



**Harris or Trump: America decides in knife-edge election**

US presidential race that will either make Kamala Harris the first woman president in the country's history or hand Donald Trump a comeback that sends shock waves around the world.



**Legislation not carried out for single person: Tarar on gov't fresh legal reforms**

In its bid to defend the passage of six amendment bills in the parliament, including one extending the fixed tenure of services chiefs up to five years and the other increasing number of judges in the apex and high courts, the gov't stood firm on the stance that the legislation was not carried out for a single person. He said that the tweaks were not introduced suddenly, as consultation was ongoing and Pakistan People's Party also taken into confidence.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Development**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveiling a plaque to mark the construction of Jinnah Avenue-9th Avenue intersection, on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

**PM breaks ground for two Rs 8bln interchanges**

**Spokesman Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday laid the foundation stones for two road-interchanges projects at Jinnah Avenue-Ninth Avenue and Serena-Convention Center intersections to ease traffic congestion on the main arteries of the federal capital.  
The prime minister, who unveiled the plaques for both mega road projects valued over Rs 8 billion, emphasized the swift completion of the work and believed that the projects would usher in an era of progress and prosperity for the residents of Islamabad and its suburbs.  
Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister said what was initially planned to be completed in six months will now be completed in just 100 days. The Serena Chowk project will be finalized in 60 days.  
He also extended his felicitations to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for his leadership in executing key projects.  
A detailed briefing on the plans was given to the prime minister by Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa, who outlined the designs and expected benefits of the projects for local residents and commuters.  
"Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi has maintained his exemplary record of Punjab and has shown great commitment to beautifying and modernizing Islamabad," the prime minister remarked and also appreciated Information Minister Attaullah Tarar's efforts in repairing and beautifying the SCO CHG conference hall.  
He praised the security arrangements made by law enforcement agencies, particularly the beautification of Islamabad for the recently successful conduct of the SCO CHG conference, which had been widely appreciated by foreign dignitaries including the Chinese and Russian premiers.  
In addition to the new infrastructure developments, Prime Minister Shehbaz asked the authorities concerned to maintain the aesthetic appeal of Islamabad as a permanent feature to amuse the guests coming from across the world and the country, and instructed to develop Islamabad as a global tourist hub, taking advantage of its natural beauty.

**Acting President Gilani calls for providing equitable public healthcare services**

**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday emphasized the importance of collective efforts to ensure everyone has access to healthcare facilities, stressing that providing equitable, low-cost, and quality healthcare was among the government's priorities. The acting president, addressing the two-day 14th International Public Health Conference-2024, organised by the Health Services Academy, said the basic medical facilities must reach those in need and added that a healthy environment was also must for the citizens along



with basic medical facilities.  
Acting President Gilani said that by understanding social and lifestyle factors, better policies and programs could be designed to address health issues. He said medical treatment facilities could be improved by combining research, innovation and practices, and assured that the issues raised by the institution would be resolved through the Standing Committee on Health. Vice-Chancellor of Health Services Academy Professor Dr Shahzad Ali Khan said that the institution had provided an effective platform to the people associated with the health sector and that the conference was a constant feature to build the capacity of doctors and the supporting staff. He said that the institution was pursuing the mission of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Shaheed who had given the concept of health workforce in the country. Zamurrud Khan, patron of Pakistan Sweet Home, said that the government was working on merging the Allied Health Professional Council and the Nursing Council. He called for reviewing the decision as both the entities had different working and the merger would create difficulties. Registrar of Health Services Academy Professor Dr Muhammad Abdullah Khan, Deputy

**Participants of 26th National Security Workshop visit Naval Headquarters Islamabad**



**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The participants of the 26th National Security Workshop, led by Director General Institute of Strategic Studies and Research Analysis (ISSRA) Major General Muhammad Raza Aizad, visited Naval Headquarters.  
The workshop participants received a briefing on contemporary maritime challenges and Pakistan Navy's response options, including PN's contributions to maritime awareness and socio-economic development of coastal communities. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf also engaged with the participants.  
In his address, the Naval Chief elaborated on issues related to maritime security and Pakistan's blue economy potential. He emphasized on the efforts to enhance maritime and coastal security through Regional Maritime Security Patrols and Coastal Security & Harbour Defence initiatives.  
The visiting delegation, comprising parliamentarians, politicians, bureaucrats, Armed Forces officers, and representatives from civil society, highly appreciated the Pakistan Navy's efforts and offered valuable suggestions.

**Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan to head seven-member constitutional bench**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
ISLAMABAD: Judicial Commission constitutes 7-member constitution bench— Breaking News—Aaj news  
The Judicial Commission of Pakistan appointed on Tuesday Justice Amin-ud-din Khan as the head of the constitutional bench in the Supreme Court of Pakistan.  
"Following a vote, the majority (7 out of 12) approved a seven-member Constitutional Bench with representation from all the four provinces for a term of two months," said a statement from the JCP secretary.  
Justice Amin-ud-din Khan is the fourth senior-most judge in the apex court.



Justice Khan along with Justice Ayesha Malik would represent Punjab on the bench while Justice Nacem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail would represent Balochistan.  
Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi will represent Sindh while Justice Musarrat Hilali will represent KP on the bench.  
The JCP reconstituted under the 26th Constitutional Amendment, convened its first meeting at the SC, Islamabad.  
Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi, who is the JCP chairman, presided over the meeting.  
Justices Mansoor Ali Shah, Munib Akhtar, Amin-ud-Din Khan; Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar; Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan; PPP Senator Farooq Hamid Naeq; PTI Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, PML-N Sheikh Aftab Ahmad; PTI MNA Omar Ayub Khan, and Ms. Roshan Khurshid Bharucha attended the meeting.

**Justice Munib and Justice Mansoor write letter to CJP Afridi to list 26th amendment case**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
ISLAMABAD: Two senior justices of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar, have written to Chief Justice Yahya Afridi demanding a full court bench hearing for the case challenging the 26th Constitutional Amendment. The justices requested the hearing take place this week.  
In a joint letter, Justices Shah and Akhtar detailed their efforts to convene a committee meeting on October 31 to discuss the matter. Following the Chief Justice's failure to convene the meeting, the two justices, acting under Section 2, called the meeting themselves. The committee subsequently decided to hear the case before a full court bench on November 4.  
However, despite this decision, no cause list was issued, the letter said. The justices stated that the Registrar's office was informed of the decision, and its implementation is mandatory. They expressed deep regret that the full court hearing has not been scheduled, reiterating that the committee's decision remains in effect and must be acted upon.  
The letter also instructed the Registrar to publish the meeting minutes of October 31 on the website.  
The 26th Constitutional Amendment is currently being challenged in the Supreme Court by six lawyers, including a former president of the Supreme Court Bar. The petitioners argue that the amendment violates fundamental rights and the basic structure of the constitution, claiming that votes were coerced from parliamentarians and questioning the legitimacy of the parliament itself.  
They contend that the amendment interferes with the independence of the judiciary and the separation of powers, citing the establishment of parliamentary committees to appoint the Chief Justice as an example of judicial interference. The petitioners also request the court to prevent the convening of the Judicial Commission for the appointment of judges. The petitioners named the federation and provinces as respondents.  
It is important to note that the Supreme Court (Amendment) Practice and Procedure Ordinance 2024 came into effect on September 20th after being signed by President Asif Zardari.

**JUI-F rejects legislations related to Supreme Court, armed forces**

**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl rejected on Tuesday the legislation related to the Supreme Court and armed forces as it claimed that the government attempted to extend its tenure using clauses that were removed from the constitutional amendment's original draft.  
"The behavior exhibited by the Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz is not democratic in any way," JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghauri told reporters.  
"We reject legislation from the assembly with a fake mandate."  
The federal government steamrolled "key" bills — pertaining to the higher judiciary and the tenure of the services chiefs — through Parliament on Monday amid the opposition's protest and sloganeering.  
The six bills were passed from the National Assembly on Monday within 24 minutes, and then from the Senate in just 16 minutes, without allowing any debate.

# Jammu martyrs' Day to be remembered as 'black day' for Kashmir: Former PM

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that November 6 is the name of the terrible memory of the brutality and human enmity of the Dogra rulers and extremists of Jammu Martyrs when millions of Muslims of Jammu were massacred and the scars of peace and humanity were scattered.

In a message on the occasion of Jammu Martyrs' Day, Former Prime



Minister said that November 6 is a black day in the history of Kashmir. On that day, the Muslims of Jammu were killed at the place of Sanba on the pretext of bringing them to Pakistan. Out of millions of Muslims, a very small number of them reached Pakistan.

Sardar Attique said that this plan to massacre Muslims was the result of the nexus of the Dogra government and Hindu extremists. Today, this same Hindu mindset has dominated India, which is why the dangers for South Asia have increased.

He said that the martyrs of Jammu

sacrificed for the completion of Pakistan and even today the Kashmiri people are taking this mission forward. India's oppression continues even today and nine lakh Indian troops are ready to massacre Kashmiris.

At this stage, the people of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan will have to confront Indian oppression and convince the world that peace is not possible in South Asia without resolving the Kashmir issue, he warned. He said that the youth will have to play an active role to keep the sacrifices of the martyrs of Jammu fresh, he added.

## Arrival

MULTAN: MPA Rana Iqbal Siraj presenting bouquet to the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani upon his arrival at Multan International Airport on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Water scarcity threatens traditional craft industry in Sujawal



**Kamran Khamiso Khawaja**

SUJAWAL: A severe water scarcity in Sujawal district has led to a decline in the growth of straw and weed, a vital raw material for local artisans. The weed and straw, which grow in ponds and small lakes, is used to craft essential items like mats, baskets, and shelters.

Several families in remote areas of Sujawal rely on the water hyacinth and straw craft industry for their livelihood. However, the water shortage has severely impacted their business, similar to the decline in fishing.

A middle-aged woman from a Sujawal village, Amina Amro revealed that her family has been making mats from water-weed and straw for generations. She lamented that the current water scarcity has resulted in significant financial losses for them.

She further said that they had to travel long distances in search of weed, however the process of transforming weed into mats and baskets was always cumbersome.

Allah Bachayo Jat, a local craftsman, said that people in villages used straw-made shelters to protect their houses

from harshness of weather, particularly scorching heat.

Another laborer Noor Ahmed said that due to a decline in growth of raw material this year they were unable to earn a substantial amount from this business.

The craftsmen from Jati, Daro, Mirpur Bathoro and Chuhar Jamali earn their livelihood through this business. The craftsmen urged concerned authorities to promote this business at a mega level so that poor masses associated with this business can improve their quality of life.

## Suspected drug smuggler in Attock arrested after successful operation

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Successful Operation by Attock Police: Attempt to Smuggle Drugs by Inter-Provincial Drug Smuggler Foiled, 10 Kg of Drugs Seized. According to details, under the vision of the Chief Minister of Punjab and the directives of the IG Punjab, Attock District Police Officer Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan is leading an active campaign against drug dealers. Continuing this drive, a team from Jand Police Station intercepted a vehicle, a Hiace coming from Kohat, at the Search Park Pickett Mankor.

Suspecting one of the passengers, Ahmar Hassan, son of Gul Zaree Shah, resident of Dhok Noor Muhammad, Dakhana Sani Gambat, Tehsil and District Kohat, they conducted a search of his shopping bag and found 10 kg of hashish. A case was filed under the Narcotics Act, and the accused was taken into custody.

District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan commended the Search Park Pickett Mankor team and stated that eliminating drugs and preventing crime are top priorities for Attock Police.

## Kisan Livestock Card Scheme launched in Attock District

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif, and the guidance of the Secretary Livestock, Government of Punjab, the Kisan Livestock Card Scheme has been officially launched across Punjab, including Attock District. The purpose of this initiative is to increase meat production and promote livestock fattening. Under this program, the Government of Punjab will provide easy loans to livestock farmers. Through this scheme, livestock owners who have five or more calves or young animals can avail of interest-free loans ranging from PKR 135,000 to PKR 270,000 through the Bank of Punjab for a period of five months. With the efforts of Director General Livestock Punjab, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, and Director Livestock Rawalpindi Division, Dr. Naveed Sahar Zaidi, the registration process for this program has begun. A comprehensive awareness campaign is underway in all four tehsils of District Jhelum, providing information about the program through activities such as Kisan Livestock Meetings, Mobile Veterinary Dispensaries, and School Focus Programs. Additionally, informational banners and help desks have been set up in hospitals. Livestock owners who have five or more calves or young animals can send their national ID card number along with "PLC" to the helpline number 8070. After verifying eligibility through an automated system, the Kisan Livestock Card will be issued. With this card, livestock owners can purchase feed, silage, mineral mixtures, and medicines to help their animals gain weight and fetch a better price in the market.

## Takht Bhai Hospital ranks second in outpatient services in Mardan: MS

**Tariq Khan Yousafzai**

TAKHT BHAI: Medical Superintendent of Takht Bhai Hospital, Imran Johar, has stated that despite limited resources, the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital (THQ) is providing basic healthcare facilities to the public. Takht Bhai THQ Hospital ranks second in outpatient services (OPD) in Mardan district, after MMC and DHQ, and also ranks second in emergency and OPD services. The hospital has various machines, including an echocardiogram machine, generator, tube well, and lift, but lacks operators for these. Additionally, the posts of laundry attendant and prayer leader are vacant. The hospital also does not have specialists in radiology or anesthesia. Despite these challenges, OPD attendance has exceeded 28,000, and the labor room and laboratory are fully functional, providing free services to the public in all wards. There is a sufficient supply of vaccines for rabies and snake bites, and a ward for dengue patients has also been set up, with dengue test kits provided promptly by the provincial government. Imran Johar urged the public to remember that Takht Bhai Hospital was established by the provincial government for their welfare, and the hospital is committed to providing health services.

## Jammu massacre worst example of genocide and ethnic cleansing: DFP

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

SRINAGAR: While paying eulogizing tributes to martyrs of Jammu, Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has said that the massacre of Muslims in Jammu in 1947 at the hands of Hindu fanatics was the most horrible incident of Kashmir that continues to haunt Kashmiris despite the passage of seventy-seven years.

In a statement issued here today the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal said, "Hindu extremist aided and abetted by Dogra Maharaja wiped out the entire Muslim population of the entire province with a mala-fide intent to alter demography of the region".

Termining it as a worst example of genocide and ethnic cleansing Iqbal said that during the intervening period of time (27 Oct 1947 to 6 Nov 1947) thousands of Muslims were massacred in Jammu region by mobs led by the extremist Hindus, whereas tens of thousands of hapless families were forced to flee and take refuge in newly formed state of Pakistan.

## IGP Muhammad Khalid Khan Khattak appointed as National Coordinator of NACTA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Interior Tuesday appointed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Muhammad Khalid Khan Khattak as the National Coordinator of the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA).

According to a notification, IGP Khattak, an officer of the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) with nearly three decades of distinguished service, now holds one of the most critical roles in Pakistan's counterterrorism landscape.

With 29 years of extensive experience in policing and law enforcement, IGP Khattak has an impressive track record, having served in diverse roles at both the federal and provincial levels. His career, which began in November 1995 when he joined the PSP, spans roles that include fieldwork, strategic positions in the Ministry of Interior, and responsibilities as a Staff Officer to the Inspector General of Police.

He has commanded several districts, led teams on the ground, and managed crucial law enforcement portfolios, underscoring his deep expertise in public safety and security.

IGP Khattak's record is equally notable in specialized domains. He has held the role of Additional Director at the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), focusing on white-collar crimes and immigration. His experience extends to the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), where he directed three critical areas: International Cooperation (IC), Assets and Financial Investigation (AFI), and Planning & Development (P&D). This multifaceted experience has endowed him with a comprehensive understanding of security, investigation, and law enforcement challenges within Pakistan and in the international arena.

Previously, IGP Khattak also served as the Capital Police Chief of Islamabad, where he was responsible for overseeing the security of the federal capital. This role tested his abilities in managing urban security concerns, countering organized crime, and maintaining public order in the nation's capital.

In his latest role at NACTA, Khattak had been serving as the Member of Counter-Terrorism, making him the senior-most officer at the agency. His appointment as National Coordinator not only leverages his current expertise in counterterrorism but also positions him at the helm of NACTA's strategic and operational functions.

IGP Khattak's academic background includes a Bachelor's degree in Sciences and Political Science, further complemented by his participation in specialized courses on policing, management, human rights, and gender issues. His training spans both national and international platforms, underscoring his commitment to continuous learning and adaptation in the fast-evolving field of law enforcement.

IGP Khattak's appointment comes at a time when Pakistan faces complex challenges in counterterrorism and internal security. His extensive experience in managing white-collar crime, narcotics, immigration issues, and counter-terrorism efforts, coupled with his field experience and strategic roles, makes him uniquely suited for this critical assignment.

## U. S. Presidential Election Day: Trump or Kamala Harris—The Crucial Day Arrived

The U. S. has reached the decisive day for choosing its 47th president. Former President Donald Trump (Republican) and Vice President Kamala Harris (Democrat) are the main contenders. With over 80 million votes already cast, polling takes place today, and to win, a candidate needs 270 out of 538 electoral votes. Elections are also being held for 435 Representatives, 33 Senators, and Governors in 13 states.

Polling will start and end at different times across six U. S. time zones, with

over 180 million people expected to vote. Early voting shows fluctuating leads

between Trump and Harris in key states, including North Carolina (55% turnout) and Georgia (50%). The first results will come from Dixville Notch in New Hampshire, where three votes each were cast for Trump and Harris. Voting in other areas will begin later in the day. Seven key swing states, holding 93 elec-

toral votes, are expected to be crucial in determining the winner. Recent polls

show a tight race in Pennsylvania, with both candidates at 48%. Muslim voters are playing a significant role, responding to U. S. policies on Gaza.

Trump and Harris made final campaign claims—Trump calling Harris a "radical left-wing fool," while Harris expressed readiness to become

president.

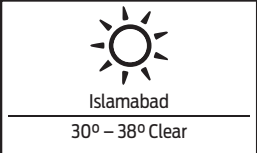
Pakistani-Americans, along with other foreign nationals, are actively participating in the election, with several Pakistani-American candidates running for office.

Enhanced security measures have been implemented nationwide, including the activation of National Guard units in multiple states to ensure a safe election process. The winner will take office in January 2025, as U. S. presidential elections occur every four years, with no individual allowed to serve more than two terms.

Analysis



Ahsan Ansari



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 5:06 am  
 Zohr ..... 11:51 am  
 Asr ..... 3:34 pm  
 Maghrib ..... 5:12 pm  
 Isha ..... 6:37 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
 Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**BISP DG inspects Benazir Kafalat camps in Tando Muhammad Khan**

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: DG Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Sindh, Zulfiqar Sheikh, made an unannounced visit to Tando Muhammad Khan to review the distribution of Benazir Kafalat funds. He inspected special payment camps established at Mono Technical College in Tando Muhammad Khan, as well as in Bulri Shah Karim and Jhanhan Somra. During the visit, he addressed complaints about deductions on the spot and black-listed three agents involved in unauthorized cuts. Deputy Director Shafaquallah from Islamabad and District Director Faisal Mustafa, who were present for district monitoring, briefed him. They informed him that there are 50,500 eligible households in the district, 75% of whom have already received payments. Following this, the number of campsites was reduced from eight to four. The purpose of these camp sites is to ensure that eligible

# ICCI, NUML unite to bridge Industry-Academia gap through Strategic Collaboration

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and National University of Modern Languages (NUML) have agreed on building a partnership to support industry-academia collaboration to equip students with industry-relevant skills to enhance their employability upon graduation. This significant understanding has been reached during a meeting between President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nasir Mansoor Qureshi and Rector National University of Modern Languages Maj. Gen. Shahid Mahmood Kayani during the former's visit to the NUML. On his part President ICCI proposed the establishment of a structured skill development program focusing final-semester students to align with current industry demands through practical skills that would better prepare them for professional roles. It was also agreed upon that ICCI would support NUML in identifying

skill areas that are in high demand within the business and industry sectors, as well as in facilitating guest lectures, workshops, and potential internships.

Maj. Gen. (R) Shahid Mahmood Kayani responded positively to the proposal, recognizing the importance of the practical skills program for students and its alignment with NUML's mission to foster well-rounded, employable graduates. He assured full cooperation from NUML in developing and implementing this program in collaboration with the ICCI.

The sides also agreed to establish a working committee comprising representatives from ICCI and NUML to outline the details and implementation timeline for the skill development program. A follow-up meeting was proposed to finalize the structure, curriculum, and launch date of the program.

ICC members Naem Siddiqui and Adnan Mukhtar also accompanied the ICCI President.



## Traditional Tea

ISLAMABAD: A vendor is prepares traditional Kashmiri tea at his roadside workplace at Aabpara Market, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Executive Director Muhammad Majid Tanveer visits PAC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Executive Director of Punjab Arts Council, Muhammad Majid Tanveer, visited the Punjab Arts Council in Rawalpindi. He was warmly welcomed by the Director of Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain, Deputy Director Muhammad Shakoor, Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman, and Assistant Director Sarfraz Khan upon his arrival. During the visit, the Executive Director toured the auditorium, art gallery, art classes, and office block of the Punjab Arts Council. Director Sajjad Hussain briefed him on the Council's seasonal performance and activities. While briefing on the Lok Virsa Festival, the Director Arts Council shared that 50 master artisans from across the province have been invited to the Punjab Pavilion. Folk artists from all corners of Punjab will perform at the festival, with traditional dances like Bhangra, Luddi, Jhumar, and Simi also being showcased in the pavilion



At the end of the briefing, Executive Director Majid Tanveer also inaugurated an art exhibition featuring artworks by Khurram Shahbaz Babri, Muhammad Azeem Iqbal, and Muhammad Younas Rumi. As the chief guest, Majid Tanveer encouraged the artists, noting that artists

are regarded as messengers of peace worldwide. He appreciated Punjab Arts Council's commitment to providing a platform for artists, where young painters can exhibit their work without any fee. The exhibition attracted a large number of visitors from the twin cities.

## Dr. Iqbal Choudhary Awarded Honorary Professor Title by Eurasian National University

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, a renowned scientist and researcher, has been awarded the prestigious title of Honorary Professor by the Rector of L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University (ENU) in Astana, Kazakhstan. This recognition honours his significant contributions to research and training Kazakh students over the past three decades. During the award ceremony, Prof. Choudhary's impact on the scientific community was highlighted, underscoring his ongoing dedication to fostering academic collaboration.

Prof. Choudhary is also a distinguished recipient of the Doctor of Science degree from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, further cementing his strong academic ties with Kazakhstan.

During his recent visit to ENU, Prof. Choudhary engaged in productive discussions with the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, along with the heads of the Departments of Chemistry, General Biology, Genomics, Biotechnology, and Microbiology. These meetings focused on advancing research collaborations between the university and international institutions.

## Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association reviews performance at 54th international camp

GUJRAT



Aanwer Chohan

GUJRAT: Meeting of the executive committee of the Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue, Khizar Hayat Bhatti, at the Deputy Commissioner's office. The meeting reviewed the performance and the 54th international camp. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Khizar Hayat Bhatti stated that every year, more than 10,000 children are born with cleft lips and palates, and the organization plays a vital role in preserving children's smiles. Parents of children affected by cleft lip and palate can approach the Cleft Hospital in Gujrat for treatment.

Gujrat's business community actively participates in humanitarian work, with numerous philanthropic projects being run by Gujrat's benefactors. Chairman Dr. Ijaz Bashir, Aziz ur Rehman Mujahid, Rizwan Dildar Chaudhry, Chaudhry Karamat Ullah, Muhammad Arif Khan, Mirza Ashfaq Bashir, Aamir Mushtaq Shami, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, and Fayaz Malik were also present on the occasion.

## Restaurant Caterers' Association reject proposed gas tariff increase

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: President Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry said that about 20 million people are associated with the food industry of Pakistan. The business community and common citizens have been severely affected by gas prices for the past one year. Last year too, gas prices for commercial consumers were increased by 110%. However, it is being told by Sui Gas Department that further increase in gas prices is required to transfer their salaries to UFG and RLNG. We reject this proposed addition in its entirety.

President Restaurant Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry told reporters on his return from the hearing that he along with Chairman Association Mumtaz Ahmed participated in the hearing held by OGRA regarding needle gas tariff at needle gas head office Lahore. The hearing was conducted by Chairman OGRA Masroor Khan along with Member Oil Zainul Abidin and Member Finance Naem Ghori. Representing the food sector, President Restaurant Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry and Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed said in their arguments that about 200 million people are associated with the food industry of Pakistan, as well as common people who are part of the needle gas department. All these people have been severely affected by gas prices over the past year. Last year too, gas prices for commercial consumers were increased by 110%. Despite the fact that Sui Gas Department is telling us that further increase in gas prices is required to transfer their salaries to UFG and RLNG, we completely reject this proposed increase.

## CCP engages Law students on Competition Law at Quaid-Azam University

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), as part of its partnership with the Directorate of Legal Education (DLE), held an interactive session at the School of Law, Quaid-e-Azam University. This initiative, part of CCP's ongoing commitment to fostering legal knowledge and advocacy, brought together students and professionals to discuss key aspects of competition law.

Ms. Bushra Naz Malik, Member CCP, highlighted the Commission's core principles of transparency, integrity, and independence, encouraging law students to embody these values in their future careers.

Mr. Usama Malik, Director, Directorate of Legal Education highlighted the significance of the session as a valuable



learning opportunity for students. Mr. Hasan Raza Pasha, Member Executive, Pakistan Bar Council

discussed how market manipulation, particularly by cartels and intermediaries, places a burden on consumers.

Dr. Hafiz Aziz ur Rehman, Director, School of Law, Quaid-e-Azam University, expressed appreciation for the session, calling it an essential foundation for students' understanding of market dynamics.

The session also included presentations on an overview of the legal framework, key components, and enforcement mechanisms of Competition Law in Pakistan. Mr. Ahmed Qadir, Director General and Ms. Ayesha Nayab, Deputy Director shared real-life case studies to illustrate the practical enforcement of competition law. Students took a keen interest and raised pertinent questions throughout the session.

The Directorate of Legal Education, established by the Pakistan Bar Council in accordance with a Supreme Court directive, is mandated to enhance the quality of legal education nationwide.

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# Smoggy cities in dire need of mass transit system

**A Majid**

**U**nbridled population growth, rural to urban mass influx and rising vehicular number had made our major cities suffocating as smog engulfs them in very onset of every winter till the end of season exposing thousands to serious ailment.

Faisalabad, third largest city of the country with over four million urban population is also a victim of this phenomenon with thousands smoke emitting vehicles plying on its roads making it stuffy and polluted, creating health and travelling issues.

Pollution caused by loaders, busses, cars, bikes, rickshaws etc with many using sub-standard fuel as well as brick kilns and industrial units releasing smoke, liquid and solid waste cumulatively make lives of people miserable. Improper implementation of environmental laws, poor urban planning and absence of mass transit system also emerge as major factors to aggravate this situation.

As experts suggest solutions like strict action against environment polluting vehicles and industrial units, they also advocate a holistic traffic and mass transit system to rid people of the nuisance of QingQi rickshaws. Although road transport system in the city at present usually seems like uncontrollable. But, a couple of past experiences offer varying results when this sector was successfully regulated.

“Tasneem Noorani, the Commissioner Faisalabad in early 1990s was the pioneer to upgrade city’s master plan and regulated buildings and urban transport. His initiative of Faisalabad Urban Transport System (FUTS) was widely appreciated,” said Rana Munir Ahmed, a retired government official. “Thereon, this legacy was carried forward by Deputy Commissioner Naseem Sadiq.”

“Now once again, the city direly needs a well-planned mass transit system to reduce vehicular population on roads, control traffic congestion and facilitate commuters,” he said. “It would also help reduce vehicular emission and pollution.”

The existing urban transport system was launched in 1994 on 20 routes as a cheap and affordable service to benefit almost 1.7 million Faisalabad residents. But in the absence of proper follow up this system deteriorated with the population grew to four millions making it more messy and stuffy.

The gap occurring due to insufficiency of urban transport was filled by QingQi rickshaws, an irritating and problematic mode of travelling that not only spoiled the traffic system but also environment. Similarly, a government project of big buses launched in 1999 on major city roads also faded away gradually, once again shifting the passengers load to private sector small wagons and rickshaws.

Therefore, taking cognizance of deteriorating situation, the present Punjab

government is planning another systematic mass transit system to address the traffic and pollution issues in this city once called ‘Manchester of Pakistan.’

“Metro bus service would be a mega, affordable and comfortable intra-city transport facility for the residents,” informed Chaudhary Muhammad Asif, Managing Director (MD) Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA). “The present Punjab government has planned to run metro buses on 35 routes under a project to be completed in phases.”

He said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has come forward to fund this project to be completed at an estimated cost of Rs.70 billion to offer affordable and respectable travelling mode to middle class and low income groups.

“Initial work on this project is being completed in consultation with stakeholders. FDA would execute it and the government would provide 100 vehicles to ply on eight routes with heavy passengers load,” Asif said. “This network of environment-friendly buses can later be extended to other routes.”

According to local administration spokesman, the initial eight routes identified for these buses include from Gattwala Bridge to Bholay Di Jhuggi, Rehmat Abad to Montgomery Bazaar, Gattwala Bridge to Canal Station, Faisal Town to Rajbah Road, Montgomery Bazaar to Sadhar Bypass, Rail Bazaar to Chak Jhumra and from Satiana Bypass to Rajbah Road.

In second phase, he informed eight

more routes would be added to system from Millat Road to Bakkar Mandi Road, Chak Jhumra to Bholay Di Jhuggi, Diyal Garh to Millat Road, Rail Bazaar to D-Ground, Chaman Zar Colony to Chak No.8, Rajbah Road to Bibi Jaan Road, Allied Morr to new Sabzi Mandi and from Muslim Town to Rajbah Road.

“In remaining three phases, 370 standard buses would be added to this system to cover 35 routes in 40 kilometer radius of the city,” the spokesman explained.

As mass transit systems are often seen skeptically by the private transporters, they fear losing their business and seek a shared mechanism with their participation as well.

“The government should devise a comprehensive transport system on public-private partnership basis,” opined Anwar Khan, a wagon owner. “Faisalabad is a congested metropolis unsuitable for big buses and this experiment had failed in the past.”

He may be right but it seems like a shabby argument of vested interests as they fear it would hurt their monopoly. As if Metro bus service can be run in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, BRT in Peshawar and Green Line in Karachi, then why not a mass transit in Faisalabad.

Therefore, the government should briskly move forward on this project to ease out masses suffering as traffic on city roads presently feels like ungovernable and traffic wardens helpless due to massive load.

## BRICS Summit

**W**hen, back in 2006, a group of emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India and China — formed BRIC, becoming BRICS when South Africa joined in 2010, it was aimed at countering the dominance of the US and its Western allies in the world economy to their detriment. They joined forces to demand more balance, equity, prosperity and justice for their countries.

But by holding its annual summit in the Russian city of Kazan last month, especially as it was hosted by President Vladimir Putin, for whom the International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for alleged war crimes in Ukraine, this fast-expanding forum dented its reputation and undermined its just causes and objectives.

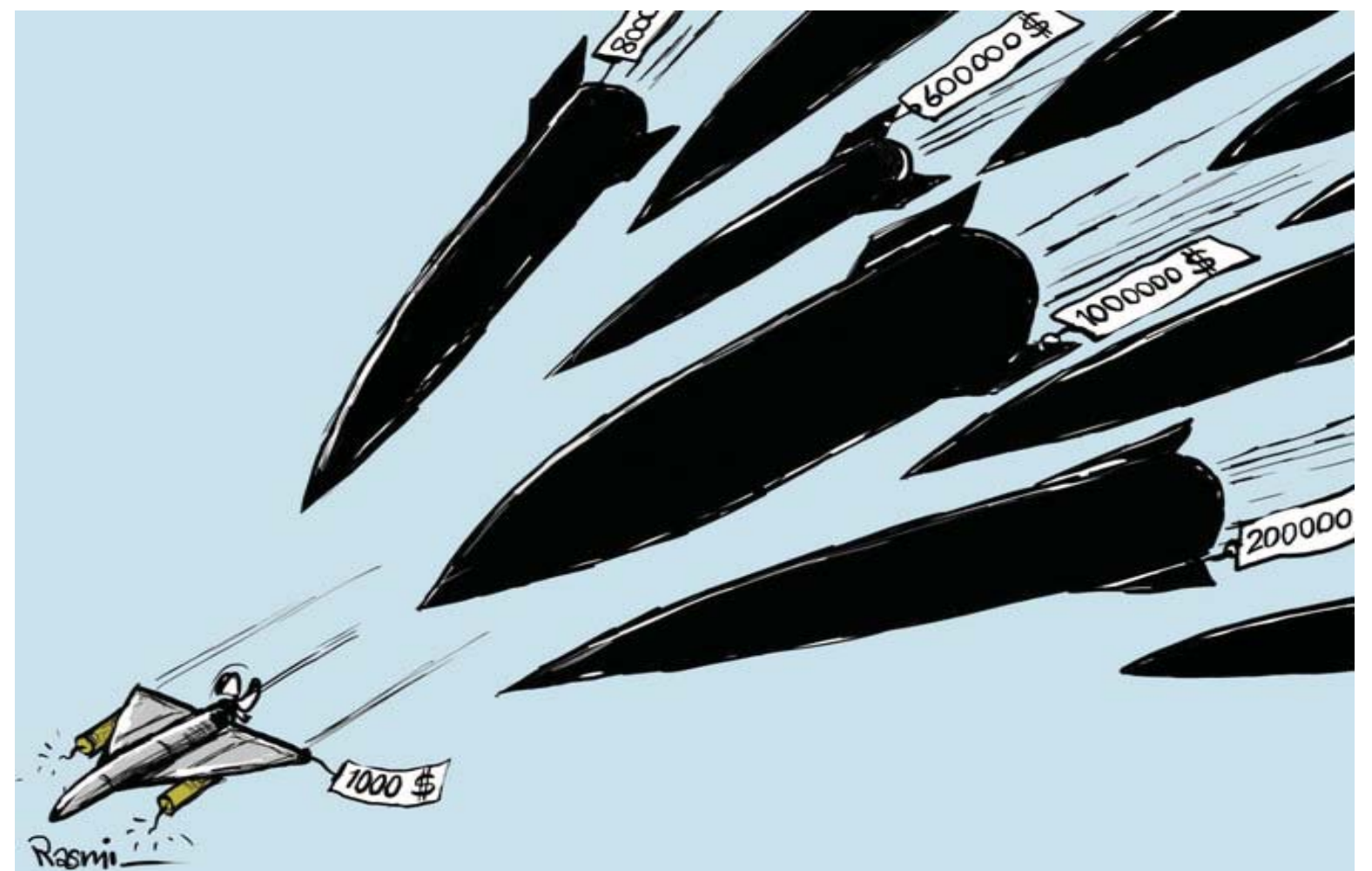
If the BRICS grouping, which is not a formal one, did not exist, it would be necessary to invent it. This is because the dominance of the West, first and foremost the US, over the world economy continues to perpetuate inequalities and injustices that should have been terminated with the end of the era of imperialism and colonialism.

There is strength in the informality of this grouping, as it is able to focus on enhancing its core mission of enabling emerging non-Western economies to coordinate their economic and diplomatic efforts around a shared goal without too much unnecessary bureaucracy. Building an alternative to Western dominance, both practically and perceptually, has been an ongoing act of removing at least some of the chains imposed by the West’s domination of major multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, the G7 and the International Monetary Fund.

However, BRICS was not founded to become a form and forum of defiance for the sake of it.

Deep into its third year, the war in Ukraine is still raging and with no end in sight, despite causing unimaginable suffering to so many innocent people. The Russian invasion in February 2022 was in flagrant contravention of international law due to its violation of the sovereignty of a neighboring country with no justifiable reason and not even a hint of a provocation by Ukraine. On the contrary, it was Russia that, in the eight years leading up to this act of aggression, used its military superiority to illegally annex the Crimea and agitate unrest in eastern Ukraine before invading it.

These developments and frustrations are also a warning to the US and the rest of the West that there is a need to engage with emerging economies as respected partners and to play a positive and constructive role in their development, not just see them as a playground to serve their own economies and make themselves even richer. Let us hope that the next BRICS Summit, scheduled to take place in Brazil in 2025, will be able to focus on such issues and not on who hosts it.



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

## ‘Trump.....Last Hope’

**L**eaders and workers of a political party in the country are hoping that former US President Donald Trump will win the presidential election and get our leader out of jail, because they were disappointed by sit-ins, hartals and rallies. They have placed their last hope on Trump. First of all, no one knows whether Trump will be elected president of the United States or not, and even if he is, in his previous term, attempts to release an American informer named Shakeel Afridi from prison were futile and Trump proved that he dislikes Muslims and especially Pakistanis. Even Trump is so subservient to the Zionist forces that he will not be able to avoid what they want. Behind the recent letter written by 60 representatives of the American Congress to President Joe Biden for the release of the said Pakistani political leader, the active lobby of this political party in the United States has been borrowed for a heavy fee. This achievement belongs to the same law firm. In response to this, 160 Pakistani parliamentarians have written a response letter to the American President through Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, in which the American President has been made to believe that the said political has attacked Pakistan’s powerful political figures, judges, media persons, state institutions, especially the head of the Pakistan Army has been blackmailed through social media, and no institution of the state has been safe from their evil. Accusations, rumours, backbiting have become the norm of this party. In Pakistan, the heads of all political parties are ridiculed through social media, even their families and children are not spared. If the judge gives a decision against them, they consider it their political right to make it a lesson. In the same way, officers and heads of

law enforcement agencies are publicly threatened and false stories are spun against them. The KP government has cut the development funds of its party workers and paid them for trolling. The chief minister of the province tried to blackmail the government by making threats, but the state officials convinced him that if he wants to remain the chief minister, he should focus on his province and reduce the problems of the common man so try to focus on development projects in the province so that the common man can get relief. Now, in the current situation, it has become clear that he has understood that bullying and threats will worsen the situation instead of improving it.

Instead of making a deal with the said political leader, the state institutions have adopted a policy of settling matters with his wife and sisters and have been successful to some extent in trying to convince them that they should explain their leader that all issues cannot be resolved by blaming and making noise, it requires negotiation and understanding of the issues. A few days ago, the workers of this party adopted a defamatory attitude towards the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Justice (R) Quazi Faiz Isa, which is not appropriate in any way. What would the citizens of a civilized country like Britain think of Pakistan by how they treat their judiciary judges? After this incident, the graph of the party has grown from heaven to earth and the serious people of this party are now forced to think that dialogue is the only way in politics instead of abuse and bullets. If we look at history, the path taken by the new culture a few years ago only leads to disaster. It takes centuries to build a society, but only a moment is enough to destroy it. During its rule, this party

raised a slogan of Madinah State, which was based on a complete lie. If there was any truth in it, there would have been calls from Islamic countries for the release of the said political leader, and there was also a voice from Islamic countries for the release of the said political leader and the people of this party put their hopes on Muslim Leaders. But pinning hopes directly on President Trump contradicts the party’s own narrative, which is surely raising the question in the minds of activists that we were running after a party that was a mirage.

If only the heartbreaking events of May 9 are examined, it comes to light that where the conspiracy to incite activists and target military installations was developed and what were the factors behind it!!! No political party in history has gone to the extent of undermining the army by defaming its own country’s army and its officers so that the anti-national forces can take advantage and above all to target the memorials of the martyrs can be an achievement of an enemy country can, but no patriotic citizen or individual can even think of doing this. Ghazi Air Marshal Noor Khan taught the Indian Air Force lessons in the 1965 and 1971 wars that they will never forget, but seeing his bravery, former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi displayed his picture in her home. The said political party should also learn to respect the institutions of their country and refrain from destroying the character of the young generation, the crop they sow today will be reaped by them tomorrow. Leave it, trust in Allah and develop good values. Try to speak the truth by burying the politics of lies and hatred. Even before this, heads and leaders of political parties have stayed in jails, Asif Ali Zardari, Mian Nawaz Sharif, Shahbaz Sharif, Yusaf Raza Gilani, Maryam Nawaz Sharif stayed in jails, their parties never wrote letters to America for their help. Bowing down to others does not make a Muslim beautiful!!



Shahid Awan

## Traffic Congestion, Cause of Air Pollution, and Inactive Traffic Police

**T**raffic congestion has become a major issue, affecting not only the daily lives of citizens but also contributing significantly to air pollution. With the continuous increase in the number of vehicles and narrow roads in various cities, traffic problems are worsening. In this situation, the role of the traffic police is crucial, but it is often observed that they ignore the issue or fail to take appropriate actions.

Traffic conditions are deteriorating across Punjab despite repeated directives from Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to traffic police officials to regulate traffic. However, senior police officials have shifted their focus to revenue collection, particularly targeting motorcyclists. It is evident that one of the major causes of rising smog in cities is traffic congestion, as experts identify vehicle emissions as the primary factor contributing to air pollution and adverse health impacts.

Sources indicate that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, after assuming office, has expressed her displeasure in high-level meetings three times. However, each time, IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and the Lahore Division Commissioner intervened to defend the traffic police chief and other officials, asking for more time to improve traffic conditions. Despite this, the DIG traffic police have not yet to provide relief to the citizens. Traffic wardens do not take action against polluting public transport vehicles, rickshaws, and cars, focusing instead on enforcing helmet use and checking rearview mirrors for motorcyclists.

In Punjab, there is no effective system for vehicle fitness checking, leading to a culture of favoritism and corruption. Cities like Lahore, once known as the ‘City of Gardens,’ and Multan, once known for cleanliness, now rank among the top polluted cities. Fake fitness certificates are being issued without proper inspection, turning vehicle fitness certification into mere paperwork aimed at generating revenue rather than serving the public.

Due to the lack of a structured vehicle fitness mechanism, the issuance of fitness certificates is now only a formal procedure. The Department of Environment, Secretary RTA, and Traffic Police are adopting an irresponsible and careless approach. They have abandoned their primary duties, focusing solely on financial gain.

Polluted air contains hazardous chemicals many times above the standards set by the World Health Organization, causing respiratory diseases, heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer. Children are particularly at risk due to their underdeveloped respiratory systems and faster breathing rates, leading them to inhale more pollutants relative to their size. Nearly 4 million residents of Multan are suffering from this negligence, breathing in polluted air daily. Rising air pollution is not only severely damaging public health but also harming the city’s environment and daily life. If these issues are not addressed seriously, air pollution in the city will continue to increase, with potentially severe consequences.

Journalism acts as a bridge that strengthens the connection between the public and the authorities, bringing public opinion, needs, and complaints to government institutions. Journalists have the responsibility to highlight social issues and urge institutions to improve their performance so that the public can find relief from these problems.

It is firmly believed that if the traffic police control polluting vehicles seriously for just ten days, the rising threat of smog in Punjab can be significantly reduced. Even if vehicle owners possess fitness certificates, they should not be allowed on the road if their vehicles emit smoke. Instead of relying on fitness certificates, actual vehicle performance should be prioritized, allowing only environmentally friendly vehicles to operate. This temporary yet serious effort by the traffic police can contribute to cleaner air and provide a healthier environment for the public.



Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

# Sudanese Ambassador accuses Sudan rebels of war crimes

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Sudan, H. E. Salih Mohamed Ahmed Siddiq has said that the rebels are committing gruesome human rights violations killing innocent people, torturing women including raping them and destroying the infrastructure.

Ambassador addressed a press conference on 04 Nov 2024, at the Embassy in which he shed light on what is happening in his country, what are the rebels doing and who is strengthening them for sabotage and terrorism.

Sudanese Ambassador accuses Sudan rebels of war crimes. The Ambassador of Sudan shared the details of killings by the rebels in Khartoum, Gezira, Sinnar, Darfur and other regions. He also screened a video documentary in which the rebels can be seen raping women, killing citizens, politicians and then mutilating their dead bodies. The scenes are too horrific to watch even.

The war in Sudan erupted on the 15th of April 2023, due to the ambitions of the rebel "Rapid Support Forces" Command to

seize power by force. Since the eruption of the war, the government of Sudan has welcomed all cease fire calls and peace initiatives to stop the war.

"In line with this, the government has signed the Jeddah peace agreement that stated clearly the rebels shall evacuate the civilians' premises they occupied after their failure to take power by force. However, the rebels have refused to comply with the Jeddah peace agreement terms, and continued to use all cease fire truces to launch fresh attacks, Ambassador said.

Ambassador shared that the rebel RSF militia has brought hundreds of thousands of mercenaries from many foreign countries including Chad, Central African Republic and South Sudan, and also smuggled arms and ammunition from some countries into Sudan, a matter which constitutes a threat to the local, regional and international peace and security.

The Sudanese Ambassador accuses Sudan rebels of war crimes. The rebel RSF militias have been committing human rights violations and war crimes

since day one. They committed grave crimes against humanity, including killing, looting, raping, kidnapping and arresting civilians. The militia's crimes caused sufferings that affected all segments of Sudanese society, and created a worse humanitarian situation.

"It has occupied houses of citizens in Khartoum, and seized civilians and public service facilities such as schools, mosques, churches, hospitals, electricity and water stations, and turned all these places into military bases," Mr. Salih noted.

The government of Sudan has urged the UN Human Rights Commission and the UN Security Council and all the international community to condemn the criminal acts of the rebel militia against the civilian people in different parts of Sudan, and to classify it as a terrorist organization.

The Ambassador highlighted the humanitarian situation and the dire need of international help. He said, "With regard to the humanitarian issues, we assure that Sudanese people are in dire need of humanitarian aid, and



the government has honored its commitment to allow unfettered access of the humanitarian relief to the needy people in Darfur and other parts of Sudan. In this regard, the government has been facilitating issuance of travel clearance permissions and visas to humanitarian workers, and opened some crossings like

Adre crossing between Sudan and Chad, and also has prepared some local airports for receiving humanitarian aid."

The government has also issued permissions to the world health organization to deliver medicines in all affected zones including rebel held areas such as Al-dein, Niyala and Zalingi.

Furthermore, the Sudanese air forces have air dropped food and medical supplies in Al-Fashir city in North Darfur state, which has been under systematic rebel's siege and attacks for months.

A few weeks ago the United Arab Emirates alleged that the residence of its ambassador in Khartoum has been bombed

by the Sudanese Armed Forces. Ambassador Sudan rejected the allegation.

"These false allegations which are a desperate attempt to cover up documented international reports that exposed the UAE's evil role in the continuation and fueling of the war in Sudan and its direct responsibility for the atrocities committed by the terrorist rebel militia, have totally been refuted and condemned by the Government of the Sudan, Ambassador firmly stated.

As a sovereign country, Sudan has lodged a complaint at the UN Security Council against the UAE in the wake of international reports and evidence confirming involvement of the UAE in providing the rebels with arms, ammunition and logistic support.

Sudan has also filed a complaint against the Republic of Chad with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights of the African Union last Friday. The complaint included facts, evidence and conclusive proof proving Chad's involvement in supporting and backing the rebel RSF militia in its violations and crimes.

# SDPI: Panel discussions on regional connectivity, debt justice, jobs and accountability

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The second day of the Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) saw a number of panel discussions, with speakers deliberating on issues including regional connectivity, climate change, plastic waste management, women empowerment, debt justice, economic zones, textile industry and accountability.

The conference is being organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). In a panel discussion on 'Leveraging new economic geography for shared prosperity, stability and resilience' speakers on Tuesday stressed the need to translate Pakistan's regional connectivity and infrastructure into economic incentives.



Pakistan Regional Economic Forum Chairperson Haroon Sharif questioned the efficiency of the infrastructure that connected Pakistan with

various countries, including China as well as South and Central Asian states.

Vice Chancellor of Beacon-House National University,

Lahore, Dr Moeed Yusuf started on a grim note by saying that our conversation is being held in echo-chambers, which unfortunately is falling

on deaf ears and nobody cares.

Former ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi said CPEC was never about power projects and connectivity alone, "we were supposed to develop our industrial zones based on the connectivity from CPEC".

Former federal minister Khurram Dastgir Khan said Pakistan had always been leveraging its geographical location to determine our foreign policy.

Dr Dushni Weerakoon, Institute of Policy Studies Sri Lanka executive director,

Dr Paras Kharel from South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment, Nepal and

Dr Rajan Suresh Ratna from UNESCAP-SSWA, India also spoke at the conference.

## Book Launch Press Release

# 'Need to develop definitive accounts of novel economic technologies'

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: We must develop definitive accounts of novel economic technologies.

This was the core message of a book launch for the edited volume titled 'Decentralized Autonomous Organizations: Innovation and Vulnerability in the Digital Economy', held at the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad.

Dr Usman W. Chohan, Advisor for Economic Affairs and National Development at CASS presented key findings of the co-edited volume and urged all stakeholders in Pakistani society to be aware of emerging economic technologies for Pakistan's development.

Focused on the blockchain-based technology known as 'Decentralised Autonomous Organizations' (DAOs), the edited volume brought together 11



renowned authors from eight countries spanning seven academic disciplines, including economics, technology, mathematics, law, and sociology, among others. Dr Chohan's

presentation covered the preparation, vision, and structure of the book, which aims to serve as a definitive account of DAO technologies from a multidisciplinary perspective.

President of CASS, Islamabad, Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd) delivered concluding remarks and congratulated Dr Chohan on this eighth book in his six years at CASS and emphasised the role of innovation and technology in economic development. He urged young Pakistanis to remain abreast of economic technologies and to make contributions to their advancement. Given the scope and detail covered in the collective research endeavor, he lauded the comprehensiveness of the book and expressed hope that the co-edited volume would serve as a valuable resource on DAOs internationally for many years to come.

The launch was followed by inauguration of the 'Dr Usman W Chohan Book Corner' in the Centre's library showcasing his books written and edited over the past few years at CASS, Islamabad.

## Spark 30C - The Ultimate Durable Smartphone

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Durability is a crucial consideration for many consumers when purchasing a phone. As smartphones have become integral to our daily lives, people increasingly seek devices that can withstand the demands and wear of everyday use.

A durable phone offers reliability, reduces the need for frequent repairs, and ensures a longer lifespan, providing greater value for money.

Whether it's protection against accidental drops, resistance to water, or the overall build quality, durability plays a key role in influencing buying decisions, as it directly impacts the phone's usability and longevity.

The newly launched TECNO SPARK 30C is designed with durability as a top priority, making it one of the most robust smartphones on the market. Engineered to withstand the rigors of daily use, this phone is crafted with materials and features that enhance its resilience, ensuring it can handle heavy usage without compromising on performance.

This smartphone comes with an impressive 24-month warranty, offering users extended protection and confidence in the phone's long-term reliability.

This extended warranty period reflects the manufacturer's conviction in the durability and performance of the device, assuring users that they are covered for any manufacturing defects or issues that may arise over time.

For consumers, this means peace of mind, knowing that their investment is safeguarded for a full two years, which is longer than the standard warranty offered by many other smartphone brands.

The efficient G81 chipset of the phone enhances both the speed and responsiveness of the device, providing users with a seamless experience, particularly during gaming or other performance-heavy activities.

With this chipset, the Spark 30C stands out for its ability to handle everyday tasks and more intensive workloads with ease.



## Over 1,800 Palestinians killed in Israel's month-long attacks in northern Gaza

UNITED NATIONS, NOV 05 (APP): Over 1,800 Palestinians have been killed since Israel launched its offensive in northern Gaza last month, according to media reports.

In a statement released on Monday, Gaza's media office said the number of the injured stands at around 4,000, while hundreds have gone missing.

Since October 6, Israel has imposed a tightened siege northern Gaza, particularly around the area of Jabalia.

Israel prevented ambulances and humanitarian aid convoys from entering northern Gaza.

It is using starvation as a method of warfare in the occupied Gaza Strip, the media office stated. Israel has prevented "3,800 aid trucks from going into northern Gaza."

The regime has "deliberately starved nearly 400,000 people there, including more than 100,000 children," the statement said.

"It also destroyed dozens of displacement and shelter centers that house tens of thousands of displaced people who fled their homes in search of safety and security."

# Ambassador Aftab Khokher highlights importance of religious leaders in addressing climate change

**Spokesman Report**

BAKU: Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Assistant Secretary General of Science and Technology, while representing H. E. the OIC Secretary General at the Global Summit of Religious Leaders in Baku, emphasized that religious leaders can and will play a catalyst role in raising awareness and

creating better understanding about the global climate change challenge. The Summit is being held as part of the 29th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, from 5-7 November 2024. The opening session of the Summit was attended by the Prime Minister,

Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources and Sheikh ul Islam of the Republic of Azerbaijan along with representatives of all faiths across the globe.

Ambassador Aftab stressed that the Summit provided a unique opportunity for the profound alignment between scientific insights and spiritual wisdom.

Ambassad Aftab Khokher

Aftab highlighted the importance of collaboration of religious leaders worldwide, which will strengthen the push for climate justice. As they were the trusted voices within communities, they would be able to bridge divides, facilitate conversations on environmental responsibility, and foster collective action. He added that religious leaders could remind



**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
92,304.32	91,938.00
Day's High	Day's Low
92,514.30	91,536.09
Index Value	Change
23,297,056,852	+366.32
Percentage	Time
+0.4%	5 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,172.39	-11.85
Percentage	Time
-0.14%	5 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,173.01	+378.41
Percentage	Time
+0.91%	5 Nov, 12:20 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,474.90	+421.23
Percentage	Time
+1.11%	5 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.95	185.20
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.07	202.47
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.82	40.22
Euro	300.00	302.75
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	715.66	724.16
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	320.05	322.85
Thai Bhat	8.18	8.33
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	357.45	360.95
US Dollar	277.35	278.90

# Minster for Finance inaugurates SECPs Electronic Mortgage Register

**Khurram Jaffrani**

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb launched SECPs Electronic Mortgage Register of Companies, a landmark initiative designed to provide a centralized system for accessing and verifying mortgage information of companies.

It serves as a comprehensive database, providing Banks/Non-Banking Financial Institutions with easy access to accurate and current information, thereby facilitating better decision-making and fostering trust in the financial sector.

Electronic Mortgage Register, a centralized database, will enable Banks/Non-Banking Financial Institutions to quickly verify existing status of registered mortgages, thus, reducing the time, effort and administrative cost required for manual



processes. It will also reduce the risk of errors associated with manual preparation of mortgage information and will enhance the trust of financial institutions in assessing the risk profiles of borrowers.

Earlier, the SECP has also launched its Digital Financial Institution portal, streamlining the process for Banks/Non-Banking Financial Institutions to open corporate accounts for companies incorporated through newly launched online portal, eZfile.

Companies filing statutory documents through eZfile and/or through eServices will now be available to the Banks/Non-Banking Financial Institutions for direct access and verification of company information from SECP's records. Since its launch, 49 Banks/Financial Institutions are using the portal, to gain real time access to statutory

records of companies.

This innovative step allows Banks/Non-Banking Financial Institutions to open corporate accounts without requiring physical certified copies of statutory documents and will not only significantly reduce the turnaround time for opening corporate bank accounts but also bring better transparency in KYC and CDD processes.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) also announced relocation of its Southern Regional Office and its Company Registration Office (CRO), Karachi to a modern, purpose-built workspace effective November 4, 2024.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Finance Minister, Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, who emphasized the importance of this development for SECP's commitment to advancing Pakistan's corporate sector.

## Cyber Security Award

ISLAMABAD: Minister of IT and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja; Chairman PTA, Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman HI(M); Member Finance, Mr. Muhammad Naveed; Member Compliance and Enforcement, Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokhar and Director General Cyber Vigilance Division, Brig (R) Dr. Muhammad Mukaram Khan at the Telecom Cybersecurity Awards 2024, organised by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), highlighting achievements in cybersecurity.



Photo: PID

## Telecom Cybersecurity Awards 2024: Celebrating Excellence in Telecom Sector

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: To recognize the outstanding achievements in enhancing cybersecurity within the telecom sector of Pakistan, The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) organized Telecom Cybersecurity Awards 2024 today at Islamabad.

Commending the industry's commitment, Minister of State for IT and Telecommunications, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, reiterated the government's vision for a robust cybersecurity framework essential for Pakistan's economic and digital stability. Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman HI(M), Chairman PTA, in his keynote address, underscored PTA's initiatives

fostering a proactive cybersecurity culture, emphasizing collaboration for a secure sector.

Shields were presented to top-ranking telecom entities and key stakeholders for their roles in enhancing Pakistan's Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) ranking.

Cybersecurity annual report 2024 was also launched on the occasion detailing PTA's initiatives. The report and the details of rankings will be available on the PTA website.

Cyber security awards celebrate the telecom industry's dedication to strengthening security frameworks, showcasing advancements toward a more resilient telecom infrastructure.

## Unilever's 'Sustainability Accelerated' strategy targets immediate action on climate, livelihoods, and innovation



**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Unilever Pakistan launched its ambitious and refocused strategy, 'Sustainability Accelerated', aimed at driving accelerated action on sustainability, focused on climate action, plastics circularity, nature regeneration and better livelihoods.

Amir Paracha, CEO, Unilever Pakistan, set the tone for the company's renewed commitment to sustainability, "As a company, we have always believed

that businesses must be a force for good. Sustainability Accelerated is not just about meeting global goals; it is about ensuring that our business in Pakistan drives positive change for our communities and the environment. We are committed to transforming our business to reduce environmental impacts while empowering people through better livelihoods and supporting a more circular economy."

During the event, Unilever's Climate Transition Action Plan was unveiled,

outlining key steps the company is taking to reduce its carbon footprint and transition to more sustainable business practices.

Delivering the keynote, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Mayor of Karachi stated: "As Pakistan and her cities continue to grow, it's crucial that we prioritize sustainability in every aspect of development. Initiatives like Unilever's 'Sustainability Accelerated' not only address environmental concerns but also focus on improving livelihoods, which is essential for the prosperity of our people."

## Business community is playing a role to restore the confidence of investors: Atif Ikram Sheikh

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Luqman Ahmed, a Canadian investor and associated with the mineral industry, visited the capital office of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Canadian investor Luqman Ahmed met the officials of FPCCI.

Vice President of the Federation Tariq Jadoon and Incharge Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman Coordination Capital Office Malik Sohail also attended the meeting. President FPCCI Atif Ikram Shaikh said on

this occasion that there are investment opportunities in Pakistan, the business community is playing a role to restore the confidence of investors, trade and investment between Pakistan and Canada. want to promote, a delegation of Pakistani businessmen will visit Canada and America in March, a delegation of 25 to 30 people will visit.

Speaking on this occasion, Canadian investor Luqman Ahmed said that hundreds of exploration companies are ready to come to Pakistan, there are opportunities for exploration in the field of mining and minerals in Pakistan, there



is a need to improve the image of Pakistan in the outside world. Pakistani companies are also coming towards exploration, our two exploration

projects have been successful in Peru, if the business environment in Pakistan's mining sector is improved, companies can come.

## NEPRA issues decision on KE's FCA petition for August 2024; applicable in January 2025 bills

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: NEPRA has issued its decision on K-Electric's petition of provisional monthly fuel charge adjustments (FCA) for August 2024, at PKR 0.40 per unit. The amount will reflect in customer bills in the month of January 2025.

Fuel charge adjustments are incurred by utilities due to global variations in fuel prices used to generate electricity, and the changes in generation mix. These costs are reflected in customer bills following NEPRA's scrutiny and approval. Customers also benefit from negative FCA in their bills when global fuel prices decrease. Rates charged to customer bills are determined by NEPRA and notified by the Federal Government.

As per the Regulatory Authority's decision, FCA shall be applicable to all the consumer categories except Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS), life-line consumers and Prepaid metering consumers.

## Daraz gears up for 11.11 with unmatched discounts, exclusive offers

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading e-commerce platform Daraz is all set to kickstart its annual 11.11 shopping festival, the 'Biggest Sale of the Year', taking place from November 11 to November 21. Known for its exceptional discounts and exclusive promotions, this year's 11.11 sale promises Pakistanis the lowest prices of the year across a wide variety of products and vouchers worth over PKR 50 crores, making it a must for anyone looking to save big and shop from over 10 million products.

# Pakistan set to host England, New Zealand, Zimbabwe women's teams

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Pakistan is set to host England, New Zealand and Zimbabwe women's cricket teams for the first time as ICC announced the Future Tours Programme (FTP) 2025-29.

Zimbabwe will tour Pakistan in April/May 2026, while New Zealand will tour Pakistan in April 2027. Meanwhile, the England women's team will visit Pakistan in October 2027.

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 women's team 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.

**Pakistan Home Series:**

April 2026: Pakistan vs Zimbabwe  
April 2027: Pakistan vs New Zealand  
October 2027: Pakistan vs England  
October 2028: Pakistan vs Bangladesh  
Pakistan Away Series:  
February 2026: Pakistan vs South Africa  
July 2026: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka  
November 2026: Pakistan vs West Indies  
June 2028: Pakistan vs Ireland

*APCA delegation greets Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal on assuming his charge*



**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: A delegation of APCA Directorate General of Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Unit called on Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal at the National Hockey Stadium on Tuesday.

The delegation, comprising APCA Directorate General of Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Unit President Fiaz Ali, General Secretary Nabeel Akram, Finance Secretary Aal-e-Imran, Hanan Khalil and other APCA members, congratulated Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal on assuming his charge.

They also presented a bouquet to Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal and expressed hope that he will take effective measures for the promotion of true sports culture among the young generation across the province.

*Three Matches Conclude in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament*

**Sports Desk**

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

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

Al-Hamd Kundi Cricket Club defeated Shiraz Cricket Club by 7 Wickets at Afza Ground. Shiraz CC 153 all out in 36.4 overs. Shahmir Shakeel 44 9x4, Aryan Chohan 36, Afian Shah Nawaz 19. Hussain Mustafa 3/23 Iftikhar Khatri 2/18.

Al-Hamd Kundi CC 156/3 in 18 overs. Muhammad Waqas 54 10x4 1x6, Israrullah 40 5x4 2x6 not out, Muhammad Sharif Rajput 24, Shahid Ali 23.

In the 2nd Match Pak Farman Cricket Club beat Talah Ali Memorial Cricket Club by 126 runs at Abbasi Gymkhana Ground. Pak Farman CC 214/4 in 40 overs. Aman Khan 60 3x4. Junaid Khan 50 4x4 3x6, Muhammad Sabir 48 7x4 1x6, Majid Khan 31. Abdul Basit 2/35.

Talah Ali Memorial CC 88 all out in 13.4 overs Meesum-e-Tammar 38. Muhammad Waqas 4/17, Junaid Khan 3/19, Huzaiifa 2/25.

In the 3rd Match Delhi Boys Cricket Club beat Model Cricket Club by 29 runs at Student Sports Ground. Delhi Boys CC 225/8 in 40 overs. Parshant Ravi 76 10x4, Muhammad Musana 57 7x4 1x6, Farman 32, Noor Irfan 27. Fakhar 2/14, Adeel Ali Khan 2/23.

Model c.c 196 all out in 30.4 overs. Rao Asif 38, Wajid Iqbal 34, Muhammad Waqas 32, Muhammad Daniyal 30, Shah-rukh Masood 27. Arman Malik 3/37. Hassan Khan 3/37, Sami Khan 2/22.

*'Khelta Punjab Program' hockey competitions begin*



**Sports Desk**

FAISALABAD: Two matches were played at the opening of hockey competitions at hockey stadium here on Tuesday.

The competitions were conducted under CM Punjab Khelta Punjab Programme. Former MPA Rana Ali Abbas Khan with Barrister Mian Afaq Tahir Jamil kicked started the competitions by hitting the ball. Divisional Sports Officer Tariq Nazir and others were present on the occasion.

In the first match, Islamnagar hockey club beat C-Corporation club by 2-0 goals. Second match was won by Faisalabad hockey club from Usman club by 3-0 and MH Atif hockey club defeated Al-Aqsa hockey club by 3-1 goals.

The last contest between Tariq hockey club and Khan hockey club ended in a draw by 1-1 goals.

# Manchester United fans in favour of leaving Old Trafford

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A majority of Manchester United fans favour building a new stadium rather than re-developing Old Trafford, according to a survey released on Tuesday.

Of 50,000 United season ticket holders, club members and executive club members polled, 52% said they preferred the idea of a new facility, while 31% supported the re-development of one of the most recognisable stadiums in world football. Another 17% were undecided.

United's cross-city neighbours Manchester City left their Maine Road stadium in 2003 to move into the new City of Manchester Stadium, but Premier League rivals Liverpool have re-developed their Anfield home.

United released artist's images in September of a potential Old Trafford regeneration project and have indicated that a new stadium could be part of a multi-billion-pound re-development project.

The club's owners are considering options in conjunction with the Old Trafford Regeneration Task Force, which includes former United defender Gary Neville and World Athletics president Sebastian Coe among its members.

The Daily Telegraph has reported that a final decision on which option to



choose is likely to be taken in the first half of 2025.

The Task Force is understood to have focused its discussions on building a new 100,000-capacity stadium rather than redeveloping Old Trafford.

Rick McGagh, United's director of fan engagement, said: "We know how important our home is to fans and we need to listen to them and gain all their views and insights in order to develop the world-class stadium they deserve."

"We are able to view the results through different lenses to understand if our season ticket holders feel differently about anything than say our official members. And if younger fans have different views to older fans."

# Pak boxer Waseem announces final eliminator fight

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Pakistani boxer Muhammad Waseem on Tuesday revealed his highly anticipated final eliminator fight to take place in the Dominican Republic on December 13.

The former three-time World Boxing Council (WBC) World Silver flyweight champion expressed excitement about his upcoming bout during a press briefing here.

"I'm thrilled to announce my new promotion and training camp in Liver-

pool, followed by a trip to the USA and then Dominican Republic for the fight," Waseem said.

Waseem also announced plans to bring the World title to Pakistan in April 2025. "Hosting the World title in Pakistan is monumental, and I'll be honoured to be a part of it. However, my opponent for the December 13 fight will be revealed within a week and is expected to be an American fighter," he said.

With 13 wins and two World title losses in 15 fights, Waseem who boasts



an impressive record said, "I have also won two World titles in the history of Pakistan. I'm also the first boxer former WBA, WBC, IBF to be No. 1 in the Ranking for Pakistan," he said.

After a two-and-a-half-year hiatus, Waseem is confident following his October victory in Malta. "I'm optimistic about my success against my opponent in the upcoming bout," he said.

# Mohammad Huraira to lead Pakistan Shaheens against Sri Lanka A

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Mohammad Huraira has been appointed the captain of Pakistan Shaheens for the upcoming home series against Sri Lanka A, starting from 11 November.

Pakistan Shaheens will play two four-day and three 50-over matches against Sri Lanka 'A' at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

22-year-old Mohammad Huraira has scored 3,310 runs in 40 first-class matches with eight centuries and 14 half-centuries.

In 25 List-A matches, the right-handed batter has accumulated 632 runs, striking a century and a half-century. The Men's National Selection Committee has also named the red-ball and white-ball squads, which include Test fast bowlers Mohammad Wasim Jnr and Khurram Shahzad.

The duo returned to competitive cricket last week by featuring

in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy after completing their rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy.

Hussain Talat is the other international player in the white-ball squad, whereas Muhammad Ghazi Ghori and Ahmed Safi Abdullah have earned their maiden Shaheens call-ups.

In the white-ball squad, Abdul Samad, Haider Ali, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Imran Jnr and Rohail Nazir retained their places in the side that participated in the ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup last month.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Imran, Sirajuddin, and Ubaid Shah broke into the Pakistan Shaheens' side for the first time.

The red-ball squad will commence training sessions on 6 November, while Sri Lanka 'A' will arrive on 8 November before starting their preparations on 9 November. White-ball players will assemble in Islamabad on 22

November.

Meanwhile, the PCB has also confirmed the umpires and match officials for the series. Iqbal Sheikh and Bilal Khilji will lead the Playing Control Team (PCT) for the red and white-ball matches, respectively, while umpiring responsibilities in the series will be shared between Asif Yaqoob, Imran Jawed, Rashid Riaz and Zulfiqar Jan.

**Pakistan Shaheens squad**

Four-dayers: Mohammad Huraira (captain) (Sialkot), Abdul Faseeh (Rawalpindi), Ahmed Safi Abdullah (Faisalabad), Ali Zaryab (Lahore), Haider Ali (Rawalpindi), Hussain Talat (Lahore), Kashif Ali (Rawalpindi), Khurram Shahzad (Faisalabad), Muhammad Ghazi Ghori (Karachi), Mohammad Rameez Jnr (Lahore), Mohammad Wasim Jnr (FATA), Rohail Nazir (Islamabad), Saad Khan (Hyderabad) and Sameen Gul (FATA)

50-over matches: Mohammad Huraira (captain) (Sialkot), Abdul Faseeh (Rawalpindi), Abdul Samad (Faisalabad), Haider Ali (Rawalpindi), Hussain Talat (Lahore), Maaz Sadaqat (Peshawar), Mehman Muntaz (Rawalpindi), Mohammad Haris (Peshawar), Mohammad Imran Jnr (Swat), Muhammad Imran (Bahawalpur), Mohammad Wasim Jnr (FATA), Rohail Nazir (Islamabad), Sharoon Siraj (Multan), Sirajuddin (FATA) and Ubaid Shah (Lahore)

Umpire and match referee appointments (All matches will be day games and played at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium)

11-14 Nov - 1st four-day. Asif Yaqoob and Zulfiqar Jan (on-field umpires), Imran Jawed (third umpire), Iqbal Sheikh (match referee)

18-21 Nov - 2nd four-day. Rashid Riaz and Imran Jawed (on-field umpires), Zulfiqar Jan (third umpire), Iqbal Sheikh (match referee)



25 Nov - 1st 50-over match. Rashid Riaz and Zulfiqar Jan (on-field umpires), Imran Jawed (third umpire), Bilal Khilji (match referee)  
29 Nov - 3rd 50-over match. Rashid Riaz and Zulfiqar Jan (on-field umpires), Imran Jawed (third umpire), Bilal Khilji (match referee)  
27 Nov - 2nd 50-over match. Rashid Riaz and Imran Jawed (on-field umpires), Zulfiqar Jan (third umpire), Bilal Khilji (match referee)

## Called on

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Iran H.E. Seyyed Abbas Araghchi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Pakistan desires to strengthen Iran ties through multiple cooperation: PM

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed that Pakistan desired to further strengthen its brotherly relationship with Iran through maintaining regular high-level exchanges and enhancing mutually advantageous cooperation across all spheres of shared

interest.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Foreign Minister of Iran Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, who called on him here, reiterated Pakistan's unequivocal support to the Palestinian people in their just struggle for self-determination and statehood.

He strongly condemned and expressed grave concern

over Israel's ongoing genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people, according to a PM Office press release.

Welcoming Foreign Minister Araghchi on his first official visit to Pakistan as Foreign Minister of Iran, Prime Minister Shehbaz conveyed his sincere regards and good wishes to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and Presi-

dent Massoud Pezeshkian.

The prime minister also emphasized the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, provision of unhindered humanitarian assistance and, above all, grant of the inalienable right to self-determination to the Palestinian people, as guaranteed to them by the relevant resolutions of the UN, as well as OIC.

The prime minister also reiterated strong condemnation of Israel's attack against Iran on October 26, 2024, while reaffirming support for Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Iranian foreign minister thanked the prime minister for Pakistan's principled position and briefed him on Iran's perspective regarding the situation in the region.

## Iran has right to 'legitimate defence', says FM after Israel strikes

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Iranian FM Abbas Araghchi calls on his Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on November 05, 2024. Photo via Facebook/Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad

Iran is not seeking "escalation" but has the right to "legitimate defence", its foreign minister said Tuesday in Pakistan, vowing to respond to last month's Israeli strikes on its military sites.

"Unlike Israel, the Islamic Republic of Iran doesn't seek escalation, however, we reserve our inherent right to legitimate defence," Abbas Araghchi said during a news conference, alongside his Pakistan counterpart.

"We will certainly respond to the Israeli aggression in a proper time and in a proper manner," and "in a very meas-



ured and well-calculated manner", said Araghchi who is on a two-day official visit to Pakistan.

Israeli warplanes carried out

the October 26 strikes which it said targeted Iran's defence capabilities and missile production, but Tehran said its missile production remained intact.

Israel's attack was in retaliation for an October 1 Iranian missile barrage, itself retaliation for the killing of militant leaders and a Revolutionary

Guards commander.

Since the strikes, Israel has warned Iran against retaliating, while Tehran vowed to respond.

Pakistan's foreign minister Ishaq Dar also joined his Iranian counterpart to condemn Israel's "unrestrained military aggression" in the region and called the strikes on Tehran a "grave violation".

"Its genocidal actions against civilians and its illegal measures in occupied territories are in violation of international law," Dar said.

Pakistan has no formal diplomatic relations with Israel primarily due to the South Asian nation's stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

On Saturday, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say in all matters of the state, said the Islamic republic would retaliate.

## Pakistan Navy Ship Zulfiqar visits Port Djibouti



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship ZULFIQUAR visited port Djibouti during deployment on Regional Maritime Security Patrol. Upon arrival at port, PN Ship was received by officials of Djibouti Navy.

The Commanding Officer of PNS ZULFIQUAR called on senior military leadership and explored avenues for further collaboration. Navy to Navy engagements between Pakistan and Djibouti have been the cornerstone of diplomatic relations between both brotherly countries. During Port Call,

crew of PNS ZULFIQUAR also had professionally rewarding interactions with Djibouti Navy and Coast Guards.

Pakistan and Djibouti enjoy close and cordial relations based on mutual respect and understanding. Both the countries also have numerous common interests in maritime arena. The Ambassadors,

Defence Attaches, Senior Government and Military Leadership of Djibouti and prominent members of local and Pakistani community also visited the ship.

Upon departure, PNS ZULFIQUAR conducted Passage Exercise with Djibouti Coast Guards to enhance inter-operability.

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## Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue meets AIIB delegation



## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with a delegation of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) led by Mr. Konstantin Limitovskiy, Vice President Client Region and Project Finance Global, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) that called on the Finance Minister at Finance Division today.

Speaking to the AIIB's team, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb acknowledged the Bank's support for Pakistan, particularly its funding and technical assistance in dealing with natural disasters and the

impacts of climate change and disaster preparedness on a long-term basis. He expressed satisfaction over the progress of AIIB projects in Pakistan and emphasized further efforts to improve the disbursement of ongoing projects.

The Minister also recalled his meeting with the President of AIIB, Mr. Jin Liqun in Washington DC last month, and mentioned his conversation with Mr. Liqun regarding Pakistan's desire to diversify its financing base by exploring the possibility of issuing a Panda bond with AIIB anchoring the process through partial guarantee to send out a strong signal to the market.

## Gillani arrives in Multan for a One-Day Visit

## Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Acting President and Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani Arrived in Multan For a One-Day Visit.

Upon arrival at the airport, Member Punjab Provincial Assembly Rana Siraj. Vice President South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan Alam. President PPP Multan District Naseem Labar. Secretary General Rao Sajid and public representatives and local party leadership welcomed Syed

Yousuf Raza Gillani. Additional Chief Secretary Fawad Hashim Rabbani, Deputy Commissioner Waseem Hamid Sandhu, CPO DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar, and other administrative officials also received the Acting President at Multan International Airport.

Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani will spend a busy day in Multan tomorrow. During his stay, he will attend the Quran recitation (Qul Khwani) ceremony of MNA Raza Hayat Hiraj's father in Khanewal.

## Business leaders' role in achieving sustainable development crucial: Romina Khurshid Alam



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that the present government is committed to boost collaboration with various stakeholders involving countries and non-governmental organizations for achieving sustainable development goals.

During her meeting on Tuesday with a high-profile six-member delegation from Yuanhe Holdings and the

Green and Low-Carbon Committee of the Sino-International Entrepreneurs Federation (SIEF), she emphasized that engaging with development partners and countries with sound technical know-how, technology, and expertise in implementation of the UN's sustainable development goals is present government's top agenda, aiming to achieve poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, gender empowerment and other socio-economic development related goals.

SIEF delegation head Dr. Ma Chengliang lauded the present government's vision for environmentally-sustainable and climate-resilience Pakistan and the initiatives launched for achieving the vision.

The growing recognition of the business case for sustainability is driving a shift in how companies view their roles in society.

## Two FC personnel martyred, 4 injured in DI Khan

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Two soldiers of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) were martyred after an ambush by Khawarij terrorists near Daraban Police Station in Dera Ismail Khan on Tuesday.

According to a statement issued by Ministry of Interior spokesperson, the FC vehicle came under heavy fire by the terrorists, resulting in martyrdom of two FC soldiers, Sher Rehman and Syed Ameen, and leaving four others injured.

The Ministry confirmed that both martyred soldiers heroically confronted the assailants and attained the high rank of martyrdom while defending their country.

The spokesperson provided details about the martyred soldiers, Sher Rehman from



South Waziristan and Syed Ameen hailing from Swabi Gadun. The injured personnel have been identified as Havildar Imtiaz, Soldier Moheeb Shah, Soldier Sahib Deen, and Soldier Fazal Kareem. All four wounded soldiers were promptly transported to a hospital for medical treatment.