



PTI's Omar Ayub believes amendments to Army Act 'not good' for military

PTI leader Omar Ayub has said that the amendments to the Army Act, which saw an extension in the army chief's tenure, were "not good" for the military. "Extending the tenure of services' chiefs would disadvantage many officers," he told reporters outside the Parliament House on Monday.



Institutions are being given excessive powers, says JUI-F chief Fazl

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has expressed concerns over institutions being granted "excessive powers," alleging that the Pakistan Peoples Party and the Pakistan Muslim League-N were stifling democracy. At a press conference in Islamabad before the sessions of the National Assembly and Senate on Monday, he criticised the coalition government for its amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM apprises cabinet of his recent successful visits to KSA, Qatar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday apprised the cabinet members of the outcome of his recent successful visits to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and State of Qatar, terming these as 'successful and productive'. The prime minister, while addressing the cabinet's meeting, said that he held very productive and useful consultations with the leadership of KSA and Qatar wherein different subjects like solar energy, mines, minerals and IT sectors were thoroughly discussed during the bilateral meetings. He said a delegation of Qatar Investment Authority would soon visit Pakistan as Qatar had announced to invest \$3 billion in Pakistan,

adding Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, during a meeting, had told him that there was immense potential of IT trained people and asked him to send the skilled people from Pakistan to the Kingdom since they required it. Amir of Qatar also hinted at setting up an IT park in Pakistan, he added. The prime minister said whereas Pakistan and Azerbaijan had also agreed to enhance the bilateral investment to \$2 billion in diverse areas. He said the understanding between the two countries was reached during a visit of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev in the shape of signing of agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs).

Pakistan parliament approves bill to extend three chief's service tenure

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly and the Senate on Monday passed a bill to extend the tenure of all services chiefs from three to five years amid a protest by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), ARY News reported. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif presented the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Act, 1952 which was passed with a majority of votes in the upper and lower houses. After the enactment of the law, the tenure of army chief,



naval chief and the air chief would be extended to five years. "The purpose of these amendments are to make consistent the



Pakistan Army Act, 1952, The Pakistan Navy Ordinance, 1961 and The Pakistan Air Force Act, 1953 with the maximum tenure



of the Chief of the Army Staff, the Chief of the Naval Staff and the Chief of the Air Staff and to make consequential amendments for

uniformity in the aforementioned laws," the amendment read. "The retirement age and service limits prescribed for a General, under the Rules and Regulations made under this Act, shall not be applicable to the Chief of the Army Staff, during his tenure of appointment, reappointment and/or extension. Throughout such tenure, the Chief of the Army Staff shall continue to serve as a General in the Pakistan Army," the amendment a copy of which is available with ARY News read.

Parliament passes bill to increase number of SC judges

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly (NA) and the Senate of Pakistan on Monday passed a bill to increase the number of the Supreme Court (SC) judges from 17 to 34 amid a protest by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar presented the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Act, 2024 to raise the number of SC judges in both houses separately within a span of two hours. The upper and lower houses passed the bill with a majority of votes. In the National Assembly, the PTI lawmakers gathered in front of the speaker's rostrum, tore apart copies of the bill, and chanted slogans. The National Assembly and the Senate also passed another bill to increase the number



of the Islamabad High Court judges from nine to 12. Speaking on in the National Assembly, Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the amend-

ment would raise the number of judges in the Supreme Court to 34, so that the backlog of cases may be cleared. He said that following the 26th constitutional amendment, the number of judges is to be increased for forming the constitutional benches. The law minister said that the legal fraternity and bar associations have been suggesting the increase in number of judges for some time now. "So that the four-bar court registries in Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, and Lahore may relieve themselves of thousands of outstanding cases," Azam Nazeer Tarar added. A dramatic scene unfolded in the National Assembly as the PTI members staged a fierce protest against the passage of the bills. The unrest began when opposition lawmakers gathered in front of the Speaker's dias, chanting slogans and tore apart the paper.

State Bank of Pakistan cuts policy rate more than expected

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan's Monetary Policy Committee has reduced the policy rate by 250 bps to 15%, more than 50 basis points as analysts predicted earlier in the day following a similar reduction made in September. "The committee noted that inflation has declined faster than expected and has reached close to its medium-term target range in October," the central bank said in a

statement on Monday. In the previous meeting, the SBP lowered the policy rate by 200 basis points to 17.5%, marking the most significant decrease since April 2020, amid easing inflation and declining international oil prices. However, concerns remain regarding the sluggish pace of economic activity, particularly in light of strict reforms under the International Monetary Fund bailout programme. The committee assessed that the "tight monetary policy stance" continues to play

an "important role" in sustaining the downward trend in inflation. Moreover, a sharp decline in food inflation, favourable global oil prices and absence of expected adjustments in gas tariffs and petroleum development levy rates have accelerated the pace of disinflation in recent months. "Taking into account the inherent risks associated with these factors, the MPC assessed that the near-term inflation may remain volatile before stabilising within the target range."

Terrorist killed, weapon, ammunition recovered: ISPR



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A terrorist was killed on Monday by Security Forces during a fire exchange took place between own troops and the terrorists in Nushki District of Balochistan. "Own troops effectively engaged terrorists' location, and resultantly one terrorist was killed," said an Inter Services Public Relations news release. Weapon and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist, it further said. "Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan," further said the news release.

COAS Munir says plight of Kashmiris, Palestinians calls for significant action



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The 28th Annual Conference of International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC) is being hosted for the first time in Pakistan at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, Islamabad from 4-8 November 2024. The event officially commenced with the inauguration of new CIPS building by the General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS). Under Secretary General, Department of Peace Operations, Jean Pierre Lacroix, United Nations Police Advisor, Acting Deputy Military Advisor, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and Rector NUST, also accompanied the Chief Guest during

inauguration and opening ceremony of the conference. In keynote address to the august gathering, COAS emphasized that global peace today is confronted with ever evolving threats and challenges. Despite the numerous peacekeeping endeavors underway by the UN and other organizations, the plight of innocent Kashmiris and Palestinians serve as a stark reminder that still a lot needs to be done. Guest of Honour, Mr. Jean Pierre Lacroix acknowledged Pakistan's contributions to UN Peacekeeping Operations and appreciated Pakistan for hosting the 28th IAPTC Annual Conference. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Inspector General Training and Evaluation (IGT&E), Lieutenant General Fayyaz Hussain Shah, HI (M).

Iranian FM in Islamabad for consultations on ME situation

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Monday arrived here on a two-day official visit to hold consultations with Pakistan's leadership on the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations. During his visit, Foreign Minister Araghchi will hold meetings with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, according to a Foreign Office

press release. This visit provides an important opportunity to advance cooperation and dialogue between Pakistan and Iran on a wide range of areas including trade, energy and security.

DFP condoles demise of Mirwaiz Maulvi Muhammad Ahmed Shah

Bureau Report

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has expressed its profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of eminent Islamic scholar, Maulvi Muhammad Ahmed Shah, son of late Mirwaiz Moulvi Yousuf Shah who passed away in Rawalpindi yesterday.

In a condolence statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal, while extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, said that Mirwaiz Ahmed was highly revered by people on both sides of the line of control.

"The DFP, on behalf of its incarcerated chairman Shabir Ahmed Shah, extends its deepest condolences to



Mirwaiz Dr. Umar Farooq Sahib and his entire family", the DFP spokesman said.

"May Almighty Allah SWT rest the noble soul in eternal peace and grant him the highest place in Jannat ul Firdous," he added.

Meanwhile, the DFP acting chairman Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in a separate statement expressed a sense of shock over the death of Mirwaiz Ahmed.

Saghar, while referring to Mirwaiz Ahmed's contri-

bution in the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle, said that Mirwaiz Ahmed had the honour to pursue the proud legacy of his father Mirwaiz Muhammad Yousuf Shah.

Saghar said that Mirwaiz Ahmed was a true son of the

soil who would be always remembered for his selfless service for the noble cause.

While praying for the departed soul, Saghar expressed his sympathies with the bereaved Mirwaiz family.

Two dozen employees at Takht Bhai hospital without salaries for past three years

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Two dozen Class IV employees of Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Takht Bhai have been deprived of their salaries for the past three years. The stoves in their homes have gone cold, and hunger has taken hold in their households. According to reliable sources, it has been learned that more than two dozen Class IV employees, who were hired four years ago during the PTI government, have not been paid their salaries for the last three years. These employees are now facing starvation at home. They have said that every day, they have to borrow money from neighbors just to reach work, and they are repeatedly told that they will receive their salaries "today or tomorrow." However, three years have passed, and they still have not been paid. They have made a strong appeal to the provincial government and the Provincial Health Advisor, Ihtisham Ali Khan Advocate, to arrange for the payment of their salaries; otherwise, they will not hesitate to take to the streets.

Takht Bhai community to resist privatization of Tehsil Headquarters Hospital

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: The community will strongly resist the privatization of Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Takht Bhai and the handover to any NGO. They will not hesitate to stage protests and sit-ins against any such privatization efforts. The leaders of the Jirga have made a strong appeal to the Provincial Health Advisor to take steps to upgrade the hospital. They warned that if the government attempts to privatize the hospital, the people of Takht Bhai will set up a protest camp in front of the hospital. These sentiments were expressed during an important meeting of the Grand Awami Jirga at the Takht Bhai Press Club, chaired by former MPA Mian Nader Shah.

Participants included Hafiz Muhammad Saeed (Mayor of Tehsil Takht Bhai), Nauman Yusuf (Convener of the Grand Awami Jirga), Irfan Khan Mohmand (General Secretary of Pakistan People's Party, District Mardan), Muhammad Nawaz Tahir (Jamaat-e-Islami leader and former Tehsil Nazim), Pir Reza Afghan (Chairman of the Bedari Movement), Mian Saadullah (Vice President of Awami National Party), Qazi Muhammad Javed (Vice Amir of JUI Takht Bhai), Haji Sardar Khan (President of Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz Takht Bhai), Haji Muhammad Yousaf Khan (President of the Medicine Association), social activist Riaz Khan Mohmand, Wahab Yousufi (General Secretary of Central Traders Union), Afzal Nagyal from JUI, and Muslim Khan Sabir (President of the Press Club), among others.

In a unanimous decision, former MPA Mian Nader Shah presented a joint declaration at the end of the meeting, stating that if any NGO or organization wishes to provide assistance to the hospital, it would be welcomed.

Celebration of Diwali and Expression of Harmony

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: A vibrant event was organized by the renowned Qasimabad store, "Maa 4 Sons," family mart on the occasion of Diwali, celebrating joy by cutting a cake. The store owner, Mahesh Kumar, warmly welcomed the esteemed guests and described their presence as a step toward harmony.

Social figures from Qasimabad, including Mehboob Abro, senior journalist Allah Bux Kumbhar, Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi, and Comrade Ahmed Ali Khoso from Sukkur, were among the distinguished guests. After the cake cutting, fireworks were lit outside the store to mark the Diwali festivities.

Senior journalist Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi conveyed Diwali greetings, extending his heartfelt wishes to all Hindu brothers in Pakistan and abroad. He expressed, "This gathering is a clear symbol of love and harmony, encouraging people from different religious backgrounds to join each other's celebrations."

In his address, Mahesh Kumar noted, "The participation of our Muslim brothers in the Diwali celebrations is a shining example of the love and harmony present in our society."

Dr. Majid Al Ghaffar appointed chair of HU Media Department

Spokesman Report

MANSEHRA: Dr. Majid Al Ghaffar has assumed the charge of Chairperson of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at Hazara University. Recently promoted to Grade 20, Associate Professor Dr. Majid Al Ghaffar brings extensive experience in journalism, having worked with various radio and television organizations and undergone training with international institutions.

A formal ceremony marked the handover of leadership at the Department of Communication and Media Studies, attended by faculty and administrative staff. In his address, Dr. Al Ghaffar expressed his gratitude, saying, "It is an honor for me to lead a department recognized for its distinctive identity and high standards at Hazara University. Due to the hard work of the faculty and the dedication of former heads, this department stands among the university's finest."

Dr. Shujaat Ali Khan, the outgoing Chairperson, expressed his gratitude to Allah for guiding him through his responsibilities. He conveyed his best wishes for Dr. Al Ghaffar, expressing hope that under his leadership, the Department of Communication and Media Studies would continue to thrive and become one of the most distinguished media departments, not only at Hazara University but nationwide.

Smog

LAHORE: Passengers boarding trains at railway station, Trains' movement delayed due to smog in provincial capital.



Photo: Online

Sardar Attique says Sardar Khalid Ibrahim was strong and courageous voice of Kashmiris

Bureau Report:

ISLAMABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that Sardar Khalid Ibrahim was a strong and courageous voice of Kashmiris whose entire life was spent in the politics of principles. The deceased promoted the politics of principles and ideologies within Azad Kashmir. Sardar Khalid Ibrahim's entire life was spent in ideologies, principledness and truthfulness. Sardar Khalid Ibrahim always raised the voice of truth and honesty. Sardar Khalid



Ibrahim's political life is a beacon for the political workers of Azad Kashmir. Those who do politics of principles and character always live. He expressed these views while talking to the media on the 6th death anniversary

of the great political leader, the late Sardar Khalid Ibrahim, before leaving for Islamic Republic of Iran. He said that Sardar Khalid Ibrahim has the honor of always supporting truth and honesty and pursuing the politics

of principles in the base camp. There was no contradiction in the words and actions of the late Sardar Khalid Ibrahim, which is why he enjoys immense respect and admiration among the people of the state.

Awareness Seminar on Polycystic Ovary Syndrome PCOS Held at Women University Multan

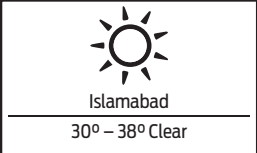
Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Women University Multan hosted a seminar on Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) arranged by the Department of Economics in collaboration with Chiesi Healthcare at Katchery Campus, the Women University Multan. The Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Prof. Dr Mehnaz Khakwani graced the seminar as a Chief guest. Vice-Chancellor WUM, Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha, Registrar Prof Dr Mamoon Khan were present. The focal person of the seminar was Chairperson Department of Economics Dr. Hina Ali. The theme of the seminar was "Fight like a girl". The event aimed to spread awareness and help women and girls manage their symptoms of PCOS and how to reduce the health risks. In the welcome address, VC Prof. Kalsoom Pracha

thanked VC Prof Dr Mehnaz Khakwani, guest speakers and panellists from different institutions for joining the seminar. She also appreciated the Department of Economics for arranging a successful awareness seminar. She also admired the unprecedented team spirit of the Department. Giving a presentation on PCOS, VC Prof Dr Mehnaz Khakwani explained the concept of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome. She said PCOS is a health problem that affects 1 in 10 women of childbearing age. PCOS is linked to hormonal imbalance and is a leading treatable cause of infertility in women. She said over 50pc Pakistani women are suffering from complicated ovary issues. The most common symptoms of the disease include irregular menstrual cycle, abnormal hair growth on face and body, acne and weight gain. She stressed to adopt healthy life-

style as it is very essential to overcome various prevailing diseases. Other speakers said increased awareness among women and healthcare professionals about PCOS is crucial for early diagnosis and intervention and added that ensuring access to affordable and quality healthcare services, including gynaecologists and endocrinologists, is vital for women with PCOS. By addressing these concerns, we can work towards improving the lives of women affected by PCOS. Dr. Hina Ali concluded with a vote of thanks to all the guest speakers and students for their responses and active participation. She said that students must play a pivotal role in disseminating such information among masses. At the end, VC Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha presented an honorary shield to VC Prof Dr Mehnaz Khakwani and among other guest speakers and organizers.





SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:05 am
Zohr	11:51 am
Asr	3:35 pm
Maghrib	5:13 pm
Isha	6:37 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cannt 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
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Zong's Data Center achieves TIA-942-C Rated-3 Certification

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading cellular and digital services provider, proudly announces its achievement of the prestigious TIA-942-C Rated-3 Certification for its Data Center located at Zong HQ, Islamabad. This certification is a testament of Zong's unwavering commitment to be an excellent information services and technology innovation company of Pakistan.

While congratulating the Network team Zong's Chief Technical Officer Mr. Lu Jianhui said, "Achieving this certification reflects our ongoing investment in the latest technologies and infrastructure. This accomplishment enables us to provide industry leading data services, minimize downtime, and offer maximum security to our valued customers. Our commitment to maintaining robust Data Center operations makes Zong a preferred choice for businesses seeking secure and reliable Data Center solu-

Pakistan's energy sector explores partnerships at ADIPEC 2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Leading companies from Pakistan's oil and energy sector are set to make a strong impression at the Pakistan Pavilion at ADIPEC 2024 in Abu Dhabi, showcasing their capabilities and seeking strategic partnerships.

The Petroleum Institute of Pakistan (PIP) has organized and spearheaded this participation, reflecting Pakistan's growing role in the global energy landscape.

ADIPEC is the world's largest and most inclusive gathering for the energy industry, taking place from 4-7 November 2024 in Abu Dhabi. Pakistan is holding Stand No: 9450 during the exhibition.

As a vital body in Pakistan's energy sector, PIP represents 23 companies and over 550 individual members. Pakistani companies attending ADIPEC 2024 include major players such as PARCO, Pakistan State Oil, Pakistan Petroleum Limited, Pakistan Refinery Limited, and Oil & Gas Development Company Limited. Pakistan's Ministry of Energy

-Petroleum Division is also supporting this initiative, emphasizing the country's commitment to energy development and international cooperation.

Mr. Ali Murtaza Abbas, Chairman of PIP, stated that Pakistani companies at ADIPEC represent both the vast potential of the sector and the high-quality talent Pakistan offers. "PIP continuously seeks opportunities to showcase Pakistan's oil and energy sector. We aim to forge partnerships, explore new technologies, and foster cooperation for efficient and cleaner energy solutions," he said.

He further emphasized that ADIPEC 2024 will enable Pakistani companies and professionals to maximize the benefits of this global forum for dialogue. Mr. Shehryar Omar, CEO of PIP, also expressed optimism about the event, anticipating meaningful engagement for Pakistani companies throughout.

Since its founding in 1963, PIP has championed Pakistan's petroleum industry, uniting stakeholders across the sector to promote growth and collaboration in Pakistan's energy landscape.



Beautiful

ISLAMABAD: Blossoming Yellow and Orange Marigold flowers in Argentina Park of Sector G-6 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pakistan launches its first 'National Sex Offenders Register'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Law and Justice, in collaboration with NADRA and the National Police Bureau, officially launched Pakistan's first National Sex Offenders Register at a ceremony in Islamabad today. This landmark initiative aims to reduce sexual violence and abuse by creating a more proactive and effective system for institutions and the public.

The launch featured speeches from key figures, highlighting the importance of this initiative.

Chairperson of the Anti-Rape Special Committee, Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, emphasized in her opening remarks, "One of the most significant initiatives under the Anti-Rape Act, 2021, is the establishment of the National Sex Offenders Register, which will track convicted offenders after their release from prison."



Mr. Omar Bashir Maniar, Community Protection Advisor for the project, detailed the framework supporting survivors of sexual violence in Pakistan, which now includes anti-rape crisis cells, specialized investigation units, designated prosecutors, special courts, and the national sex offenders register itself—all designed to support survivors, protect the community from repeat offenders and ensure access to justice.

SI Global Solutions becomes first Pakistani company to get membership of IALA

City Desk

KARACHI: SI Global Solutions, a leading maritime and fastest-growing ICT system integrator and consultancy company, has become the first Pakistani company to receive a membership of the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA).

This prestigious recognition solidifies SI Global Solutions' commitment to excellence for the safety of our ports and harbors and positions Pakistan on the global maritime stage.

IALA, a renowned international organization, promotes the safe and efficient movement of vessels worldwide. To achieve Industrial Membership, SI Global Solutions successfully met IALA's stringent prerequisites, demonstrating its technical expertise, operational excellence, and dedication to maritime safety.

"We are honored to join this esteemed international maritime community," said Dr Noman Said, CEO of M/s SI Global Solutions (Pvt) Ltd. "This achievement underscores our company's unwavering commitment to quality, innovation, standards, and global best safety practices."

We look forward to collaborating with IALA's other international members and contributing to the advancement of maritime safety worldwide on behalf of Pakistan."

SECP conducts Startup Summit 2024 Media Briefing

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) held a press briefing today, at its Head Office in Islamabad on the upcoming Pakistan Start-up Summit. The event, scheduled for November 11th and 12th, 2024, at the Pearl Continental Hotel in Karachi, promises to be a transformative platform for Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Technology has changed the way business is done. Innovative products, payment channels and modes of business have given birth to FinTech, EdTech, HealthTech and InsureTech companies worldwide. In Pakistan too, technology driven businesses are on the rise, however, the room for growth and potential opportunities it provides are manifold.

"Pakistan's start-up ecosystem has immense potential, and this summit is an essential step toward realizing that potential," said the Chairman SECP. "Through knowledge-sharing, collaborative discussions, and actionable insights, we aim to empower start-ups to thrive and scale, ultimately contributing to Pakistan's economic growth and global competitiveness."

ICT Police arrests key suspect in bank robbery case

ISLAMABAD, NOV 04 (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended the main suspect in a recent bank robbery on Monday, recovering stolen cash, firearms, ammunition, and the motorcycle used in the crime.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) ICT Syed Ali Raza shared these details during a press conference at the Rescue 15 office.

The DIG commended the dedication and thorough efforts of the police teams in solving the case. He emphasized ICT Police's commitment to the security of every citizen, home, and workplace in the capital, noting a significant decrease in the city's crime rate.

To honour the teams' hard work, IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi has announced rewards for the officers involved in this successful operation.

All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth to honor Pakistani journalists at National College of Arts

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation organized a media award at the National College of Arts in recognition of the services of the journalist community who played a role in renewing the everlasting friendship between Pakistan and China.

The hosting duties were done by Tasweer Ahmed. President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Asma Ismail Butt welcomed the guests, on this occasion Asma Ismail Butt said that journalists and artists are the mirror of Pakistani society. The amount of tribute given to their services will be less.

On this occasion, the guest of honor Dr. Amjad, CEO Shaigan Waheed Ahmed, Fahad Waheed, Mashal Malik, MNA Shazia Farid, MPA Nargis Faiz Malik, Senator Nasir Mahmood Butt, President Pakistan Union of Journalists Afzal Butt, Secretary Islamabad Press Club Nayer Ali, Representatives of UK, Turkey, Uzbekistan Embassy, film stars Mumtaz Begum, Ruby Anam, Raees Ahmed, Rohan Abbas, Narmin Butt, Imran Rushdie and a large number of personalities from different schools of thought participated.

On behalf of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation, senior journalists working on topics covering investigative journalism, show busi-

ness, culture and especially Pakistan-China relations, were honored with the award. Pakistani and Chinese cultural performances were presented at the award show. Ustad Rais Khan's legendary violin performance. Mashaal Malick, the chief guest of the event, said that it is their right to give tribute to journalists. Members of the National and Provincial Assembly and Guest of Honor Dr. Amjad said that I pay tribute to the journalist and artist for their valuable services to the nation. At the end of the ceremony, President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Asma Ismail Butt thanked all the guests wholeheartedly.



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Forthcoming Presidential Elections in the USA: Trump vs. Kamala Harris

As the United States gears up for the 2024 presidential elections, the political landscape is heating up with former President Donald Trump and current Vice President Kamala Harris emerging as the leading candidates from their respective parties. This election is poised to be one of the most contentious in recent history, reflecting deep divisions within the electorate and raising critical questions about the future of the nation.

Donald Trump served as the 45th President from 2017 to 2021 and remains a dominant figure in the Republican Party. His candidacy is characterized by a continuation of his "America First" policies, a focus on immigration reform, and a robust stance against perceived threats from abroad, particularly China. Trump's supporters view him as a champion of conservative values and economic growth, while his critics argue that his divisive rhetoric undermines democratic institutions.

Kamala Harris as the first female Vice President and the first woman of South Asian and African American descent to hold the office, represents a significant shift in American politics. Her campaign focuses on social justice, climate change, and healthcare reform. Harris seeks to build on the accomplishments of the Biden administration while addressing the needs of a diverse electorate. However, she faces challenges in solidifying her base, particularly among younger voters who demand bold action on issues like climate change and racial equity. The economic recovery post-pandemic will be a major topic. Trump will likely tout his record on job growth and tax cuts, while Harris will emphasize equitable growth and support for middle-class families.

As far as the US foreign policy is concerned, Trump's "America First" approach contrasts sharply with Harris's more traditional diplomatic strategies, which emphasize alliances and multilateralism.

The US 2024 election will see varied voter dynamics. Trump continues to enjoy strong support from his base, but faces challenges with moderate Republicans and independents disillusioned by his conduct. Harris, on the other hand, must energize the Democratic base while also appealing to centrist voters who are critical of more progressive policies.

The upcoming presidential elections promise to be a fierce battle between Trump and Harris, each representing starkly different visions for America's future. As campaign strategies unfold, the candidates will not only be vying for votes but also for the narrative that will shape the political discourse leading into the election. Voter engagement and turnout will be crucial, as both sides seek to mobilize their bases while reaching out to undecided voters in this pivotal moment in American history.

The outcome of the 2024 U.S. presidential elections, particularly between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris, will have significant implications for global politics, economics, and security. Here's how each candidate's policies might impact the international landscape.

A Trump Presidency would likely continue his "America First" approach, emphasizing nationalism and unilateralism. This could lead to strained relationships with traditional allies, as he

may prioritize bilateral deals over multilateral agreements. His stance on NATO and other alliances could prompt European nations to reconsider their defense strategies.

In contrast, Harris would likely reinvigorate multilateral diplomacy, strengthening alliances with NATO, the EU, and other partners. Her approach may enhance cooperation on global issues such as climate change and international security, potentially restoring U.S. leadership in global affairs.

Trump's administration would likely focus on renegotiating trade agreements to favor U.S. interests, which could lead to increased tariffs and trade tensions, particularly with China. This could disrupt global supply chains and create uncertainty in international markets.

Harris may pursue more cooperative trade policies aimed at rebuilding relationships with allies and addressing issues like fair trade practices. This approach could stabilize global markets and encourage international collaboration.

Trump: A return to Trump's policies might result in the U.S. withdrawing from international climate agreements, undermining global efforts to combat climate change. This could slow progress on crucial environmental initiatives and diminish funding for renewable energy projects worldwide.

Harris's focus on climate action could lead to renewed commitments to international agreements like the Paris Accord. Her leadership might galvanize global initiatives aimed at reducing emissions

and promoting sustainable development, fostering international collaboration on environmental issues.

Trump's administration may adopt a more transactional approach to human rights, prioritizing national interests over promoting democracy globally. This could embolden authoritarian regimes and diminish U.S. influence in advocating for democratic values.

Harris would likely emphasize human rights and democratic governance, advocating for democratic reforms in various regions. This could lead to increased U.S. support for civil society and democratic movements, potentially enhancing global democratic norms.

A Trump administration might withdraw from international military commitments, reducing U.S. involvement in conflicts and peacekeeping efforts. This could create power vacuums, particularly in regions like the Middle East, potentially leading to increased instability.

Harris: Harris would likely favor a more engaged U.S. military presence focused on global security threats, including terrorism and cyber threats. Her administration might strengthen international coalitions to address shared security challenges.

The 2024 U.S. presidential elections will not only shape the future of America but also influence the trajectory of global affairs. The stark contrast between Trump's nationalist policies and Harris's commitment to multilateralism will resonate across borders, affecting international relations, trade, climate action, human rights, and security dynamics worldwide. The outcome will be closely watched by leaders and citizens around the globe, highlighting the interconnectedness of today's geopolitical landscape.



Analysis

Ahsan Ansari

American Elections

Latest opinion polls show Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican challenger Donald Trump locked in a tight race after the two leaders made their closing pitches for the U.S. presidency over the weekend as Americans go to polls on Tuesday, with Muslim voters split on candidates.

In the past, American-Muslims were a solidly Democratic voting bloc, especially in the years following 9/11 and given Trump's overtly anti-Muslim rhetoric. But

They are very angry with the Biden administration – and, by extension, Ms. Harris, the vice president – for its blind support for Israel. Now a section of American-Muslims seem willing to overlook Trump's history of closeness with Israel's hard-right leaders. "If, and when, they say, when I'm president, the US will once again be stronger and closer [to Israel] than it ever was," Trump said last week. "I will support Israel's right to win its war."

Yet some national polls show Muslim-Americans slightly favouring the former president; others are increasingly vocal in support of the third outfit in the field — Green party's Jill Stein, a socialist who has been sharply critical of US blind to Israel and the genocidal war against Gaza.

Ms. Stein leads with 42% of the Muslim vote versus Ms. Harris at 41% and Trump at 10%. With a margin of error of +/- 2.5 percentage points, however, that puts Ms. Stein in a dead heat with Ms. Harris, just as the two were in CAIR's August survey when Ms. Harris had a slight lead with 29.4% of the Muslim vote to Ms. Stein's 29.1%. Support for Trump dropped slightly from August, where the former president totaled 11.2%.

On Sunday, Ms. Harris spoke at a historically Black church and to Muslim-Americans in battleground Michigan on Sunday, while Trump embraced sharp rhetoric at a rally in Pennsylvania.

(A battleground state is where the number of Democratic and Republican voters is about the same, meaning that it could go either way.)

More than 78 million Americans have already done so ahead of Tuesday's Election Day, according to the University of Florida's Election Lab, opening a new tab, approaching half the total 160 million votes cast in 2020, in which U.S. voter turnout was the highest in more than a century.

Control of US Congress is also up for grabs on Tuesday, with Republicans favoured to capture a majority in the Senate while Democrats are seen as having an even chance of flipping Republicans' narrow majority in the House of Representatives. Presidents whose parties fail to control both chambers have struggled to pass major legislation.

"In just two days we have the power to decide the fate of our nation for generations to come," Ms. Harris told parishioners at Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ in Detroit. "We must act. It's not enough to only pray; not enough to just talk."

Later in a rally in East Lansing, Michigan, she addressed the state's 200,000 Arab Americans, starting her speech with a nod to civilian victims of Israel's wars in Gaza and Lebanon.



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

Stone Crushers: Threat to Ecosystem and Public Health

Seemar Babar

The Margalla Hills, a striking chain of lush green hills encircling Islamabad, are vanishing at an alarming rate. These hills, once revered for their beauty and biodiversity, are now subjected to relentless stone-crushing operations, stripping away their rich natural cover and reducing them to barren, scarred landscapes. Especially along the GT Road near Taxila, the hills have become a battleground where excavators and crushers systematically tear apart the terrain, leaving behind a dirty, lifeless expanse. Anyone driving through this once-scenic route is now greeted by scenes of unrestrained exploitation, where the beauty of these hills is overshadowed by the constant hum of machinery and clouds of dust.

Under the dual jurisdiction of the Province of Punjab and the Islamabad Capital Territory, the Margalla Hills have fallen prey to conflicting regulatory frameworks and a lack of cohesive oversight. In a tragic irony, these hills—central to Islamabad's identity and allure—are being destroyed to fuel the demand for limestone and construction materials in the very city that they helped establish. The visual transformation is not only striking but also tragic, as these towering green giants are reduced to heaps of rubble. If unchecked, this industrial assault could permanently disfigure the very landscape that gives Islamabad its unique character.

The Margalla Hills are not just an ecological asset but also a cultural and historical one. They've stood as silent witnesses to centuries of history and are deeply intertwined with the cultural fabric of the Islamabad region. Ancient relics and sites dating back to Buddhist and Hindu civilizations dot these hills, adding layers of historical significance. The destruction of this

landscape is akin to erasing an irreplaceable part of our heritage—a loss that will be mourned by future generations.

Besides, the hills serve as an essential recreational space for Islamabad's residents, offering hiking trails, picnic spots, and panoramic views that help city-dwellers reconnect with nature. For decades, the Margalla Hills National Park has drawn visitors from across the country, its serene environment providing a much-needed respite from urban life. Every stone that's crushed, every slope that's flattened, is a blow to the sanctity of a natural refuge cherished by the community.

The ongoing destruction points to a glaring failure of governance. Despite multiple agencies being responsible for the regulation and protection of the Margalla Hills, loopholes and poor coordination allow these destructive activities to persist. Stone-crushing operators often receive permits under dubious circumstances, benefiting from lenient enforcement and a lack of strict oversight. Environmental protection laws, if they exist, are inadequately enforced, and the consequences are evident in the scars etched into the hillsides.

Additionally, the lack of accountability is striking. Local communities have voiced concerns and environmental activists have raised alarms, yet there appears to be little political will to address the issue. Is it so difficult to prioritize sustainable development and to protect our natural heritage? Without stricter regulations and an active commitment to conservation, these hills are at risk of disappearing altogether.

If we are to save the Margalla Hills, we must act immediately and decisively. The government must adopt stringent measures to regulate stone-crushing operations, imposing hefty fines and penalties for unauthorized activities. A comprehensive, enforceable policy is needed to balance economic growth with environmental conservation. Instead of permitting indiscriminate stone-crushing, alternative sources of construc-

tion material must be explored, and technology that minimizes environmental damage should be mandated for any mining activities in the region.

Reclamation efforts should also be a priority. For the areas already affected, a robust reforestation and rehabilitation program could help restore some of the natural beauty and ecological stability of the Margalla Hills. Local communities could be actively involved in these conservation efforts, fostering a sense of stewardship and shared responsibility for the hills that define their home.

As we witness this destruction, we must remember that the Margalla Hills are more than just an economic resource. They are a legacy, a natural wonder that future generations should inherit. The continued degradation of the hills reflects not just an environmental crisis but a moral and cultural failure. To stand by idly as these green guardians are decimated would be to relinquish a precious part of Islamabad's soul.

Every stone crushed, every tree felled, is a piece of history lost, a natural refuge stolen from our children. We must act now to halt the stone-crushing operations, enforce stricter regulations, and adopt sustainable practices that ensure economic growth without sacrificing our environment. The Margalla Hills have given Islamabad much of its identity, beauty, and tranquility. It is time we honor that gift by fighting for their survival—before it's too late. While it is essential to cover all dimensions of such events, including security, it is equally important to present a more comprehensive view that reflects the broader goals of international summits like the SCO. I urge The News International to challenge such narrowly focused reports and advocate for a more balanced portrayal of Pakistan's role on the global stage.

Writer can be reached at Seemrababar50@gmail.com

Push Towards Sustainable Practices in Pakistan

Fazal Rehman Khan

The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism represents a pivotal shift in global trade. By aligning carbon pricing for imported goods with EU domestic production, CBAM aims to curb carbon leakage while motivating sustainable practices worldwide. For developing countries like Pakistan, this mechanism holds both challenges and opportunities, as industries will need to adapt quickly to meet these new standards. Pakistan, known for its exports in textiles, leather, and pharmaceuticals, may experience increased production costs under CBAM, especially if its industries continue relying heavily on fossil fuels. While the mechanism could place economic pressures on these sectors, it also pushes the country toward greener practices, encouraging industries to adopt sustainable production methods that can enhance competitiveness in the EU market. With timely adjustments and investment in clean energy and sustainable manufacturing, Pakistan can position itself favorably within these new trade dynamics. To address CBAM's demands, policymakers in Pakistan must focus on creating a supportive environment for low-carbon industrial practices. This could involve offering clean energy incentives, implementing carbon pricing mechanisms, and fostering international partnerships for technology transfer. Engaging with the EU for phased implementation support is equally crucial, along with establishing advisory services within the Ministry of Commerce to assist industries with compliance. A strategic and multi-faceted response will not only address CBAM requirements but also pave the way for a more sustainable economic future.

The global emphasis on sustainability, which CBAM underscores, also presents Pakistan with new growth avenues. Small and medium-sized

enterprises (SMEs), which form a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy, stand to benefit from international support geared toward fostering greener business models. Projects like the EU-funded Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress offer substantial support to SMEs across Sindh and Balochistan. By promoting sustainability-focused capacity-building and improved market access, GRASP enables Pakistani SMEs to align with the EU's environmental expectations, positioning them to secure a greater share in the global marketplace. Food safety, another critical factor for global market competitiveness, plays a significant role in Pakistan's export potential. Authorities like the Food Safety and Standards Authority of Pakistan (FSSAP), along with the Sindh and Balochistan Food Authorities, offer crucial guidance and training for SMEs, emphasizing compliance with international food safety practices. By adhering to these regulations, Pakistani brands can establish stronger reputations in global markets, meeting customer expectations and accessing premium pricing. Consistent compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards will ensure that Pakistan's exports meet high-value market requirements, helping the country expand its reach while enhancing economic growth. The global shift towards sustainability has placed Pakistan at a critical juncture. By adapting to CBAM requirements, supporting SME growth, and prioritizing food safety, Pakistan can align with emerging trends and reinforce its trade relationships with markets that prioritize environmental standards. The EU's CBAM requirements highlight a growing need for sustainable practices in global trade, pushing Pakistan to foster cleaner production methods and enhance transparency. Projects like GRASP are invaluable in preparing SMEs to compete in this landscape, and with a proactive approach, Pakistan can not only mitigate the initial economic impacts of CBAM but also secure a long-term competitive advantage.

Gilani for relentless efforts, innovative approach to achieve sustainable development goals

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday highlighting the country's multiple initiatives to achieve resilience and a sustainable future, called for relentless efforts, massive awareness, and an innovative approach to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The acting president, addressing the inaugural plenary of the 27th Sustainable Development Conference organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), highlighted the transformative role of technology and said that by harnessing advancement in artificial intelligence and blockchain, the social protection and inclusive growth could be achieved through innovative methods.

He told the gathering of cabinet members, academicians, environmental experts, think tanks and researchers that the promotion of sustainable practices necessitated fostering a culture of responsible citizenship and environmental awareness.



He commended the second edition of the Sustainability Investment Expo 2024 held alongside the moot to showcase cutting-edge technology, fostering collaboration and attracting investment.

He said the theme of the conference "From Fragility to Resilience: Enhancing Sustainable Development" was a reminder of the critical importance of transforming and turning vulnerabilities into strengths, besides innovation and adaptability.

He said the deliberations at the conference would be a clarion call for survival and prosperity as Pakistan being the fifth most vulnerable country, had been faced with the impacts of climate change.

Acting President Gilani called for efforts to reduce poverty, address gender disparity, ensure education, health, clean drinking water and development of infrastructure and environmental conservation.

He said that the country's progress was linked to the prerequisite of women's empowerment by providing them with education, employment and leadership as gender equality was not merely a moral imperative but also a key driver of sustainable development.

Mushaal writes to Rahul Gandhi to save Yasin's life

Fears hunger strike can be fatal for her husband health

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of jailed Kashmiri leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, has made a heartfelt plea to Rahul Gandhi, India's opposition leader, to intervene and save her husband's life before it's too late.

She's urged Gandhi to pressure the Indian government to immediately transfer Yasin to an intensive care unit (ICU) facility due to his rapidly deteriorating health, as he had gone on an indefinite hunger strike unto death on November 2 against Indian brutalities and illegal arrest and no legal or medical care in jail.

Mushaal, former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, wrote a letter to Congress leader



Rahul Gandhi requested him for immediate intervention to save the life of Yasin Malik from Indian judicial murder.

She appealed to the international community to take notice about the deteriorating health of Yasin, fearing that the hunger strike could prove

fatal for his health because he had already been in extremely unsanitary conditions due to denial of best medical facilities.

Mushaal urged Rahul Gandhi to initiate an urgent debate on shifting him to ICU facility in hospital immediately before it's too late.

She expressed alarm that the custodial killing of Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Ashraf Sherai Sahab and International Community's inability to do anything about it still haunts us, as the same pattern is being followed in the case of Yasin Malik.

Former SAPM stressed the need that right to be treated by a medical practitioner of own choice was a fundamental right as recognized under UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights; therefore India has no right to deny this right to Yasin Malik.

Team Pakistan Wins Grand Prize at Huawei ICT Innovation Competition 2023-2024 Global Final

Spokesman Report

SHENZHEN, CHINA: The Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 Global Final concluded with resounding success, spotlighting exceptional talent from around the world. This year's grand finale, hosted at Huawei's headquarters in Shenzhen, marked the culmination of an event that attracted over 170,000 students from more than 2,000 universities and colleges across 80 countries and regions. Among them, Pakistan's team Groc-POS emerged victorious, claiming the prestigious Grand Prize in the Innovation Competition.

The Huawei ICT Competition, now in its 8th edition, stands as a hallmark event organized by Huawei to foster a robust digital economy worldwide. It focuses on emerging technologies such as AI, IoT, big data, Huawei Cloud, and HarmonyOS, serving as a platform to assess students' innovation, entrepreneurship, and teamwork capabilities. This year's competition drew participation from more than 170,000 students globally, highlighting its growing significance in the tech industry's educational landscape.

The competition progressed through national and regional stages, with 27 teams from 16 countries and regions ultimately qualifying for the global final. Representing diverse backgrounds and technological expertise, these teams showcased their innovative solutions and strategic insights across a range of challenges posed by the competition.

Reflecting on the importance of accessibility in digital technologies, Zhou Hong, President of Huawei's Institute of Strategic Research, said: "To make sure everyone can truly enjoy the benefits of digitalization while such technologies are making radical progress, Huawei believes it is crucial

to guarantee that digital technologies are accessible to all."

The Groc-POS team from Pakistan, comprised of Usama Hameed Awan, Hamza Rehan, Abdullah Khalid, and their project supervisor Miss Sidra Khalid from the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences FAST Islamabad Campus, distinguished themselves with their groundbreaking project. Their innovation, titled "Groc-POS: A Vision powered retail solution" aimed to revolutionize the retail industry by optimizing inventory management, enhancing customer

engagement, and improving operational efficiency through advanced technologies. Their project not only demonstrated technical excellence but also practical application, which resonated strongly with the competition's judges and audience.

Before their journey to Shenzhen for the global final, the Groc-POS team received crucial support and guidance from Huawei, particularly Ahmed Bilal Masud, Deputy CEO of Huawei Pakistan. His motivational speeches and strategic advice equipped the team with the necessary tools to navigate the complexities of the competition. Huawei's global platform and expertise in digital technologies played a pivotal role in shaping the team's approach and

enhancing its competitive edge on the international stage.

The Groc-POS team expressed profound gratitude towards Huawei for providing them with invaluable opportunities for international exposure and expert guidance in the field of IT. They credited Huawei for not only sponsoring their participation but also for imparting strategic insights and technical expertise that were crucial in their journey to success.

The team emphasized that Huawei's support not only enhanced their project development but also broadened their horizons in the global tech industry, underscoring Huawei's commitment to nurturing and empowering young talent in the digital age.

Participation in the Huawei ICT Competition not only granted the Groc-POS team invaluable international exposure but also had a profound impact on their academic and professional lives. The experience enriched their university studies by allowing them to apply practical skills to theoretical concepts, and it gave them a significant advantage in job hunting as employers recognized their global achievement.

This life-changing event boosted their confidence and ambition, inspiring them to push boundaries and

pursue further innovations in the tech industry. The students expressed deep gratitude to Huawei for providing this transformative opportunity, acknowledging that it has opened doors and set a new trajectory for their future endeavours.

In conclusion, Pakistan's Groc-POS team's victory at the Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 Global Final highlights their exceptional innovation, showcasing Huawei's commitment to fostering global talent in digital technologies. This achievement underscores the collaborative spirit and creative ingenuity shaping the future of the global digital economy.

Moreover, Huawei's commitment to accessibility in digital technologies reflects its broader ethos of inclusivity and sustainability. Through initiatives promoting universal access to digital tools, Huawei aims to bridge the digital divide and empower communities worldwide. This approach not only enhances technological capabilities but also catalyzes social and economic development on a global scale.

In essence, Huawei's positive contributions extend far beyond technological innovation; they embody a vision of inclusive development and global connectivity. As Huawei navigates the complexities of the digital age, its commitment to excellence and sustainability positions it as a leader in shaping the future of technology and society, striving for a more connected and equitable world.



USA Government Launches Project to Restore Multan's Iconic Clock Tower



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Consul General in Lahore Kristin Hawkins inaugurated a U. S. government-funded project to restore Multan's iconic clock tower during a recent visit to South Punjab.

This project goes beyond just restoration of a historical landmark," CG Hawkins said. "It will support the clock tower becoming a vibrant community hub that showcases Multan's rich heritage and celebrates its unique artistic traditions."

The preservation project, in collaboration with the Walled City of Lahore Authority and THAAP, will also provide training to approximately 150 students relating to traditional crafts.

The clock tower restoration project is the latest in a long series of U. S.-funded cultural preservation projects in Pakistan. Over the past 20 years, the United States has supported 35 cultural preservation initiatives across Pakistan. The United States values its longstanding collaboration with Pakistan and is honored to play a role in the preservation of its rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Religious Freedom Violation and Intolerance Spark International Controversy



News Desk

LAHORE: South Korean local government cancels international event with 30,000 participants from 78 countries, causing international damage.

On October 29th, an administrative decision by a South Korean government agency sparked international controversy, raising concerns about religious freedom and causing substantial financial loss.

The "Religious Leaders Forum and Graduation Ceremony," a joint initiative by two prominent religious organizations, was set to take place in Paju, South Korea. The event was expected to draw over 30,000 participants from 57 countries, including 1,000 religious leaders representing Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism.

However, the Gyeonggi Tourism Organization, a public entity under Gyeonggi Province, abruptly canceled the venue rental without prior notice. This last-minute decision has resulted in significant financial damage to the international event. Organizers of this event stated that the cancellation constitutes an unconstitutional act of discrimination against a specific religion, violating religious freedom, human rights, and due process of law.

The hosting organizations, the Association for Buddhist National Unification of Korea and Shincheonji Church of Jesus, said that they had received official confirmation on October 23rd and 28th that there was no plan of cancellation. They also said that the unilateral cancellation was an unreasonable administrative action targeting a specific religious group.

The Gyeonggi Tourism Organization cited security concerns related to recent North Korean actions and the planned activities of a North Korean defector group as reasons for the cancellation. However, it was pointed out that other events, such as civilian bike rides and foreign tourist visits to the DMZ, were permitted within the same designated area.

Trump, Harris make last-ditch pleas to voters ahead of Election Day, with Muslims split on candidates



NEW YORK: Latest opinion polls show Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican challenger Donald Trump locked in a tight race after the two leaders made their closing pitches for the U. S. presidency over the weekend as Americans go to polls on Tuesday, with Muslim voters split on candidates.

In the past, American-Muslims were a solidly Democratic voting bloc, especially in the years following 9/11 and given Trump's overtly anti-Muslim rhetoric. But

they are very angry with the Biden administration – and, by extension, Ms. Harris, the vice president – for its blind support for Israel. Now a section of American-Muslims seem willing to overlook Trump's history of closeness with Israel's hard-right leaders. "If, and when, they say, when I'm president, the US will once again be stronger and closer [to Israel] than it ever was," Trump said last week. "I will support Israel's right to win its war."

Yet some national polls show Muslim-Americans slightly favouring the former president; others are increasingly vocal in support of the third outfit in the field – Green party's Jill Stein, a socialist who has been sharply critical of US blind to Israel and the genocidal war against Gaza.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani-American Public Affairs Committee (PAK-PAC USA) has already endorsed Donald Trump, the former president.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
91,938.00	90,859.85	
Day's High	Day's Low	
92,159.08	91,395.35	
Index Value	Change	
23,912,537,383	+1078.15	
Percentage	Time	
+1.19%	4 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,184.24	+7.09	
Percentage	Time	
+0.087%	4 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
41,753.10	-299.09	
Percentage	Time	
-0.71%	4 Nov, 12:20 pm GMT-5	
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	184.39
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.16	202.56
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.82	40.22
Euro	300.65	303.40
Hong Kong Dollar	35.35	35.70
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	75.56	76.26
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	207.37	209.37
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	320.15	322.45
Thai Bhat	8.18	8.33
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	358.20	361.7
US Dollar	277.35	278.85

Federal Minister for Finance meets TPG Capital to discuss investment opportunities

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with TPG Capital, led by Mr. Jide Olanrewaju, Partner at TPG. The meeting focused on strengthening investment ties and exploring opportunities to enhance economic growth in Pakistan.

During the meeting, Minister Aurangzeb highlighted the positive trajectory of Pakistan's economic indicators. He pointed out the notable decline in the current account deficit, which reflects improved economic stability. The Minister also emphasized the government's commitment to boosting exports through diversification strategies, noting that the recent efforts have resulted in a marked increase in export performance.



Furthermore, he announced that inflation has decreased to single-digit levels, a testament to

the government's effective economic management.

In line with the government's vision for sustainable economic growth, the finance minister discussed the ongoing structural reforms aimed at enhancing market conditions and creating a conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investments. These reforms are pivotal in attracting capital and fostering investor confidence in Pakistan's economic landscape.

Mr. Jide Olanrewaju of TPG Capital expressed keen interest in enhancing investments in climate transition infrastructure. He underscored the importance of attracting more capital to support sustainable development initiatives within the country. This aligns with the global shift towards greener investments and highlights TPG's commitment to responsible investing.

Discussions

TASHKENT: Pakistan's Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, engages in discussions with Uzbekistan's Minister of Investment, Industry, and Trade, Laziz Kudratov on Monday.



Photo: Online

InfraZamin Pakistan and Sunridge Foods Ink Deal for Agri-Infrastructure Sukuk



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: InfraZamin is pleased to announce a partnership with Sunridge Foods Limited in launching a PKR 2 billion Agri-Infrastructure Sukuk. This Shari'ah-compliant financing instrument will be issued by Sunridge Foods Limited, a subsidiary of Unity Foods Limited.

Maheem Rahman, CEO of InfraZamin Pakistan, expressed, "This transaction reflects InfraZamin's commitment to supporting the development of Pakistan's agriculture sector. By providing a

100% principal credit guarantee, we are facilitating access to capital markets and fostering sustainability through green energy initiatives and food security."

Farrukh Amin, CEO of Unity Foods, commented on the partnership, saying, "Our collaboration with InfraZamin and the launch of Sunridge's first agricultural infrastructure Sukuk is a transformative step for Unity Foods. This investment paves the way for us to enhance our facilities with cutting-edge, renewable energy solutions, enabling us to meet the rising demand for our products."

FPCCI Proposes Amendments in Petroleum Act 1934, says Atif Ikram Sheikh

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has appreciated Senator Musadik Malik, Federal Petroleum Minister and the Director General of Explosives at Ministry of Petroleum for responding to the concerns of trade and industry vis-à-vis the definition, handling, storage and licensing requirements of liquid hydrocarbon, mixed hydrocarbons and any other material or mixture containing hydrocarbons.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, proposed that the Petroleum Act



1934 should be updated to remove irrelevant or obsolete items in it; and, reflect only the necessary precautionary or safety measures. The petrochemical industry has evolved over the past many decades and we need to amend our laws accordingly, he added.

Meanwhile, SVP FPCCI recommended that the amendment incorporated in the Petroleum Act of 1934 on August 5, 2023, which introduced the above-mentioned clauses, should be deferred - as it will cause shortage of raw materials for varied industries pertaining to petrochemical products.

IHC dismisses petition against CCP's inquiry on Junior Hockey League

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has dismissed the petition filed by M/s Strawberry Sports Management (Private) Limited, affirming the regulatory powers of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP). This decision reinforces CCP's mandate to uphold fair competition practices under the Competition Act, 2010.

Strawberry Sports Management had challenged the CCP's inquiry report which concluded that no violation of competition laws had occurred when the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) refused to issue a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for a proposed junior hockey league. The petitioner contended that PHF's refusal constituted an abuse

of a dominant position under Section 3 of the Act. CCP's inquiry determined that there is no existing market for a junior hockey league in Pakistan and no statutory obligation for PHF to issue NOCs to third parties. Consequently, CCP concluded that PHF's actions did not amount to an abuse of dominance, and the refusal did not violate the Competition Act.

Justice Babar Sattar, in the ruling, emphasized that CCP had appropriately exercised its regulatory discretion in concluding the matter. The judgement confirmed that the findings in CCP's inquiry did not constitute an order under Section 41 of the Act and, therefore, were not subject to appeal. The Court's order emphasized that CCP adhered to principles of fairness and procedural propriety, ensuring due process.

Governor KPK visits Rawalpindi Chamber, addresses business community

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and engaged in a productive meeting with RCCI officials, including President Usman Shaukat, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, executive committee members, Former Presidents, Asad Mashadi, Raja Amer Iqbal, Saqib Rafiq, Vice Chairman of Loi Jirga Haji Muhammad Latif, women members, and a substantial number of business leaders from diverse sectors.

Chamber President Usman Shaukat welcomed Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, providing him with an overview of the Chamber's current activities and initiatives. President Shaukat emphasized that a significant portion of Rawalpindi's business activity is closely connected to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), highlighting Rawalpindi's role as a key trade route with Afghanistan and Central Asia, which facilitates two-way cargo transit and sustains millions of jobs. He urged the Governor to support business and infrastructure development in key sectors, particularly mining, minerals, and



tourism, which includes both domestic and religious tourism.

In response, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi reaffirmed the government's commitment to increasing business activity and addressing security concerns. He outlined the ongoing initiatives to improve infrastructure, enhance law enforcement capabilities, and promote economic growth in KP. "The government is utilizing all avail-

able resources to tackle law and order and improve security across the province, along with upgrading roads, educational institutions, and medical facilities," he stated. Governor Kundi underscored the importance of fostering cooperation among institutions to activate Central Asia's trade routes and emphasized that political stability and economic growth are essential goals that require the support of all political parties.

President FPCCI hopeful about single digit interest rate by early 2025

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: While welcoming reduction in interest rates by 2.5 percentage points in the Monetary Policy Statement (MPS), Mr. Atif Ikram Shaikh, President Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries has expressed the hope that the government would ensure a single digit interest rate by the start of 2025.

He said the government

is on the right track and the present move demonstrates the willingness of the government to listen to the concerns of the business community, represented by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI).

President FPCCI Atif Ikram Shaikh said this reduction will provide much-needed relief to the private sector, helping to boost economic growth and development.

easypaisa facilitates PKR 310 million in donations, amplifying pakistan's commitment towards charity

Commerce Desk

easypaisa continues its commitment to societal welfare, processing an impressive 310 million in donations through its platform as of 30th September 2024, including a significant contribution of PKR 91 million during the holy month of Ramadan. With a deep-rooted belief in the power of collective action, easypaisa contributed PKR 4.5 million, equating to PKR 1 for every PKR 20 donated by customers through the app, amplifying the impact of each contribution during Ramadan.

These donations were distributed to reputable charitable organizations such as Shaukat Khanum, Edhi Foundation, Al Khidmat Foundation, Maulana Tariq Jameel Foundation, and the Akhuwat Foundation. The funds made a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.

With more than 50 listed donation partners on the platform, easypaisa's initiative resulted in a 75% year-over-year increase in donations collected, with more than 268,000 transactions performed. Additionally, there was a 74% rise in unique users donating through the app, leading to a 51% increase in transactions in Ramadan 2024 compared to Ramzan 2023.

"The fact that Pakistanis chose easypaisa to contribute 310 million rupees in donations this year is a testament to the trust our users place in us," said Farhan Hassan, Head of easypaisa Wallet Business. "This record-breaking figure not only showcases the generosity of our nation but also highlights our platform's reliability and ease of use. We are profoundly grateful to our partners and customers for their unwavering support. We remain committed to contributing towards society through the power of collaboration and technology."

PCB chief comments on Pakistan's performance in first Australia ODI

Sports Desk

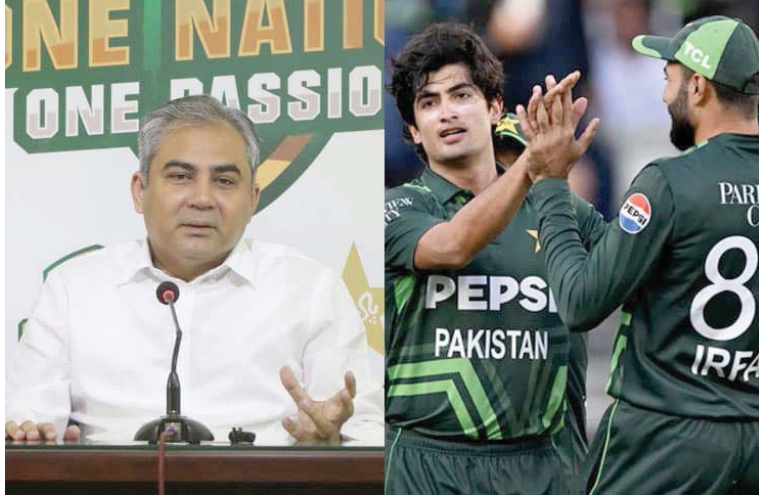
ISLAMABAD: Mohsin Naqvi, the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), on Monday commended the team's performance during the first ODI of the three-match series against Australia.

Pakistan's batting line-up was folded for a meagre 203 runs after being invited to bat first at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). However, the bowlers kept Pakistan in the match as they fought hard to defend the paltry total.

The hosts slipped from 113-2 to 155-7, courtesy of brilliant pace bowling by Haris Rauf and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

But Australian captain Pat Cummins held on to his nerves and steered his side to a thrilling two-wicket victory with an unbeaten 32-run knock.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi praised



the Pakistani players for their gutsy performance despite the defeat.

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He took to his official X (formerly Twitter) account and commended the performance while expressing hope that the team would make a resounding comeback in the series.

"Well done Pakistan Team for fighting a tough match against Australia! You boys gave it your all and fought in the best possible way. It's only the first match, and we're confident you'll make us proud. Keep pushing," Naqvi posted.

It's worth noting that the second match of the series will be played on 8 November in Adelaide, while Perth will host the third ODI on 10 November.

The ODI series will be followed by a three-match T20I series, scheduled to commence on November 14.

Brisbane will host the first T20I, with the next matches scheduled for November 16 and 18 in Sydney and Hobart, respectively.

Australian Cricket Team defeated Pakistan by two wickets in First One Day International Cricket Match

Asim Tanveer

MELBOURNE: In the first match of the three-match ODI series at the Melbourne Cricket Stadium Australia defeated Pakistan by two wickets. Although it was a low-scoring game, Pakistan's pace attack managed to restrict the Australian batting lineup. Fast bowler Pat Cummins led Australia to victory with his remarkable batting performance.

After winning the toss, Pat Cummins invited Mohammad Rizwan's team to bat first. The Pakistani team was bowled out for 203 runs in 46.2 overs. As usual, the openers failed, but the middle order stabilized the scoreboard, taking the score to 203. Mohammad Rizwan scored 44, Babar Azam 37, and Naseem Shah contributed 40 runs.

For Australia, Mitchell Starc took 3 wickets, while Pat Cummins and Adam Zampa claimed 2 wickets each, and Sean Abbott and Marnus Labuschagne took 1 wicket each.

Chasing Pakistan's target of 203 runs, Australia's start was similar to Pakistan's. With the total at 19, Matthew Short scored only 1 run before being caught by Saim Ayub off Shaheen Afridi's ball. Nine runs later, Naseem Shah gifted the second wicket to Pakistan when Jack



Fraser was caught by Irfan Khan.

Steve Smith and Josh Inglis created an alarm for Pakistan with an 85-run part-

nership for the third wicket. During this partnership, Smith's catch was dropped by Irfan Khan at 54. Later, Steve Smith was dismissed for 44 runs, caught by Saim Ayub off Haris Rauf; his innings included 6 fours. Sixteen runs later, Josh Inglis was caught by Irfan Khan at 49, giving Shaheen Afridi his wicket.

At a total of 139, Australia lost their fifth wicket when Haris Rauf bowled a delivery that led to Marnus Labuschagne being caught by Irfan Khan. Labuschagne scored 16 runs, including 2 fours. Glenn Maxwell was caught behind for no runs off Haris Rauf's delivery, bringing Australia to 139 with six wickets down. With three quick dismissals for no runs, Pakistan had made a strong comeback in the match.

Aaron Hardie was bowled by Mohammad Hasnain after scoring 10 runs, which included a four. Sean Abbott was run out for 13 by Salman Ali Agha's

throw off a Shaheen Afridi delivery. By this point, Australia had lost seven wickets.

After that, Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc used their experience to push Pakistan onto the back foot, ensuring no further losses over the next 32 runs. Australia chased down the target in the 34th over with eight wickets down. For Pakistan, Haris Rauf took 3 wickets, Shaheen Afridi claimed 2, and Mohammad Hasnain and Naseem Shah each took 1 wicket. Pakistani bowlers also conceded 20 extra runs.

Naseem Shah left the field due to an injury in the 8th over and will undergo a scan. Haris Rauf also sustained a minor injury after a fall. Two players, Kamran Ghulam and Irfan Khan, made their debuts, with Kamran scoring 5 runs.

The second One Day International match of the series will be held on Friday, November 8, in Adelaide Oval



Lahore District Kabaddi Tournament



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Tahir Malik Khalid Ghuman Kabaddi Club and Shah Suleman Kabaddi Club teams cruised into the semi-final of Khelta Punjab Games Lahore district Inter-Club Kabaddi tournament after winning their respective quarterfinal matches at Ashiana Housing Scheme Stadium, Kamahan Road near Ring Road on Monday.

In the first quarterfinal match of Khelta Punjab Games kabaddi event, Khalid Ghuman Kabaddi Club thrashed Bhaikot Kabaddi Club by a big margin of 41-24.

In the second quarterfinal match of Khelta Punjab Games Lahore district Inter-Club Kabaddi tournament, Shah Suleman Kabaddi Club defeated Khan Kabaddi Club by a wide difference of 41-23 points. District Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Abbas and Tehsil Sports Officer Waqar Sikander were also present on this occasion.

In earlier matches, Naeem Sandhu Kabbadi Club defeated Ganjay Sandhu by a difference of 40-32 and Tariq Kabaddi Club thrashed Baba Shah Noor Club by a margin of 44-30. On the other hand, Khelta Punjab Games Lahore district Inter-Club Cricket Tournament is under

way at Gaoshala Sports Complex Cricket ground on Monday under the auspices of Sports Board Punjab (SBP).

As per details, Niaz Baig Qalandars defeated Toheed XI by nine wickets in a match of Khelta Punjab Games cricket tournament. Assyab of Niaz Baig Qalandars hammered 59 runs and was declared man of the match. Toheed XI's Sher Ali struck an impressive knock of 50 runs but he could not change the result of the match in his team's favour.

Following are the results of other matches.

Free Batters beat Bright Morning Club by 59 runs at the same venue. Furqan and

Ahmed Iqbal of Free Batters scored 63 and 44 runs respectively.

Avengers Club beat Kings of Game Changers by 27 runs. Ahmed Hussain (39), M Irfan (38), Muneeb (28) and Hasnain (26) were the prominent scorers for Avengers. M Irfan was adjudged man of the match.

Lahore Fighters beat Baba Fareed XI by 7 wickets. Atif and Ahmed Gulzar of Lahore Fighters smashed 60 and 31 respectively.

Kash & Sports Cricket Club were awarded walk over against Saint Joseph Club who could not turn up for the match at the venue.

Alpine Club of Pakistan, Ascend Athletics discuss ways to support women in sports

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Alpine Club of Pakistan ACP & Ascend Athletics to build synergies for women empowerment: The Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) and Ascend Athletics (USA) recently had a session to discuss a potential partnership in a collaborative effort towards empowering young girls through sports. The discussion focused on the development of joint efforts to popularize rock climbing and sport climbing as avenues for physical and personal growth among young women in Pakistan. The two organizations presented extensive discussions of their ongoing activities and potential areas where they can support and reinforce each other's goals.

The meeting was brought to a close with the decision on having a joint rock climbing activity, which was supposed to take place in Islamabad and planned for February next year. Mr. Abu Zafar Sadiq, President of ACP, Karrar Haidri, Secretary of ACP, and Abdul Waheed Khan, Secretary PSAI, represented Alpine Club of Pakistan. Ascend Athletics is represented by Emily Cavanagh, as well as other female rock climbing instructors who are constantly training and mentoring young women.

Abdul Waheed Khan, Secretary PSAI said that he is eager about the initiative and offered to facilitate access to schools and colleges in Islamabad, as well as girls' participation. He mentioned that the value of the initiative lies in bolstering the confidence and resilience of young women.

Karrar Haidri, Secretary of ACP, thanked Ascend for their incredible efforts for spreading the words of sport and healthy activities among the young girls, especially, and around Gilgit-Baltistan. According to him now it's the time, and quite essential that the same programs must also be undertaken in Islamabad as thousands of young girls here face local problems, which will surely benefit them in achieving constructive, healthy activity. "This kind of program is a compulsion for our young girls to gain awareness, resolve problems boldly, and also get physical and mental development," said Haidri.

Abu Zafar Sadiq President of the Alpine Club of Pakistan appreciated the visit of Emily Cavanagh and the team of Ascend Athletics. He assured that the Alpine Club of Pakistan would provide full support for the future training programs of Ascend not only in Gilgit-Baltistan but also in other regions of Pakistan. This collaborative effort is a bright step forward in empowering the next generation of female athletes and creating opportunities for personal growth and empowerment through sports.

Newly appointed Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal takes charge of his office



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Tahir Malik The newly appointed Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal took charge of his post on Monday.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal had previously served as Deputy Commissioner Sahiwal, Vehari and Chiniot. He has also served as Additional Secretary Health and Additional DG Lahore Development Authority (LDA).

While talking after assuming his office, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal said that all possible measures will be taken for the development of sports culture across the province. "Attracting more and more youth towards sports and healthy activities is our mission," he expressed his determination. Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal said Khelta Punjab Games are a wonderful sports event. "We are quite upbeat to find several fresh talented athletes through this mega event," he added.

England, New Zealand, Zimbabwe women to tour Pakistan

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan will host England, New Zealand and Zimbabwe women's cricket teams for the first time as ICC announced Future Tours Programme 2025-29. Zimbabwe will tour Pakistan in April/May 2026, while New Zealand will tour Pakistan in April 2027. England will visit Pakistan in October in the same year.

The fourth cycle of the ICC Women's Championship, which will be played from 2026-29 will see 11 sides taking part in the event for direct qualification to the ICC Women's 50-over World Cup in 2029. Zimbabwe will feature in the event for the first time.

In the Women's Championship, each team will compete against eight other teams, following the format of four home and four away series, similar to the current edition. Across 44 series, a total of 132 ODIs will be played, with each series consisting of three matches.

In the Championship, the fourth side to visit Pakistan will be Bangladesh and they will come in October 2028. As part of their four away assignments, Pakistan will travel to South Africa in February 2026, and then play Sri Lanka in July the same year. Later in November 2026, Pakistan will visit the West Indies while their final away series in the ICC Women's Championship 2026-29 cycle will be in Ireland in June 2028.

The Future Tour Programme will see an ICC Women's tournament taking place every year, starting with the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 in India, the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in England, the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy in 2027 and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2028.

Also, to prepare for ICC events, members have mutually scheduled tri-series tournaments. Ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in England, Ireland will host Pakistan and the West Indies.

Home series:

v Zimbabwe; April 2026

v New Zealand; April 2027

v England; October 2027

v Bangladesh; October 2028

Away series:

v South Africa; February 2026

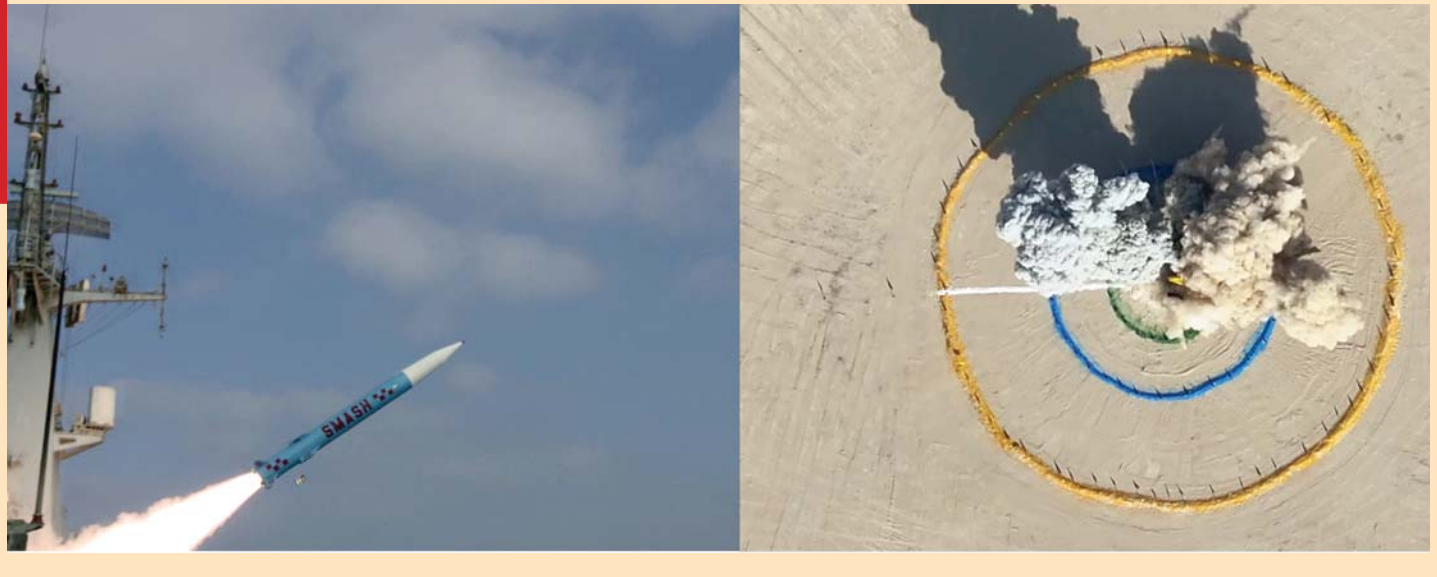
v Sri Lanka; July 2026

v West Indies; November 2026

v Ireland; June 2028

Allahu Akbar

Pakistan Navy conducts successful flight test of an indigenously developed Ship Launched Ballistic Missile.



Pakistan Navy conducts successful flight test of ship launched ballistic missile

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy conducted successful flight test of an indigenously developed Ship Launched Ballistic Missile. The Weapon System with 350 KM range is capable of engaging land and sea targets with high precision. The Weapon System is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation systems

and maneuverability features.

Flight test was witnessed by the Chief of the Naval Staff and Senior Officers from the Pakistan Navy and dedicated scientists and engineers.

The President, Prime Minister, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Services Chiefs congratulated participating Naval Units and Scientists on this excellent achievement.

Finance Minister Chairs the meeting of the ECC

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet at the Finance Division, today.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Musadik Masood Malik, Minister for Petroleum; Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Power; Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Economic Affairs; the Governor, State Bank of Pakistan; the Chairman, SECP; the Chairman, Board of Investment; Federal Secretaries; and senior officers from concerned ministries and departments.

During the meeting, several key agenda items were discussed and decisions were made.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MoIB)



presented a summary requesting a technical supplementary grant (TSG) of Rs. 95.822 million to settle the outstanding dues related to the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting. After deliberation, the ECC directed the ministry to reappropriate the funds from its allocated budget for the fiscal year 2024-25. In case of a shortfall of funds at the end of the fiscal year, the Finance Division will allocate a technical supplementary grant as needed.

Another request from MoIB for an additional TSG of Rs. 536.1 million for crucial digital initiatives was discussed. The ECC similarly directed the Ministry to reappropriate the required amount from its FY 2024-25 budget, with the possibility of supplementary

funds being allocated later, if required.

The Ministry of Industries and Production brought forward a summary regarding the Peshawar High Court's decision on the export of sugar from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Ministry emphasized that based on national data, the sugar production in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is less than the province's annual consumption of 0.979 million MT. The local deficit is usually met by sugar supplied from surplus-producing provinces such as Punjab and Sindh. Therefore, no sugar shortage is expected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, even with the current and any future exports allowed by the ECC. As a result, the ECC reiterated its earlier decision based on the provided national figures. However, the request and suggestions from the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were duly noted.

Uzbek-Pakistani Business Forum: Fostering Trade and Economic Collaboration

Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: Complementing the 9th Intergovernmental Commission meeting on Economic Cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, an engaging Uzbek-Pakistani Business Forum was held in Tashkent. This forum served as a dynamic platform for strengthening bilateral economic partnerships and facilitating business-to-business (B2B) interactions.

The forum witnessed robust participation, with 25 Pakistani companies from diverse sectors engaging in discussions with over 100 representatives from leading Uzbek enterprises. These B2B meetings spanned a variety of industries, including textiles, food processing, engineering, and logistics, underscoring the shared commitment of both nations to explore collaborative business opportunities.

During the Business Forum,



nearly 100 B2B meetings took place, allowing companies from both sides to explore new ventures, discuss potential partnerships, and establish meaningful trade connections. The sessions aimed to

promote investment and mutual growth by leveraging the economic strengths of both countries.

Addressing the forum, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal

Khan, highlighted Pakistan's investment-friendly environment and encouraged Uzbek businesses to consider collaborative projects in Pakistan. He emphasized that such interactions pave the way for

deepened commercial ties and contribute to regional economic stability.

Laziz Kudratov, Uzbekistan's Minister of Investment, Industry, and Trade, echoed these sentiments, welcoming Pakistani enterprises and emphasizing the Uzbek government's commitment to fostering a supportive atmosphere for international partnerships. He noted that initiatives like the Business Forum play a crucial role in propelling trade and investment forward, creating new opportunities for entrepreneurs.

This forum reinforced the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Commission meeting, showcasing a shared vision for robust and sustainable economic engagement. The comprehensive B2B exchanges demonstrated a practical approach to strengthening commercial bonds and set the stage for future cooperative projects.

Pakistan Railways need modern track to boost trade ties with Iran, Russia: Minister

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can be connected with modern railways to Iran, China and Central Asian countries through trade corridors while ensuring low cost and fastest cargo service can make the railway profitable.

These views were expressed by the Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan while presiding over a high-level meeting of the Focal Group to review the current status of track of Pakistan Railways and other important issues related to this Department. In this meeting Federal Secretaries of Railways, Industries and Communications, Chairman



National Highway Authority and other senior officials were also present. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that China and Russia can invest in improving the present infrastructure of Pakistan

Railways while we will offer for investment to the private sector instead of having loans to improve the Railways so that further financial burden can be avoided. Abdul Aleem Khan further said that this is

not temporary relief but we need long-term plan and policies for the improvement of the Pakistan Railways as there is no doubt that for the upgrade of the railway system, the train tracks have to be

safer, stronger and faster. He said that in developed countries, people take train travel as tourism and entertainment while our railway system is far behind that.

He directed that the pending issues between the National Highway Authorities and Pakistan Railway should be dealt with quickly. He said that according to the expectations of the customers, the cargo sector of the Railways has to compete with the private sector and meet the requirements of the present era. In the meeting of the Focal Group, the Secretaries of relevant departments and other senior officers also gave a briefing and presented various suggestions regarding the improvement of the Railway Department.

Minister for Finance holds meeting with Governor KPK

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi at the Finance Division today.

During the meeting, various issues pertaining to the overall economic situation, economic and

financial activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, challenges and opportunities following the merger of FATA and the impact of law and order on local economy in the province, came under discussion. Measures taken at the provincial and federal level for ensuring law and order in the affected areas and providing a secure business climate in the province were also discussed.

Foreign Secretary reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to UN peacekeeping



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch on Monday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to United Nations peacekeeping and multilateralism, pledging full support to reform and

strengthen the peacekeeping architecture for a safer, more stable world.

She was addressing the 28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) being held here at the Centre for International Peace and Stability.

Brigadier among two killed in Iran's helicopter crash

News desk

ISLAMABAD: An Iranian Revolutionary Guards Brigadier and another person were killed in a helicopter crash in Iran's Sistan province.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps "had an accident while conducting combat operations" in a border area, IRNA news agency said.

It said the crash happened in Sirkan, a city in Sistan-Baluchistan province, and identified the dead as General Hamid Mazanda-

rani, the commander of the Nineveh Brigade of Golestan province, and Hamed Jandaghi, a pilot of the IRGC ground forces.

It is important to mention here that President Raisi, his foreign minister and other senior officials, died when their helicopter crashed in a mountainous region near the Azerbaijan border on May 19.

According to Iran's state media, East Azerbaijan Province's Governor Malek Rahmati, and Mehdi Mousavi, the head of Raisi's guard team were also killed in the crash.

NADRA has policy regarding children deprived of parental identity: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar has said that there is a policy in NADRA regarding children deprived of parental identity.

These children are registered under this existing policy. Such children are required to belong to an orphanage or child protection unit registered with NADRA.

He was speaking on the resolution of Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri in the Upper House on Monday.

The Federal Minister of Information said that when ID cards are made for children without parents, names are put randomly in place of paternity.

He said that if ID cards are issued without parents, they will

be discriminated and there will be difficulties for them in the society.

He said that instead of sending this matter to the committee, the house should allow to have a meeting with the chairman NADRA. He said that under the current policy, 280 children have already been registered while it can be further improved.

If anonymous genealogy is written or ID cards are issued without parents, it will be difficult for these children to live in the society, he mentioned.

He said that orphanages and child protection units must be registered with NADRA and an effective system for identifying such children needs to be introduced in NADRA so that registration of such children could be possible.