

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ اور ایسا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم اس وقت بیٹھے ہوئے تھے کہ ایک صاحب نے آ کر سوال کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کی طرف سے جو ہے اور فرمایا کہ تم ناموش کیوں بیٹھے رہتے ہو بلکہ اس کی خاطر کرو تا کہ تمہیں بھی اجر ملے اور اللہ جو چاہے گا ہے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کی طرف سے جو ہے اور فرمایا کہ تمہیں بھی اجر ملے گا (بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6027)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Pakistan origin Salman Bhojani re-elected to Texas assembly elections

Pakistani-American Democrat Salman Bhojani has been re-elected to the Texas State Assembly to 2024 elections. Bhojani celebrated a decisive victory over his opponent, demonstrating strong support within his constituency.



IMF to dispatch mission to Pakistan next week for \$7b bailout package evaluation

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced it will send a mission to Pakistan next week, four months ahead of the planned schedule, to evaluate the country's performance under its \$7 billion bailout package. This early review comes in light of Pakistan's mixed implementation of the conditions agreed upon during the loan approval. The IMF Mission's expedited visit highlights the program's significance for IMF management.

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Great Victory

Donald Trump addresses supporters in Florida as votes were counted, his spouse and daughter also present.



Photo: EPA-EFE/Crisobel Herrera-Ulashkevich

Trump wins White House in historic victory

Agencies

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump was elected the 47th president of the United States on Wednesday, an extraordinary comeback for a former president who refused to accept defeat four years ago, sparked a violent insurrection at the US Capitol, was convicted of felony charges and survived two assassination attempts.

With a win in Wisconsin, Trump cleared the 270 electoral votes needed to clinch the presidency.

The victory validates his bare-knuckle approach to politics. He attacked his Democratic rival, Kamala Harris, in deeply personal – often misogynistic and racist – terms as he pushed an apocalyptic picture of a country overrun by violent migrants. The coarse rhetoric, paired with an image of hypermasculinity, resonated with angry voters – particularly men – in a deeply polarized nation.

As president, he's vowed to pursue an agenda centered on dramatically reshaping the federal government and pursuing retri-

but ion against his perceived enemies. Speaking to his supporters Wednesday morning, Trump claimed he had won "an unprecedented and powerful mandate."

The results cap a historically tumultuous and competitive election season that included two assassination attempts targeting Trump and a shift to a new Democratic nominee just a month before the party's convention. Trump will inherit a range of challenges when he assumes office on Jan. 20, including heightened

political polarization and global crises that are testing America's influence abroad.

His win against Harris, the first woman of color to lead a major party ticket, marks the second time he has defeated a female rival in a general election. Harris, the current vice president, rose to the top of the ticket after President Joe Biden exited the race amid alarm about his advanced age. Despite an initial surge of energy around her campaign, she struggled during a compressed timeline to convince disillusioned

voters that she represented a break from an unpopular administration.

Trump is the first former president to return to power since Grover Cleveland regained the White House in the 1892 election. He is the first person convicted of a felony to be elected president and, at 78, is the oldest person elected to the office. His vice president, 40-year-old Ohio Sen. JD Vance, will become the highest-ranking member of the millennial generation in the US government.

Pakistan Army promotes six officers to Lt. general

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Army has promoted several distinguished officers to the rank of Lieutenant General, assigning them to key command and staff positions vital for the army's operational and organizational effectiveness.

Lt Gen Ahsan Gulrez, who was promoted last year, has been appointed as the Commander of 2 Corps in Multan, one of the army's main combat formations. Previously, he served as the Director General Joint Staff (DG JS).

Maj Gen Tabassum Habib has been elevated to Lt Gen and will assume the role of Director General Joint Staff (DG JS), where he will oversee strategic coordination among the various branches of Pakistan's armed forces. He previously held the position of DG for Perspective Planning.

Lt Gen Amir Najam has been promoted and will continue as Chief Instructor (CI) at the National Defence University (NDU), where he oversees advanced military

education and training. He was previously serving as CI (B) at NDU.

Currently, Lt Gen Asif Ghafoor serves as the president of NDU and is expected to retire on December 22, 2024. Lt Gen Arshad Naseem has taken on the role of Surgeon General, responsible for military medical services and operational health facilities, a position that had been vacant for four months.

Lt Gen Hassan Khattak has been appointed as the Quarter Master General (QMG), overseeing logistics, supplies, and critical support operations within the army. This position became available following the previous QMG, Lt Gen (R) Muhammad Ali's appointment as Secretary of Defence. Before this, Khattak served as DG (K) in the ISI.

Lt Gen Azhar Waqas has been promoted to Adjutant General (AG) in Rawalpindi, where he will manage personnel policies, welfare, and human resources. He previously served as the Director General of Rangers in Sindh.

PM visits Chinese embassy to condemn firing on Chinese nationals in Karachi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the Chinese Embassy to condemn the firing incident, in Karachi yesterday, in which Chinese nationals were injured and assured exemplary punishment to those involved in the incident.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the prime minister said that he came to condemn the yesterday's attack on Chinese nationals and to inquire after the health of those injured in the incident.

The prime minister assured the Chinese ambassador that those responsible in the incident would be apprehended soon and would be awarded exemplary



punishment, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. He further informed the Chinese ambassador that he was personally supervising the process of arresting those involved in the incident and bringing them to justice. Moreover, he had directed to provide the best medical facilities to the Chinese citizens injured in the incident, he said, adding that it was a matter of satisfaction that the health of the injured Chinese nationals was improving.

Chinese nationals was improving.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Interior Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi accompanied the prime minister.

Prime Minister Sharif said that China was a long-standing friend of Pakistan and the attack on the Chinese nationals was a desperate attempt to damage Pakistan-China fraternal relations.

He reiterated that the security of Chinese nationals, working in Pakistan, was the top priority of the government.

The Chinese ambassador thanked the prime minister for his visit and hoped that he would play his role in bringing those responsible for the incident to justice soon.

General Asim visits Saudi Arabia, discusses regional security, military cooperation



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), is currently on an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During this visit, the Chief of Army Staff met Crown Prince and Prime Minister His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman, who extended a warm welcome to General Asim Munir upon his arrival at the Royal Palace.

The two dignitaries engaged in a comprehensive discussion on a range of issues of mutual interest, including regional peace, defence and security cooperation, and strategies for enhancing bilateral relations.

COAS expressed his gratitude to His Royal Highness

for his steadfast support for Pakistan and acknowledged his significant role in fostering peace and stability across the region.

COAS also separately met with Prince Khalid Bin Salman, Defence Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Dignitaries vowed to further strengthen cooperation in the domain of defence and security.

Meetings were also held with H. E. Engineer Talal Abdullah Al-Otaibi, Assistant Minister of Defence; Air Chief Marshal Fayyadh Bin Hamed Bin Raqeeb' Al Ruwaili, Chief of General Staff of Royal Saudi Armed Forces and H. E. Lieutenant General Fahad bin Saud Al-Johani, Chief of Royal Saudi Land Forces.

PM Shehbaz announces 100MW power supply for GB, Rs1 bln endowment fund

Saif ur Rehman

GILGIT: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday announced the immediate power supply of 100 megawatts for Gilgit Baltistan and a Rs1 billion endowment fund for the universities students.

The prime minister, who chaired the special meeting of the GB cabinet during his daylong visit here, expressed satisfaction and pleasure over the timely completion of Bubar Model Village, which he earlier inaugurated, to provide housing facility to the people affected by flood in 2022.

He instructed the GB administration to establish educational institutions, playgrounds, power transmission and other facilities in Ghizer district.

Besides announcing an immediate power supply of 100 megawatts to GB, the prime minister announced Rs 1 billion merit-based endowment fund for the students



of Baltistan University and Karakorum University.

He lauded the role of all provinces, Azzad Jammu and Kashmir and GB in the national development and highlighted his government's special focus on the uplift of GB, merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The prime minister said that the federal government was taking measures to promote tourism in GB as Qatari government had also expressed interest to invest in tourism there.

Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Attaullah Tarar, Amir Muqam and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, members of the GB cabinet and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Pakistani-Americans hope Trump will advocate for Imran Khan during second term

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Many Pakistani-Americans supporting Imran Khan believe Trump might advocate for the former Prime Minister during a second term, citing the close relationship they shared during Trump's first presidency. The two met several times, including at the White House,

with Trump referring to Khan as a "good friend."

The supporters of the imprisoned former Pakistani Prime Minister, Imran Khan, had hoped for a mention of his plight.

The Pakistani government launched a significant crackdown on Khan's PTI party ahead of the general elections scheduled for February.

Haji Ghulam Ali and Peshawar Mayor Haji Zubair Meet CM KPK Gandapur at CM House

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar's local representatives face challenges, including delays in developmental funds, employee salaries, pensions, and other issues. Local representatives are the first step in fulfilling public expectations, and they urgently require support in resolving these issues and releasing funds. Former Governor and Mayor discussed these concerns with the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur assured that legislative measures have been implemented, and soon, the benefits will reach the province's local representatives, resolving ongoing challenges.

Peshawar — In a key meeting, former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and Peshawar Mayor Haji Zubair Ali met with Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur at Chief Minister House, where they discussed various administrative and other issues faced by local representatives across the province. The Chief Minister assured them of immediate progress on these matters and confirmed plans for a meeting with the business community next week to



address their challenges.

During this lengthy discussion on the province's local governance system, the former Governor and Mayor outlined challenges arising from legislative changes, halted funds, and administrative hurdles, which have hindered local representatives from addressing public issues for over three years. Chief

Minister Gandapur assured the representatives that legislative measures are in place to release funds and provide relief in other administrative areas, enabling them to better serve the people without further obstacles.

Additionally, in response to the former Governor's request, the Chief Minister promised to meet with a

delegation from Peshawar's business community next week to take practical steps toward resolving their issues. He emphasized that the business community plays a vital role in the province's development and assured them that the government would strive to resolve challenges facing the industry and trade sectors through collaborative efforts.

Fatiha

KABIRWALA: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani offering Fatiha over the sad demise of Mr. Khizar Hayat Hiraj, late father of member National Assembly, Raza Hayat Hiraj on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Sindh cabinet orders reconduct of MDCAT test, approves Rs6.63bn for damaged roads, ordered

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI (: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a cabinet meeting, approved Rs6.63 billion for the construction of six damaged roads, approved Rs232.14 million for IBA Sukkur to reconduct MDCAT, approved the establishment of the Sindh Job Portal, directed the IT department to implement E-stamping within six months, and extended the contract period for teaching faculty members of Khairpur Medical College.

The meeting was held at CM House and attended by provincial ministers, advisors, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, and concerned secretaries.

At the outset, the cabinet approved the decisions of the cabinet subcommittee headed by Minister of Energy Nasir Shah. Under the decisions, Rs 81.9 million were approved for the payment of salaries and other liabilities of the employees of the defunct



Larkana Development Authority who have already been sent to the surplus pool.

The cabinet approved Rs 68.043 million for the Jamshoro Electrification Programme, and Rs 4 million for the organisation of the Literary Conference at Frere Hall.

Repair of damaged roads: The CM approved Rs 6.63 billion to reconstruct eight roads damaged by the recent floods and heavy rains. He allowed procurement for these projects on an emergency basis.

These roads include 9/1 to 3 km Johi to Chhini Road, five km Johi, Wahi

Pandhi to Golo Faqir, nine km Baid to Mian Naseer Mohammad Kalhoro Road (district Dadu), 27 km Chamber to Mirwah via Snjhar Chang, 17.6 km Tando Allahyar, Tando Adam-Shahdadpur road, Distt Sanghar, 51 km Jhirk Mulakatiar Road to Nooriabad via Jhimpir Fly overbridge, over three km Sujawal city Carriageway.

Sanghar Choti Yaariyan Road to Chotiari Dam along with approach road. The project cost is Rs1.25 billion

MDCAT: The cabinet approved Rs232.14 million for the re-conduct of the MDCAT by IBA Sukkur, which will take place within the next six weeks. The Chief Minister directed the Health Department to establish Vigilance Committees in collaboration with the PMDC. Additionally, he instructed the Secretary of the Universities and Boards (U&Bs) to ensure that examination boards announce results at least one month before the MDCAT in the future, as mandated by the court.

Punjab College is an educational institution, a center of learning unmatched by any other: Malik Atta

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Additional Secretary of Higher Education South Punjab, Malik Atta-ul-Haq, stated that both education and training are essential, as they shape a person into a good human being. Punjab College is an educational institution, a center of learning unmatched by any other. It teaches the skill of reaching the heights of the sky and introduces students to the art of conquering the earth and the heavens. He expressed these thoughts while addressing a welcome party held in honor of the students of UCP and Mumtazabad Girls Campus yesterday.

Director General PHA, Asif Rauf, said that Punjab College is exemplary both in academics and extracurricular activities. It has become a recognized institution due to its high educational standards, helping students achieve



their dreams.

DPI Colleges South Punjab,

Professor Dr. Fareed Sharif, and Additional Secretary Farooq Dogar stated

that an educated girl educates her entire family, which is why parents should ensure their daughters are adorned with the jewel of education and play their role in the nation's development. They mentioned that their own daughters had also received their education from Punjab College, and every parent hopes that their children will receive education from the same esteemed institution.

Director of Labor, Rana Jamshed, expressed pride that an excellent educational institution exists in Multan, nurturing a great generation. Director of Punjab Group of Colleges, Professor Osama Bashir Qureshi, mentioned that this institution reflects timeless values and greatness. Punjab College has also set a new record by securing 17 positions in the Intermediate exams of the Multan Board this year.

The event was hosted by Professor Nazia.

Sindh's kitchen garden program helps poor women in need

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Agriculture Department of Sindh's kitchen garden program has become a significant support for poor women. Under the guidance of the Sindh Minister of Agriculture, Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Khan Mahar, Agriculture Secretary Rafiq Ahmed Buriro, Director General Syed Nadeem Shah and Director Muhram kolachi, this program is being implemented across all districts in Sindh. Its goal is to address the nutritional needs of poor and landless women while also providing them with economic empowerment.

Through the kitchen garden program, women receive free vegetable seeds, fertilizer, and other essential supplies, allowing them to grow vegetables at home. These vegetables not only help meet their household needs but also provide an income source when the surplus is sold. Director General Nadeem Shah emphasized that this program is specifically designed for economically disadvantaged women.

The agriculture department team is visiting various villages to provide guidance and practical advice on increasing vegetable production and effective gardening techniques. Nadeem Shah has instructed the officers to work diligently for the program's success, warning that any negligence in implementation will lead to action against responsible officers.

FOSPA raises awareness on sexual harassment at Takht Bhai College



Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: An awareness event on women's protection and sexual harassment was organized by FOSPA (an organization working to raise awareness among women regarding sexual harassment) at The Lords College of Sciences, Takht Bhai. During the event, Madam Amina, a representative of FOSPA, delivered a lecture to the female students on the topic of sexual harassment. She explained that it is essential first to understand what sexual harassment is, the places where women might encounter it, how they can protect themselves from it, and where to report such incidents if they are subjected to it. She described sexual harassment as any behavior stemming from employment, relationships, or other situations where one person holds power over another and unjustly exploits that position to cause discomfort, inflict harm, or attempt to satisfy their desires without consent. Incidents of harassment can include hearing inappropriate comments while traveling to school or college, experiencing unwanted advances while shopping in the market, or being subjected to inappropriate glances or touches—these all fall under the umbrella of sexual harassment. Cases of sexual harassment have been reported at workplaces, schools, colleges, hostels, orphanages, special housing for widows, and even within homes.

Revision of Pakistan's 2019 E-Commerce Policy: A Call for Action

City Desk

LAHORE: Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) has emphasized the urgent need to revise Pakistan's e-commerce policy from 2019. He was addressing a workshop in Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), focused on Digital Marketing tailored for women entrepreneurs in Pakistan. Through his session, Mr. Ratna equipped participants with digital marketing and e-commerce skills critical to business success in today's digital economy.

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry hosted the workshop, organized by the SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneur Council (SCWEC), in collaboration with the UNESCAP South and South-West Office. This initiative is a significant step toward enabling women entrepreneurs to harness the power of digital platforms for business growth and empowerment.

Mr. Atif Ikraam, President FPCCI, while expressing the gratitude to Mr. Ratna, emphasized the value of digital marketing skills for women-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan. This is an invaluable opportunity for our women entrepreneurs to boost their businesses by learning directly from Mr. Ratna's expertise, said Mr. Ikram.

Ms. Hina Mansab Khan, Chairperson SCWEC, addressed the participants, underscoring the importance of e-commerce and digital platforms in enhancing market access and increasing sales for women-owned SMEs.

Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, Executive Committee Member, SAARC CCI (Pakistan) acknowledged Mr. Ratna's commitment to advancing digital literacy among women entrepreneurs and acknowledged his continued support to SAARC CCI in creating an enabling environment for business across the region.

Earlier, Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Butt, Secretary General in his opening remarks, warmly welcomed Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head of UNESCAP and the participants, highlighting the importance of such initiatives.

CDA, FIA collaborate to tackle human trafficking

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move to combat human trafficking in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, met with Director Anti-Human Smuggling Wing Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Saqib Sultan Mehmood, to strategize efforts against Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

This high-level meeting, attended by officials from ICT departments, aimed at establishing clear targets and action plans to address the pressing issue.

A primary focus of the discussion centered on findings from the 2024 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report released by the U.S. Department of State.

During the briefing, the FIA Director highlighted the urgency of decisive action to prevent Pakistan from being placed on the TIP Watch List.

He stressed that proactive measures are essential to uphold Pakistan's reputation and international standing on human rights issues.

Commissioner Randhawa emphasized the commitment of Islamabad's authorities to tackle all forms of human trafficking, including forced begging and bonded labour.

He issued directives for the immediate convening of the District Vigilance Committee for ICT, tasked with implementing key recommendations from the TIP report.

Furthermore, he instructed ICT departments to improve data collection and coordination with the FIAs Anti-Human Smuggling Wing on cases of trafficking, particularly those involving sexual exploitation, forced and bonded labour, and forced begging.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5:07 am
Zohr11:51 am
Asr3:33 pm
Maghrib5:11 pm
Isha6:36 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo9280979

Pakistan, Azerbaijan pledge climate resilience

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, H. E. Khazar Farhadov called on Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khursheed Alam at her office here on Wednesday. The meeting focused on preparations for the upcoming COP29 summit and emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts for effective climate action.

During the meeting, Ms. Alam outlined Pakistan's ongoing efforts in preparing for COP29, highlighting the importance of building international consensus on key climate issues and enhancing the country's climate action plans. She stressed that Pakistan's participation in COP29 would be aimed at ensuring its national interests are represented and strengthening its position within the global climate discourse.

"Pakistan's preparations for COP29 are part of a broader strategy to engage with international partners and bolster its stance on vital climate issues," said Ms. Alam.

She emphasized that the country is actively working towards meeting its emission reduction targets as part of its nationally determined contributions while underscoring the need for inter-

national support in achieving sustainable development goals related to climate change.

The Coordinator to the Prime Minister also highlighted the critical role of developed countries in fulfilling their financial commitments to assist developing nations in their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Pakistan, she noted, has been making significant strides in transitioning to renewable energy, particularly solar and wind, and aims to showcase its renewable energy initiatives at COP29.

The ambassador expressed Azerbaijan's strong commitment to enhancing cooperation with Pakistan, particularly in the context of climate action. He emphasized the importance of closer bilateral ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan in the areas of sustainable development, climate change, and regional cooperation, noting that the upcoming COP29 summit presents a significant opportunity for both countries to collaborate and advance their mutual interests in these critical areas.

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to working together to address the challenges posed by climate change and to strengthen global climate action efforts.



LUMS collaborates with Lahore Biennale to drive climate awareness

City Desk

LAHORE: Amidst escalating environmental challenges in Pakistan, including record air pollution levels, LUMS has collaborated with the Lahore Biennale's Climate Congress to hold a series of sessions at the University from November 6-8, 2024.

The series featured the opening of a group art exhibition, a collateral event of Lahore Biennale 03 (Of Mountains and Seas), titled 'Lamenting the Beloved City or Pledging Devotion Afresh?'. This exhibition presented a collection of work by 19 artists, inviting a united response to the environmental risks we face as a civilisation, especially in the Global South. The show urged viewers to think together and act in unison to mitigate all habits and materials that harm nature and tax the ecosystem. The exhibition also had an interactive component, with two stationed whiteboards and markers inviting attendees to make a personalised climate pledge dedicated to increasing awareness and changing habits.

Marking the significance and creativity of the exhibition, the curator Dr. Nadhra Shahbaz Naeem Khan, Associate Professor at LUMS, expressed the theme of the event with an excerpt of her self-penned poem: "I may be a single drop, together we become an ocean; I may be a solitary fighter, together we can advance as victors!"

Climate change and environmental degradation have become undeniable realities. Interdisciplinary dialogues within the fields of arts, humanities, law, and social sciences are fostering hope for a transformative shift in climate narratives. With this endeavour, Drs. Maryam Ibrahim and Sana Khosa, Climate Congress collaborators at LUMS, organised two panel discussions around Urban Ecologies and Climate Narratives.

National day of Azerbaijan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Housing and works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Governor of Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov, and others cutting the cake during the Victory Day ceremony of Azerbaijan at a local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

DHA Islamabad-Rawalpindi Hosts Property Expo 2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Housing Authority (DHA) Islamabad-Rawalpindi successfully organized the Property Expo 2024 in Phase II. The event witnessed a large participation of investors, with former world squash champion Jahangir Khan making a special appearance.

Executive Director Joint Venture DHA, Brigadier (R) Nazir Hussain Khan, briefed the audience on DHAs existing and new projects, including the unveiling of DHA Gandhara. He stated that DHA has introduced a new standard of living in Pakistan, offering world-class amenities. Investors have vast opportunities in residential, apartment, and commercial sectors.

The occasion also marked the unveiling of DHA Gandhara project, spanning 26,000 kanals at Chakri. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed between DHA and partners, including educational institutions, theme park developers, and



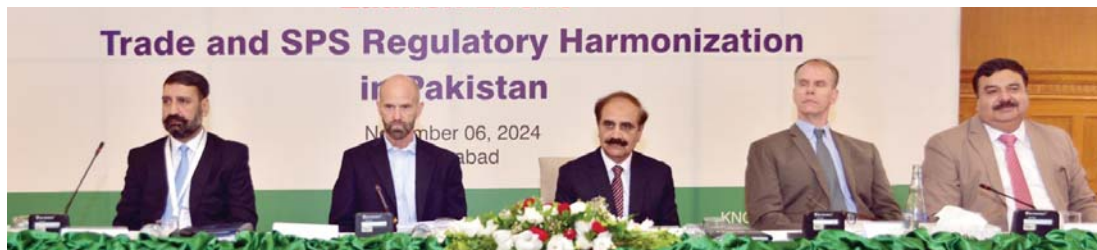
Administrator DHA, Brigadier (R) Najaf Abbas awan expressed gratitude to participants for their keen interest in the expo.

CABI is Committed to Agricultural Excellence, Strengthening Feed Safety, Dr. Babar E. Bajwa

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan - CAB International (CABI), in collaboration with Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has launched an initiative aimed at enhancing the country's regulatory framework for safer plant protection products, including bio-pesticides.

Chairman PARC, Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali emphasized the importance of collaboration among various agricultural entities, stating, "PARC, USAID, USDA, CABI, and provincial agriculture departments have good collaboration in the agriculture and livestock sector. While we have numerous policies in place,



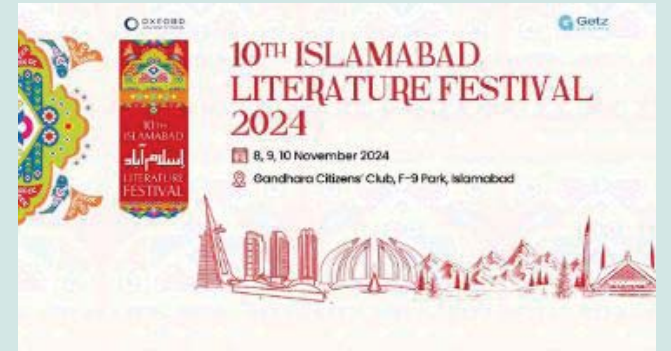
it is crucial that we implement them in true spirit. In Pakistan's crop and livestock sectors, intensive research and continuous funding support is crucial for capacity building among stakeholders. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Saqib Ateel Secretary Livestock, Punjab, highlighted the important contribution of livestock in the country's economy and the special focus that the sector needs to be accorded.

In his welcome note, Dr. Babar E.

Bajwa, said that working in Pakistan since 1957, CABI has collaborated on over 150 projects to address agricultural and environmental challenges. Mr. Christopher Rittgers, Agricultural Counselor, USDA in his remarks, recognized collaboration with CABI and PARC that goes back many years. He hoped that the current initiative, which has a special emphasis on eco-friendly bio-pesticides, would contribute to improve livestock efficacy

and enhance profitability for farmers. Mr. Ian Winborne, Deputy Director, Climate and Sustainable Growth-USAID, expressed pride within the US government for the work that CABI, PARC and partners are doing in Pakistan. Livestock Feed expert, Dr. Yousaf Zafar, Dr. Tariq Khan, Plant Protection Advisor and Director General of Department of Plant Protection gave a brief orientation on bio-pesticides registration in Pakistan.

10th Islamabad Literature Festival



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 10th edition of the Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), one of Pakistan's most anticipated literary events, is set to take place from 8th to 10th November 2024 at Gandhara Citizen's Club, Fatima Jinnah (F-9) Park. Organized by Oxford University Press (OUP) Pakistan in collaboration with Getz Pharma, this year's ILF celebrates its decennial with the theme, "Sustainability: Words Change Mindsets."

Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director of OUP Pakistan, emphasized the importance of sustainability and the transformative power of words. He highlighted the festival's role in inspiring change, challenging outdated perspectives, and celebrating the art of storytelling.

The inaugural keynote address will be delivered by H. E. Jane Marriott CMG OBE, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, alongside distinguished speakers Zehra Nigah (renowned poet), Maleeha Lodhi (former Pakistan representative to the UN), Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Special Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Sikandar Hayat, Provincial Minister of School Education for Punjab, Ifkhar Arif, Urdu Poet, Scholar and Littérateur, and Najeeba Arif, Eminent Scholar, Creative Writer, Critic and Researcher.

With an impressive roster of national and international speakers, ILF's 10th edition continues its mission of fostering cultural dialogue, literary discourse, and the exchange of diverse perspectives. Notable participants include Hamid Mir, Nasim Zehra, Faisal Bari, Kishwar Naheed, Anwar Masood, Alamgir Hashmi, Baela Raza Jamil, Andrew Coombe, Munezza Shamsie, and many others.

The festival will also feature a book fair, offering a diverse selection of books from various genres, giving attendees the chance to explore and purchase works by their favourite authors. Cultural performances, including music, dance, and other forms of artistic expression, will showcase Pakistan's vibrant art scene, allowing attendees to experience the richness of Pakistani culture.

This year's Islamabad Literature Festival promises to be a landmark event, celebrating a decade of promoting literature and intellectual exchange in Pakistan.

Govt of Japan provides grant assistance to NGOs for development projects

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has decided to provide grant assistance up to USD 194,493 (equivalent to around PKR 54 million) in total to three local NGOs for development projects in Pakistan.

The grant contracts were signed between His Excellency, Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and representatives of the three NGOs at the Embassy of Japan in Islamabad on November 6, 2024. The three NGOs that will implement the projects are (1) Friends Welfare Association (2) Al Khidmat Foundation Pakistan and (3) Al Meezan Islamic Model Secondary School.

Friends Welfare Association will receive a USD 59,764 grant (equivalent to around PKR 16.64 million) to build a new water scheme in one of the most underdeveloped areas of Mansehra District. The project will benefit 6,000 people or around 895 households of the area. The project is related to the provision of clean drinking water to the people of that area by constructing water tanks and establishing water supply lines. This is expected to free women and children from the labor of fetching water.

Al Meezan Islamic Model Secondary School will receive a USD 64,528 grant (equivalent to around PKR 17.87 million) to build a road with its supporting bridges over a big water channel which will provide a safe way for the school children to reach their schools. The project will benefit 2,540 people or around 300 households of the area by providing them safe access to travel to the main city, markets and hospitals.

Al Khidmat Foundation Pakistan will receive a USD 70,201 grant (equivalent to around PKR 19.5 million) to implement a project related to the provision of clean drinking water to the people of an industrial area, Faisalabad. Seven water filtration plants will be installed in Faisalabad city and Okara city to provide filtered water to about 2,870 people in the vicinity of the plants and protect residents from waterborne diseases.

At the signing ceremony, His Excellency, Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro expressed his expectation that these development projects in cooperation with local communities would have a positive impact on uplifting the living standards of Pakistani people at the grassroots level.

The Government of Japan will provide further flexible and timely support to local NGOs through grant assistance to improve the social wellbeing of the people of Pakistan at the grassroots level.

Chinese premier pledges further opening up at import expo

Xinhua

SHANGHAI: Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday pledged to further expand opening up and turn China's vast market into great opportunities for the world.

Li made the remarks during his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) and the Hongqiao International Economic Forum in Shanghai.

Hosting the CIIE is an important measure for China to expand opening up and cooperation, representing China's solemn commitment to the world, Li said.

If the first CIIE was a one-way invitation from China to the world, then each subsequent edition has become a mutual commitment between China and the world, reflecting the shared aspiration for opening up and cooperation, the premier said.

Li stressed the need to strengthen consensus on opening up, adding that all parties should jointly adhere to international economic and trade orders and rules and earnestly fulfill multilateral and bilateral economic and trade agreements.

China will further expand institutional opening up and actively align with high-standard international economic and trade rules, Li said, pledging efforts



to implement the strategy for upgrading pilot free trade zones.

Li said the country is willing to open up its enormous market further, including implementing the unilateral opening up and offering zero-tariff

treatment for all tariff lines from the least developed countries, and effectively turn the huge market into great global opportunities.

China firmly safeguards the multilateral trading system with the World

Trade Organization at its core and supports developing countries in sharing more benefits of globalization, Li said.

He said China stands ready to continue close coordination and cooperation with all parties in international economic organizations, take the lead in exploring the implementation of the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement, and join efforts to build an open world economy.

"The fundamentals of the Chinese economy remain sound, and the Chinese government is capable of promoting steady economic growth and contributing more to global development and the welfare of humanity," said the premier.

In their speeches at the ceremony, foreign leaders and heads of international organizations remarked that the CIIE has become an important international platform for promoting trade and investment and boosting opening up and cooperation.

They voiced their confidence in the Chinese economy and its prospects, and expressed willingness to advance cooperation with China in jointly building the Belt and Road as well as in areas such as economy, trade, connectivity and green development, maintain free trade, and promote equality, progress and sustainable development in the world.

Kamala Harris was a product of Indian lobby, Mushahid says

Monitoring Desk



ISLAMABAD: Senior Pakistani politician Mushahid Hussain Syed has claimed that Donald Trump is the first US president in 60 years who is not part of America's "deep state" establishment, unlike Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

In an interview on the news program "News Insight with Amir Zia," Syed lauded Trump's potential to bring about positive changes in global affairs.

Syed argued that Trump's presidency could lead to the end of the Ukraine war, curb the influence of figures like Netanyahu, foster greater economic cooperation, and prevent the expansion of NATO. He described Trump as a "candidate of peace" and an unconventional president, contrasting him with Biden's perceived interventionist foreign policy.

Syed was highly critical of the Biden-Harris administration, referring to Kamala Harris as a "total fraud" and a product of the Indian lobby. He alleged a "soft coup" against Biden, orchestrated by the Clintons, Obamas, and Nancy Pelosi, to replace him with Harris.

Regarding Pakistan's relationship with a potential Trump administration, Syed expressed optimism, believing Trump would advocate for Imran Khan and that Pakistan should leverage this opportunity to build strong ties with the US.

He suggested that Trump's independent thinking would allow for a departure from the traditional pro-India stance of the US establishment. He urged Pakistan to engage in robust diplomacy to establish strong relations with a Trump administration.

Experts propose measures to achieve sustainable targets



City desk

ISLAMABAD: Amid sluggish growth and increasing poverty ratio in the country, experts on Wednesday recommended certain measures to policymakers that focused on achieving sustainable targets and plugging loopholes in a number of sectors that impeded economic growth.

Panel discussions, policy dialogue, roundtables and thematic sessions continued on the third day of the ongoing Sustainable Development Conference organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

At a session titled, 'Local Government System in Pakistan: From Challenges to Resilience', MNA Nafisa Shah, the convener of the Parliamentary Forum on Energy and Economy, said after the 18th Amendment, Article 140-A had been strengthened and now local governments had become a provincial subject, adding that there were challenges but even then, governance should be devolved.

MNA Riaz Fatyana said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had been negligent of its duty to hold local government polls within the timeframe.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Jawed Hanif Khan and National Assembly Standing Committee of Commerce chairman said the local government system was not being strengthened because they were not being provided sufficient funds.

Jamaat-i-Islami Deputy General Secretary Farasat Ali Shah said he failed to understand why this system was trampled, questioning the reason behind not providing funds to local governments.

In a roundtable discussion on 'Living Wage for a Sustainable Pakistan: Bridging Gaps, Building Equity', labour law experts and representatives of multinational employers came together to discuss ways to improve wages.

Dr Asad Sayeed, Dr Azfar Khan from Anker Research Institute, Wazirzada Yasir, senior official at the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Head of Strategy Mobilink Microfinance Bank Ltd Khowla Shoaib, Head Programme and Partnerships, IBA, Syed Bulent Sohail, COO, Kashf Foundation, Mumtaz Iqbal, Director SELF India Anuradhapur Mirikar,

Umer Baloch from World Bank, DG Textile Mudassar Raza, Head Economic and Trade Policy Unit, UNEP, Asad Naqvi, Jeroen Willems, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Pakistan,

Yulia Bazhenova of GIZ Germany, Mustafa Sattar, Retex Global and KPEx Karachi, Senator Afrasiab Khattak of Awami National Party (ANP), Former federal secretary Dr Syed Kaleem Imam, highlights the 'Opportunities and Challenges for Today's Youth and Future Human Capital', emphasised that empowering the youth through social protection measures was essential for fostering resilience and enabling meaningful contributions to the nation's economy.

Post-2024 U. S. Election: Trump's Return and the Nation's Divide

Ahsan Ansari

Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 U. S. presidential election has triggered a deeply polarized atmosphere within the nation. As Trump's supporters celebrate the return of a populist leader, critics fear a rollback of democratic norms and civil rights.

His second term is expected to focus on familiar policy priorities, such as cutting taxes, rolling back regulations, prioritizing energy independence, and challenging the Affordable Care Act. Additionally, his administration is likely to push for stricter immigration policies, an isolationist foreign policy, and a continued emphasis on "America First," which may involve reevaluating U. S. involvement in NATO and other international organizations, as well as pursuing trade protectionism, especially with China and the EU. Trump's significant impact on the judiciary



will continue, with further conservative judicial appointments expected to deepen the ideological shift, potentially solidifying a conservative majority in the Supreme Court. Social issues like abortion and voting rights will remain central to political debates throughout

his second term. In Congress, Republicans are expected to align with Trump's agenda, though tensions may emerge from moderate Republicans. Democrats will likely adopt an aggressive opposition stance, focusing on oversight and resistance. Progressive social

movements concerned about environmental protections, racial justice, and reproductive rights are poised to grow in response to Trump's policies.

Globally, Trump's "America First" approach is expected to reduce U. S. participation in multilateral organizations such as NATO and the UN, disrupt trade relations with China and the EU, and strain international alliances. His rollback of environmental regulations could undermine global climate efforts. Overall, Trump's return signals a period of uncertainty, both within the U. S. and on the global stage, with power dynamics shifting and foreign policies needing to adapt.

Trump's second term will continue America's political polarization, with both sides bracing for battles ahead. The future of U. S. democracy, governance, and social cohesion remains uncertain as the nation enters a new, deeply divisive chapter in its history.

Nestlé Pakistan backs govt's economic ambitions

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nestlé reaffirmed its commitment to the government's vision for Pakistan's economic growth by unveiling its USD 50 million packaged food exports vision till 2030. The announcement came at a ceremony 'Limitless Possibilities' that showcased the company's exports journey over the last few years, expanding to 26 countries and generating USD 23 million in 2024.

Talking about Nestlé's success, Federal Minister for Industries & Production Rana Tanveer Hussain said, "As Pakistan progresses towards economic growth and recovery, the importance of exports cannot be overstated. Given the scale of Nestlé's global operations, we anticipate that exports from Pakistan will scale up further in the next few years."

"Nestlé Pakistan's vision for export growth directly contributes to the government's efforts to shore foreign

reserves and their success is a testament to the resilience of the private sector which is integral to the country's economic prosperity," he added.

Addressing the gathering, Jason Avancaña, Chief Executive Officer, Nestlé Pakistan, said "As we celebrate 35 years of operations in Pakistan, we are committed to be a force for good throughout our value chain for the future of the country by boosting exports and earning foreign revenues for the country."

"We have also made significant strides in expanding beyond ethnic channels to mainstream channels, securing partnerships with mega chains such as Costco in the US, Sobeys in Canada, and Sainsbury's in the UK. Looking towards the future, Nestlé Pakistan has set ambitious goals for 2030. Our vision is to further expand our global reach, and to achieve this, streamlined regulatory processes, fair trade agreements, and export incentives are crucial to support our growth," he added.

(CIIE) Global brands debut new products in Chinese market

Xinhua

SHANGHAI: From Honeywell and BMW to L'Oréal and Lindt & Sprungli, many renowned global brands have launched new innovative products to entice Chinese consumers, exposing themselves in the spotlight at a high-profile trade promotion event.

The seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE), the world's first import-themed national-level expo, being held in Shanghai from Nov. 5 to 10, has become a major launchpad for new products, technologies and services, demonstrating global companies' great interest in exploring the lucrative Chinese market.

Political and business leaders from 152 countries, regions and international organizations attended the opening ceremony. Around 3,800 Chinese and foreign journalists from more than 400 media outlets are participating in the coverage of this event.

At the booth of Lindt & Sprungli, a 4-meter tall "waterfall wall" made of eight different flavors of the brand's bestselling LINDOR chocolate is catching the eyes of many. Founded in

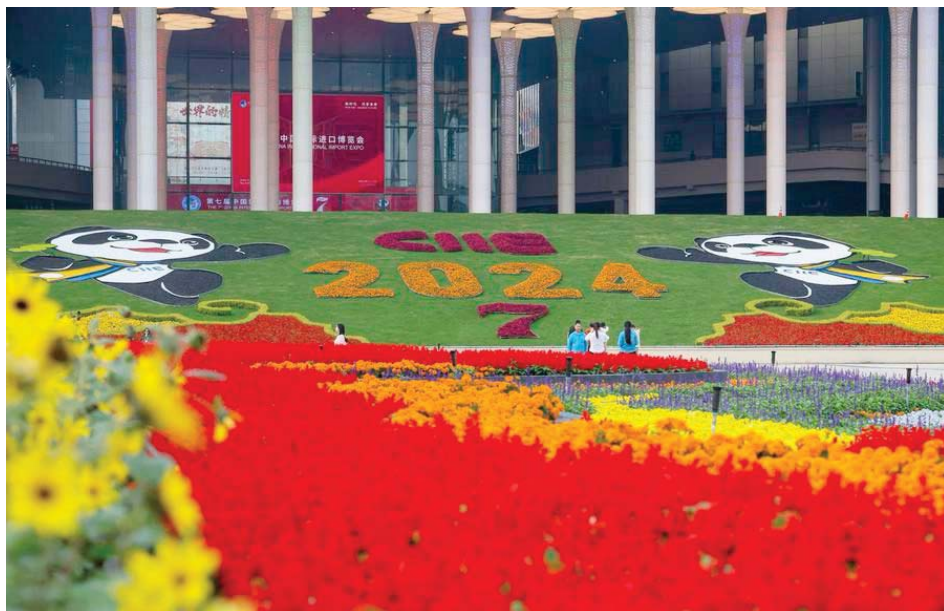
1845, the Swiss chocolate brand is participating at the expo for the first time.

The company has recognized the significant potential of the Chinese market since its entry in 2012. It aims to strengthen its connections with Chinese consumers, explore the market more thoroughly, and create a wider range of high-quality chocolate products through participation in the CIIE, said a booth staff.

At the expo, the company is showcasing dozens of chocolate varieties, including some new products, and will conduct tasting activities throughout the expo. One of the five Lindt Swiss master chocolatiers, Thomas Schnetzler, will be present to share chocolate-making expertise and engage participants in the process of creating chocolates via a master class.

Nippon Paint, a popular choice for many Chinese for home furnishing, is a first-time exhibitor at the CIIE, and has debuted a suite of new products, with a focus on smart road construction and urban air purification.

"We hope to comprehensively show our extensive business and global strength via the CIIE.



We will continue to increase investment in China and firmly believe that investing in China is investing in the future," Eric Chung, CEO of Nippon Paint China, stated in a written interview with Xinhua.

The BMW, a beloved brand among China's middle-income group, is also participating in the CIIE for a seventh consecutive year. At its booth, six models

from the BMW M series are on display. The exhibited vehicles include gasoline cars, plug-in hybrid models and pure electric vehicles.

Sean Green, President and CEO of BMW Group Region China, said the company firmly believes in open innovation. It is willing to collaborate with China's top research forces in cutting-edge technology fields

to create products that meet the needs of Chinese consumers, thereby providing users with a more personalized and intelligent travel experience.

L'Oréal, another company to participate in the CIIE for seven successive years, is amplifying its presence in 2024, unveiling over 220 exhibits across 21 brands. In its exhibition area, a revolutionary hairdryer made its debut,

attracting many expo attendees who stopped by to give it a try.

Jointly developed by L'Oréal and a Chinese startup, the AirLight Pro hairdryer, which combines infrared light technology with high-speed airflow, is said to be more friendly to both the health of hair and the environment.

"CIIE is the only event like this in the world, where L'Oréal is so involved, where we introduce new brands and innovations," remarked Jean-Paul Agon, L'Oréal Group Chairman. "We are very excited to be part of it, and we have a great belief in the opportunities in the Chinese market."

L'Oréal has already inked a deal to participate in the eighth CIIE, underscoring its commitment to this platform.

At the Honeywell exhibition booth, the company debuted a brand new type of gas detector which is able to detect more than 35 types of gases in the field of semiconductor processing and manufacturing, aiming to help enterprises reduce operating costs required for gas detection.

It is the seventh time Honeywell is participating in this expo. Over the past six years, the

company's exhibition space has expanded tenfold, from some 50 square meters during its first attendance to the current 500 square meters, with more than 160 innovative technologies, products and solutions showcased during this period.

This year the company is exhibiting a record 100 technologies covering areas such as aviation, smart buildings, energy transition and smart manufacturing, according to a company employee at the booth.

Over the years, the CIIE has become an important platform for global companies seeking to make big profits in the Chinese market. The previous six editions of the expo saw nearly 2,500 new products, technologies and services make their debuts — with combined intended turnover reaching over 420 billion U. S. dollars.

The 7th CIIE has attracted about 3,500 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions, and achieved a new record with 297 Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders attending the event. More than 400 new products, new technologies and new services are set to be unveiled during the 2024 expo.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
92,021.44	92,304.32	
Day's High	Day's Low	
92,966.94	91,891.47	
Index Value	Change	
19,830,238,497	-282.88	
Percentage	Time	
-0.31%	6 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,166.68	-5.71	
Percentage	Time	
-0.070%	6 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
43,558.74	+1,336.86	
Percentage	Time	
+3.17%	6 Nov, 12:01 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,480.67	+1,005.77	
Percentage	Time	
+2.61%	6 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.77	185.02
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.07	202.47
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	40.14	40.54
Euro	297.10	299.85
Hong Kong Dollar	35.39	35.74
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 \$	164.01	166.01
Norwegians Krone	24.95	25.25
Omani Riyal	715.66	724.16
Qatari Riyal	75.63	76.33
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	208.7	210.70
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	317.90	320.70
Thai Bhat	8.18	8.33
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	356.35	359.85
US Dollar	277.35	278.95

FPCCI demands comprehensive, effective winter package for export-oriented industries

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has urged the government to announce a comprehensive, effective and multi-sectoral winter package for trade and industry to mitigate and overcome challenges in industrial production. The industries are in a dire need of facilitation, incentivization and cost-cutting measures to meet export targets through competitiveness in the export markets, he added.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh apprised that the primary demand of FPCCI is Rs. 20 / kWh electricity tariff for export-oriented industries as, at the moment, the biggest contributor to the cost of production and cost of doing business in Pakistan is electricity tariff, which also happens to be the highest in the region and, also the highest, as compared to competitors in the export markets.



Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh cautioned that any conditional eligibility criteria tied to incre-

mental gas consumption, as was the case last year, would unfairly exclude and neglect many export-oriented industries.

Last year, several units did not have gas supply connections; which made it impossible for them to meet this conditionality, he explained.

FPCCI President also reiterated the apex body's demands of renegotiating power purchase agreements (PPAs) of all independent power producers (IPPs) on take-and-pay basis; revitalizing privatization process of PIA; bringing key policy rate in single-digits and taking far-sighted macro-economic policy measures for consistency in policies and promoting ease of doing business. We, at FPCCI, have a futuristic, but practical, Vision 2030 to achieve exports target of \$100 billion; and, we need adequate governmental support to materialize it, he added.

Addressed

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Taveer Hussain is addressing an unveiling exhibition ceremony of models of electric bikes at Engineering Development Board on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Mehran Commercial Enterprises signs MOU with Chinese firm



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mehran Commercial Enterprises is proud to announce that we were the first auto parts manufacturer to sign an MOU with the Prime Minister's Business Delegation China visited between June 4 and June 5, 2024. This MOU has now been formalized into an Agreement with a Chinese company, signed during a recent visit at Mehran Commercial Enterprises' office in Karachi.

Present at the signing were Mr. Bai Guiqing, Vice President of VLG Wireless Technology Co. Ltd., and Mr. Qamar Uddin Khan, Founder and CEO of Mehran Commercial Enterprises. Under this agreement, we will produce car antennas and wireless devices for both the Pakistani market and for export.

Pak-Qatar Group-Sybrid Private Join Hands to Introduce 24/7 Contact Center Services

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Group (PQG), a leading Islamic financial services group in Pakistan, is pleased to announce a strategic partnership with Sybrid Private Limited to enhance customer experience across its subsidiaries.

PQG continues to uphold its vision of enhancing a customer-centric approach through improved customer experience, implementation of technology in service processes, and product innovation. The partnership with Sybrid aligns with PQG's commitment to high-quality service delivery, ensuring that customers of Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited (PQAMC), Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL), and Pak-Qatar General Takaful Limited (PQGTL) receive

exceptional services.

Since its inception, PQG has been a pioneer in providing innovative Islamic financial solutions in the country. The group consistently offers technology-driven solutions that optimize business operations and enhance customer experience, reinforcing its position as a leader in the Islamic financial sector.

Mr. Waqas Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer of PQFTL, said during the signing ceremony: "Our partnership with Sybrid aims to significantly enhance our customer experience by leveraging their expertise and advanced technologies. We are confident that this partnership will enable us to offer unmatched support to our customers through technology-driven solutions and enhanced customer experience."

BankIslami's Vision of 'Saving Humanity from Riba'

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: BankIslami, a leading Islamic financial institution in Pakistan, has launched a significant initiative to promote its riba-free (interest-free) banking services to individuals of diverse backgrounds and faiths underscoring the bank's commitment to ethical and inclusive banking practices.

Riba, or interest, is prohibited in many religions due to its perceived unjust nature. By offering riba-free solutions, BankIslami aims to foster transparency and trust, creating a system where every citizen feels empowered to achieve financial stability. This approach appeals to people of all faiths, promoting inclusivity by providing fair and transparent financial alter-

natives. The campaign has garnered positive feedback on social media platforms. Users have praised BankIslami for its commitment to ethical banking and inclusivity. One user commented, "BankIslami's new campaign is a breath of fresh air. It's great to see a bank promoting services that align with diverse ethical values."

Another user shared, "As someone who values interest-free banking, I'm glad to see BankIslami making it accessible to everyone, regardless of faith." BankIslami's commitment to inclusivity and ethical banking practices positions it as a bank for the people, offering financial solutions that align with the values and beliefs of a diverse clientele.

OICCI leads pre-COP29 dialogue on private sector climate action

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan confronts the pressing challenges of climate change, the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) organized a high-level dialogue at the 27th Sustainable Development Conference to foster private sector-led solutions for green financing and climate resilience. The Pre-COP29 Policy Dialogue brought together leaders from the private sector, government, and international organizations to address the role of corporate investment in

advancing Pakistan's climate goals.

Highlighting the private sector's role in climate action, OICCI Senior Vice President & Nestlé Pakistan CEO Jason Avanceña called for a strategic response from the business community. "Climate change is a reality we cannot ignore," Avanceña said addressing the session.

As one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, Pakistan faces mounting risks from floods, heatwaves, and other extreme events that threaten food security, public health, and economic stability.



The devastating 2022 floods, which displaced nearly eight million people and caused \$15 billion in damages, underscore the urgency of investing in sustainable solutions. OICCI Secretary General M Abdul

Aleem reinforced the need for private investment in these areas. Dr Abid Suleri, Executive Director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), emphasized the value

of public-private partnerships in achieving Pakistan's climate objectives. "Our shared goals can only be realized through a concerted effort," Suleri remarked. "By creating policies that incentivize investment and enable the private sector, we can close critical financing gaps and strengthen Pakistan's climate resilience."

The dialogue included keynotes from prominent figures like Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative of UNDP Pakistan, who shared insights on innovative financial instruments to attract climate capital. Panelists from leading

corporations such as Unilever Pakistan, Coca-Cola Company, HBL, and Engro Foundation discussed their sustainability initiatives and explored ways to enhance public-private collaboration in green finance.

The event underscored OICCI's significant contributions toward climate action, including its role at COP28 and its commitment to advocating for sustainable practices. OICCI members collectively contributed over Rs13 billion to corporate social responsibility in 2023, with Rs1.5 billion specifically earmarked for environmental protection.

Farrukh H. Sabzwari New CEO of Pakistan Stock Exchange



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has announced the appointment of Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This announcement was made earlier today through a Notice issued by PSX. Mr. Sabzwari will assume his office as CEO of Pakistan Stock Exchange on November 18, 2024.

Mr. Farrukh Sabzwari has spent more than 25 years in senior management roles in the investment banking industry, both locally and abroad. He has previously served as CEO and MD of KASB Securities (local partner of BoA Merrill Lynch), BMA Capital and Country Head for CLSA Emerging Markets in Pakistan. His time abroad includes stints at CLSA Emerging Markets in NY, USA, where he was VP sub-continent sales and at Credit Suisse in Indonesia and Singapore – where he spent seven years looking at both APAC and Frontier Markets as Director Equities sales. He also served as the Chairman (December '18 – August '19) and Commissioner of SECP from 2018 to 2021, a position he took up on his return to Pakistan. He is a proposed Director on the board of Hugobank – a Getz Group entity that he has been associated with since March 2022 – one of the five Digital Banking consortiums that were awarded banking licences by the SBP in January 2023. He is also a co-opted member of the Capital Markets Advisory Council (CMAC), set up in November 2023. Mr. Sabzwari has capital market certifications from various jurisdictions, including Singapore, Indonesia, and NY, and he is an alumnus of the IBA in Karachi, where he graduated with an MBA in December 1992.

Pak Consul General participates in Arab Classic Dubai-2024 baseball inaugural ceremony



Sports Desk ISLAMABAD: Consul General of Pakistan Hussain Muhammad on Wednesday attended the inaugural ceremony of Arab Classic Dubai-2024 baseball tournament at Dubai Sports Council. He joined esteemed figures, including Baseball United's Chairman and CEO Kash. Shaikh along with notable partners and legendary baseball players, marking a milestone event for the region's growing interest in the sport, a press release said.

K2 Gamer, Peace E-Sports Championship 2024 concludes

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: The K2 Gamer and Peace E-Sports Championship 2024, a collaborative effort between Gamer Pakistan Inc. and K2Gamer Pakistan, in association with The Peace Schools & Colleges, has successfully concluded, showcasing the exceptional gaming talent from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The event, part of the annual sports festival of The Peace Schools & Colleges, took place in Nowshera and featured a fierce competition in Tekken 7, with over 180 gamers from eight campuses battling it out across three exciting e-sports events: PUBG Battle Royale, Free Fire, and Tekken 7.

The Tekken 7 competition was a highlight of the championship, with 32 skilled players vying for top honors. Awais Waqar emerged victorious, clinching the first place, while Ali Saad and Muneeb secured second and third positions, respectively.

All three top winners hailed from the Mardan Campus, further emphasizing the campus's remarkable talent and commitment to e-sports.

Key dignitaries in attendance included Sana Ullah, CEO of The Peace School and College System; Awais



Khan, Nowshera Campus Director; and SALTANAT KHAN, Director of Administration. Their presence underscored the support of The Peace Schools & Colleges

in promoting e-sports as a critical aspect of youth development, teamwork, and skill-building.

The management also expressed their gratitude to K2Gamer Pakistan for offering students the opportunity to showcase their talent in the dynamic e-sports sector.

Muhammad Jamal Qureshi, CEO of K2Gamer Pakistan, praised the players for their dedication and passion, stating, "The hard work, skills, and strategies demonstrated by these young players are truly inspiring."

This event is not just about competition but also about developing critical teamwork and problem-solving skills. "We are proud to partner with The Peace Schools & Colleges in this tremendous initiative."

The K2 Gamer and Peace E-Sports Championship 2024 is set to continue with upcoming competitions in PUBG Battle Royale and Free Fire, further reinforcing the role of e-sports in campus activities and student engagement.

The event serves as a testament to the growing acceptance of e-sports in educational settings, where young learners can explore and develop their skills in a rapidly evolving industry.

Khalid Ghumman Club win Khelta Punjab Games kabaddi title

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Khalid Ghumman Kabaddi Club defeated Naeem Sandhu Kabaddi Club Minhala by 60-34 points in the final match of Khelta Punjab Games Lahore District Inter-Club Kabaddi tournament at Ashiana Housing Scheme Stadium, Kamahan Road on Wednesday.

Political Secretary to Punjab Chief Minister Zeeshan Malik was the chief guest on this occasion.

Sports Coordinator Malik Anoush Khokhar, MPA Rana Rashid Minhas, MA M Nawaz, Rana Khalid Qadri, DSO Lahore Tanveer Abbas and a large number of kabaddi lovers were also present on this occasion.

Meanwhile, the District level women badminton competition of Khelta Punjab Games 2024 were held at Punjab College Canal Road Muslim Town on Wednesday.

Women badminton round 2 results:

KCU Club bt Court King Club by 2-0, Smash Master bt KC by 2-0, KCU bt GGHS Tajpura 2-0, Smash Master bt GGHS Ravi Road 2-0, Court King bt GGHS Tajpura 2-0, KC bt GGHS Ravi Road 2-0, KCU bt Governor House School by 2-0.

Men badminton round 2 results:

Court King bt Shuttlers King 2-1, Smash Master bt ZR Badminton 2-0, Smash Master bt Net Ninjas by 2-0, Net Ninjas bt ZR Badminton 2-0.

Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Three Matches were decided in the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at various Grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days days play was fine Batting by Hassan Ahmed Siddiqui 72, deadly bowling by Haris Khan 5/22 and Nadir Ali 4/18.

Scores in Brief:

Zone-IV Whites beat Zone-V Blues by 151 runs at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-IV Whites 285 all out in 37.3 overs. Syed Jasir Ali 52 11x4, Muhammad Zohair 50 4x4, Muhammad Hamdan 25, Syed Mehdi 22, M. Usama 21, Fakharuddin Sialvi 20. Ziyun Ali (rlb) 4/50

Zone-V Blues 134 all out in 35.3 overs. Ihsanullah 27, Haris Khan (lcm) 5/22.

After the end of the Match Chief Guest Muzafar Abbas, Principal Officer OGDC given Medicam Man of the Match Award to Zone-IV Whites Haris Khan.

In the 2nd Match Zone-VII Whites beat Zone-II Blues by 215 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-VII Whites 261/6 in 40 overs. Hassan Ahmed Siddiqui 72 9x4 1x6, Omar 61 6x4, Abdul Rehman 43, Amanullah Khan 29, Riaz Ahmed 25. Ahmed Abdullah 2/32, Syed Nofil 2/43.

Zone-II Blues 46 all out in 16.5 overs. S. Abdul Rafay (rlb) 3/9. M. Hunain 2/6, Mustajab Khan 2/16.

Later Azam Khan Coordinator RCAF give the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Hassan Ahmed Siddiqui of Zone-VII Whites.

In the 3rd Match Zone-V Whites beat Zone-VI Blues by 3 Wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VI Blues 114 all out in 34 overs. M. Muzammil 30, Arham Hussain 21. Nadir Ali (sla) 4/18, M. Burhauddin (rlb) 3/11.

Zone-V Whites 126/7 in 30.4 overs. M. Burhanuddin 29, M. Rohan 28, Syed Daniyal 21 not out. Faiq Haider (sla) 3/25, Maaz Khan Jadoon 2/39.

Chief Guest Asghar Khan Vice President Zone-V give the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Nadir Ali of Zone-V Whites.

Asif wins IBSF World Championship title

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Muhammad Asif has claimed the IBSF Men's World Snooker Championship 2024 title, defeating Iran's Ali Gharahgozlou in a thrilling final.

According to details, Asif, now a three-time World Champion, showcased exceptional skill and strategy throughout the tournament.

Asif outclassed Ali by 5-3: 70-25, 7-87(84), 82(56)-8, 106(106)-08, 82-12, 43-91(58), 0-118, 93(80)-4.

This victory marks Asif's third IBSF World Championship title, solidifying his position among the world's top snooker players. However, the World Masters Championship is ongoing at Doha.



Pakistan team gears up for T20 Blind World Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The training camp for Pakistan's Blind Cricket Team, in preparations for the fourth T20 Blind Cricket World Cup, is underway at the Uqab School Blind Cricket Academy in Mirpur, Azad Kashmir.

The 21 participating players are rigorously training daily in three sessions, focusing on bowling, batting, fielding, and physical fitness.

This camp will continue until November 20, after which a selection committee, comprising Masood Jan, Muhammad Jameel, and Tahir



Mehmood Butt, will finalize the 16-member squad for the World Cup, said a press release.

The players are committed to preparing thoroughly for the mega event, especially aiming to put their best efforts forward.

The selection committee members highlighted that alongside experienced players, newcomers who showcased strong performances in the domestic season have also been given an opportunity.

Each player's performance is being closely monitored, with special emphasis on physical fitness, to ensure the formation of a well-prepared squad for the World Cup.

PSB raises serious concerns over POA's governance, electoral transparency

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has voiced serious concerns over the transparency and legitimacy of the Pakistan Olympic Association's (POA) upcoming electoral process.

In a letter, addressed to POA President Syed Muhammad Abid Qadri Gillani, the PSB cited multiple governance issues and highlighted non-compliance with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards, questioning whether the POA's procedures align with international expectations for fairness and transparency.

Among the primary concerns raised are alleged secrecy surrounding constitutional amendments, withheld records of General Council meeting minutes, lack of transparency in the composition of the Electoral College, and the absence of clarity on whether POA's election rules have received IOC

approval.

The PSB underscored the potential impact of these practices on the democratic integrity of the POA. "The absence of essential documentation like the amended Constitution and Electoral College, combined with procedural irregularities, calls into question the legality of the upcoming elections," the letter stated.

One of the PSB's main concerns is the POA's failure to publish its updated constitution. The POA website currently only hosts the 2019 version with 13 Articles, despite recent references to Articles not found in that version.

This discrepancy suggests that significant amendments were made without transparency, violating IOC's Good Governance Principles.

Further aggravating the situation, the PSB noted that minutes from the POA's General Council meetings in December 2023 and July 2024—

where these amendments were reportedly discussed and ratified—have not been disclosed.

"This failure to provide key documentation raises questions about the legitimacy of the amendments and whether they were made in compliance with the procedural requirements of both the POA Constitution and the IOC's governance standards," the PSB said.

Another contentious issue highlighted by the PSB is the non-disclosure of the Electoral College for the POA's upcoming elections. "The POA has not shared the details of the Electoral College for the upcoming elections, further undermining the transparency of the electoral process."

The lack of clarity on who constitutes the Electoral College and how these members were selected or nominated, particularly in light of the alleged amendments that seem to deprive departments such as the

Army, PAF, Navy, WAPDA, HEC, and Railways of their rightful participation, is deeply concerning.

"Moreover, the discretion given to the POA President to nominate 16



members who are eligible to vote, further calls into question the fairness and impartiality of the electoral process."

The PSB also noted that it was unclear whether the Election Rules

approved by the POA General Council on 6th July 2024 have received the required approval from the IOC; these rules, should not be enforced until such approval is confirmed. "Moreover, these rules should be published on the POA's website, in accordance with the IOC's standards of transparency and governance."

The IOC Charter mandates that National Olympic Committees, like the POA, must represent all sports federations, recognized by international federations (IFs) participating in the Olympic Games. However, the PSB pointed out that the Pakistan Cycling Federation, despite being recognized internationally is notably absent from the POA's list of affiliated federations—a clear violation of the Olympic Charter.

The PSB urged the POA to address these governance issues within three days, emphasizing that failure to do so could cast doubts on the legal standing

of the POA's current office-bearers.

"The absence of key documents, such as the amended Constitution of the Electoral College, and the non-compliance with IOC governance standards suggest that the POA may no longer be operating within the bounds of its own Constitution or the IOC Charter," the PSB warned.

The PSB's letter was copied to high-level stakeholders, including the IOC Director General Christophe De Kepper, national sports federations and prominent departments within Pakistan's sports sector.

When contacted, POA President confirmed that the Association had received the PSB letter. "We have called an emergency meeting of our office-bearers on this issue. "The points raised in this letter will be answered in this meeting," he said. According to Gillani, all the affairs of the Association are being run according to the POA constitution.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a special meeting of the Gilgit Baltistan Cabinet in Gilgit on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Arif Alvi pens letter to Donald Trump after his US election victory



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Former President Dr. Arif Alvi wrote a letter to Donald Trump after his victory in the US election 2024 and extended best wishes to him to continue his 'excellent efforts for global peace'.

The former president maintained in his letter the world is troubled by war in Ukraine and in Palestine, and its repercussions have hurt Pakistan and people of the country.

"You have been a good friend of Pakistan and on behalf of Imran Khan, I extend our good wishes to

you to continue your excellent efforts for global peace."

Dr. Arif Alvi's letter read, "On behalf of the people of my country, and as the 13th President of Pakistan I would like to congratulate you on your resounding victory to 'Make America Great Again'. We look forward to continued cooperation as democratic nations. Indeed, your victory must have sent shivers down the spine of dictators and aspiring dictators of the world."

The former president called the US president-elect 'a man of his word'.

Federal govt actively working for uplift of GB people: PM

Saif ur Rehman

GILGIT: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the federal government was actively working for the progress and welfare of the people of Gilgit Baltistan.

The prime minister, who paid a daylong visit to GB and

inaugurated multiple infrastructural projects besides laying the foundation stone for others, asked the authorities concerned to ensure the timely completion of the public welfare projects.

During the visit, GB Governor Syed Mehdi Shah and Chief Minister Gulbar

Khan separately called on the prime minister, who also laid a wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada (Martyrs Monument) at the Chief Minister Secretariat.

In his remarks, the prime minister said that the sacrifices of the GB Scouts for the maintenance of peace in the region and security of the people's lives

and properties were unforgettable.

As the prime minister arrived at the CM Secretariat, traditionally attired children presented him with bouquets and the chief minister presented a traditional Gilgit cap Pakul and a robe. He was also given the guard of honor at

the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

In the meeting, the GB governor paid tribute to the prime minister over the economic stability.

Both the governor and chief minister thanked the prime minister for inaugurating and laying the foundation stone of different development projects.

Rana Sanaullah terms Trump a liar, compares him with PTI founder



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah compared the United States (US) President-elect Donald Trump and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, citing similarities in their styles of politics.

Speaking during ARY News programme 'Khabar Muhammad Malik Ke Saath', Rana Sanaullah said that both Imran Khan and Donald Trump are 'known for spreading falsehoods, mocking others and attacking institutions'.

"There are many similarities between them (Imran Khan and Donald Trump) like lying, making fun of others, and resorting to illegal activities for the acceptance of their demands. He (Donald Trump) gathered his supporters and attacked the

White House," the special assistant to the prime minister on political affairs said.

To a question regarding Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz's felicitation statements for the US president-elect, Rana Sanaullah said that was just a mere diplomatic gesture and formality.

When asked as if the federal government would release Imran Khan on the US demand, Rana Sanaullah, 'I do not believe the US government will do so'.

"In my personal opinion, Imran Khan should be handed over to the US, if Donald Trump wishes so that these two brother can work together. If the US wants, it can take Imran Khan in exchange for Aafia Siddiqui's release and the nation would probably agree on it," Rana Sanaullah said

PM Shehbaz congratulates Donald Trump on US election win

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday congratulated the president-elect of the United States of America Donald Trump on his "historic" victory for a second term.

"Congratulations to President-elect Donald Trump on his historic victory for a second term," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that he looked forward to working closely with the incoming Administration to further



strengthen and broaden the Pakistan-U.S. partnership.

PIA denies selling 10 aircraft engines

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) issued a statement dismissing the claims made by the Society of Aircraft Engineers (SAEP) regarding the sale of 10 aircraft engines at cheap prices.

PIA spokesperson dismissed the allegations made by the newly elected body of SAEP, describing it as 'regrettable'.

The spokesperson clarified that there is no truth to the selling of ten aircraft engines at low prices. He added that the engines mentioned are totally "inefficient" and their sale is being conducted through a tender following all standard rules and regulations.

The spokesperson emphasised that the sale of unusable engines is a routine practice in the aviation industry, with full compliance with public procurement laws. The revenue from this sale will be used to purchase spare parts for aircraft.

The spokesperson added that PIA's pension and provident funds have already been transferred to PIA Holding Company, and all dues and pensions are being paid promptly to both current and retired employees. A hiring freeze is in place at PIA following the Supreme Court's orders since 2017, except for essential contract positions required to meet SCCP standards.

Pakistan's First Sider Honey Shipment Heads to Malaysia

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Demonstrating the effectiveness of strategic leadership in enhancing Pakistan's export portfolio, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has overseen a significant breakthrough with the export of the first consignment

of Sider honey from Tarnab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to Malaysia. The achievement of this milestone is a direct result of the minister's relentless focus on promoting Pakistani agricultural products in the global market.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan's vision has been the driving force behind initiatives

that have positioned Pakistan as a serious contender on the international stage. His proactive policies culminated in the success of FoodAg 2024, an event that showcased Pakistan's agricultural capabilities. The Trade Mission at the High Commission of Pakistan in Kuala Lumpur, operating under the minister's directive,

played a critical role in facilitating connections between Malaysian companies and Pakistani producers. This effort was notably evident during the Second International Agriculture and Food Exhibition in Karachi from August 9 to 11, 2024, where the seeds of future trade deals were sown.

Punjab closes schools, colleges up to 12th grade amid smog crisis

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government has announced the closure of schools from primary to higher secondary levels, namely 12th grade, until November 17, while also mandating the use of masks for all individuals.

The closure will also affect schools teaching O and A levels classes, a government notification said on

Wednesday. Punjab Minister Marriyum Arangzeb announced the measure at a press conference and then a notification was issued by the director general of the Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Imran Hamid Shaikh.

The notification said educational institutions would switch to online teaching between November

7 and November 17. "... all the educational institutions including private tuition centers (public private) upto Higher Secondary Level (12th grade/A-level) shall remain closed and will shift to online mode," read the notification and added, "This order shall come into force with effect from 7th November, 2024 (Thursday) and remain in

force till 17th November 2024 (Sunday) within the territorial jurisdiction of Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad and Multan Divisions, i.e., district of Lahore, Sheikhpura, Kasur, Nankana Sahib, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Narowal, Faisalabad, Chiniot, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Multan, Lodhran, Vehari, and Khanewal."

ATIF IKRAM SHEIKH
PRESIDENT FPCCI

S M TANVEER
PATRON IN CHIEF UBG

Donald Trump wins election
«Congratulations, Mr. President!»

TARIQ KHAN JADOON
VICE PRESIDENT FPCCI

MALIK SOHAIL HUSSAIN
CHAIRMAN COORDINATION FPCCI

KARIM AZIZ MALIK
CHAIRMAN CAPITAL OFFICE