was addressing at peace jirga after turning the 30 years old enmity into friendship between families of Poran Sandori here.

The families of Ayub Khan and Ameer Zareen Khan announced an end of a 30 years long enmity due to

reconciliation efforts of Engr Amir Muqam.

Engr Amir Muqam expressed proud of an immense respect given to him by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially Shangla and that he always preferred people welfare over his personal interests.

The Minister said that he served people in all difficult times whether it was flood, terrorism incidents or earthquake and has never left them alone.

He said the record development projects worth billions of rupees were approved by the Government during last four months for the area.

NIH 'compiles' report on dengue cases in Pakistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) has compiled a nationwide report on dengue cases, detailing data from January 1 to October 26, ARY News reported on Sunday, citing sources.

Dengue (break-bone fever) is a viral infection that spreads from mosquitoes to people. It is more common in tropical and subtropical climates.

According to details, the number of dengue cases is increasing in Pakistan as so far this year, the total number of dengue cases across Pakistan has reached 15,997 cases recorded, and ten fatalities reported nationwide, the sources said.

The report indicates that Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan have yet to share their dengue data with the federal government. However, the highest number of cases has emerged from Balochistan, where

6,831 cases have been reported, though no fatalities have occurred there this year.

In Punjab, 4,390 dengue cases have been recorded, with eight deaths, while in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, there have been 1,853 cases and two fatalities.

Islamabad reported 2,714 cases, with no fatalities. Cases in Azad Kashmir reached 171, and former FATA recorded 38 cases, with no deaths reported in Azad Kashmir or Gilgit-Baltistan.

Monthly data shows only 15 cases reported in January, with numbers peaking in April with 2,310 cases and spiking again in September and October, with 3,455 and 5,205 cases, respectively. The first dengue-related death occurred in July, while September saw the highest fatalities, with seven deaths reported.

In comparison, in 2023, Pakistan reported a total of 21,016 dengue cases and three fatalities.

Report reveals major damages in KP house Islamabad

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A joint report by the Communications and Works Department revealed major losses incurred at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad.

As per detail, the report revealed that furniture worth Rs 10 lakh, digital video recorders, cameras, and laptops valued at Rs 15 lakh, and Rs 6 lakh in cash are missing.

Additionally, licensed arms, mobile phones, and other items worth Rs 64 lakh have vanished. MPAs and police personnel's cash totaling over Rs 16 lakh is also unaccounted for. Several important belongings of the Chief Minister are missing as well.

The report estimates that renovating Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House will cost Rs 96.93 lakh.

It is important to note here that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) sealed different blocks of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) House Islamabad following Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in the capital city.

The sealing operation was led by Special Magistrate Sardar Muhammad Asif. During the operation the CDA, sealed KP House

blocks A and B. The authorities said C block was not sealed as the families were staying there. Furthermore, rooms constructed for guests at the KP House Islamabad have also been sealed over 'violation of rules.'

Later, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) on de-sealed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) House Islamabad complying with directives of the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

