

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ہم سے مسودے بیان کیا انہوں نے کہا
ہم سے ہمارے بڑے بھائی نے کہا کہ نبی کریم
ﷺ نے عبد الرحمن بن عوف رضی اللہ
عنه پر زبرد کیا تو فرمایا یہ کیسے؟ کہا
کہ میں نے ایک عورت سے ایک ٹھٹھی کے
برابر سونے پر شادی کی ہے۔ نبی کریم صلی اللہ
علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اللہ تمہیں برکت عطا
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RAWALPINDI



Xi Jinping congratulates Donald Trump on election as U. S. president

Chinese President Xi Jinping congratulates President-Elect of the US Donald Trump, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning aid on Thursday. President Xi Jinping pointed out that history tells us that both China and the US stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation, she said during her regular briefing.



Al-Nihang's Group CEO Muhammad Ali Faqir offered Rs100 billion to buy PIA

"I am writing to formally present an offer to acquire Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) at a valuation of PKR 100 billion," Al-Nihang's Group CEO Muhammad Ali Faqir said in a letter to the three ministries of Pakistan. Cash-strapped Pakistan is looking to offload a 51-100% stake in debt-ridden PIA to raise funds and reform bleeding state-owned enterprises as envisaged under a \$7 billion International Monetary Fund programme.

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Graduation Ceremony

General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, awarding trophies to the distinction holders at the Graduation Ceremony held at PAF Academy Asghar Khan on Thursday.



PM stresses further deepening Pakistan-Turkiye trade, defence cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressing satisfaction at the growing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye, stressed the need to further deepen bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, and defense sectors.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with newly-appointed Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Irfan Neziroglu, who called him at the PM House.

The prime minister welcomed Ambassador Neziroglu, who presented his credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari on October 28, 2024, and said that he looked forward to working closely with the ambassador to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, according to a PM Office press release.



Recalling the historic, longstanding and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Turkiye, the prime minister

expressed gratitude for Turkiye's consistent support to Pakistan on Kashmir and said that Pakistan would also continue to lend its strong support to Turkiye on its core interests.

The regional situation, particularly in Gaza and the Middle East also came under discussion.

The prime minister conveyed his warm greetings and best wishes to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and reiterated his invitation to the Turkish President to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

Ambassador Neziroglu thanked the prime minister for warmly receiving him and assured him of his full commitment and support to further strengthen the strong and historic bonds of friendship between both countries.

Graduation Ceremony of 150th GD(P) and 106th Air Defence Courses held at PAF Academy

City Desk

RISALPUR: The Graduation Ceremony of 150th GD(P), 96th Engineering, 106th Air Defence, 26th A&SD, 9th Logistics and 132nd Combat Support Courses was held today at PAF Academy Asghar Khan, Risalpur. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was also in presence.

A total of 139 Aviation Cadets, 08 Gentleman Cadets and 02 Naval Cadets graduated during the ceremony.

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Trophy for the overall best performance in General Service Training was awarded to Aviation Cadet Sports Sergeant Imran Raza, whereas, Trophy for the overall best performance in Combat Support Course was won by Aviation Cadet Usman Rasheed. Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for the

best performance in the Air Defence Course was received by Aviation Cadet Sergeant Haseeb Abdul Malik. Pakistan Naval Cadet Sergeant Hafiz Ali Asad, was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour for the overall best performance at the College of Aeronautical Engineering, Sword of Honour for overall best performance in College of Flying Training was received by Aviation Cadet, Academy Under Officer Abdullah Saad Ali.

While addressing the graduating cadets, the Chief Guest congratulated the graduating cadets and their families.

The ceremony was followed by a thrilling aerial display by PAF Academy Aerobatics team "Sherdils". Afterwards, a formation flying display by PAF Mirage, F-16, JF-17 and J-10C fighter jets enthralled the audience by showcasing PAF's professional prowess. The Graduation Parade was witnessed by high-ranking military and civil dignitaries as well as the parents of the graduating cadets.

Federal govt raises Supreme Court judges' salaries, allowance

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government increased the salaries and other allowances of Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan judges.

According to details, the house rent allowance has been raised from Rs. 68,000 to Rs. 350,000, while the judicial allowance has been increased from Rs. 3.42 million to Rs. 10.9 million.

This decision was made after Acting President Yousuf Raza Gilani's approval and notification by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The development follows last year's July increase in the salary of Chief Justice of Pakistan more than Rs. 200,000, bringing it to over Rs. 1.2million. The 20 percent increase in Supreme Court judges' salaries was approved through an ordinance by then President Sadiq Sanjrani.

According to the ordinance, the salaries of other judges were also raised by 20 percent to over Rs. 1.1 million.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif rejects possibility of Khan's extradition to US

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has dismissed the possibility of incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan being extradited to the United States, as rumour mill has been churning out following Republican candidate Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election.

"I don't think Trump will advocate for Imran Khan's release," he said in a social media post on X.

5 Khwarij terrorists killed, 4 sons of soil embrace martyrdom in South Waziristan: ISPR

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: As many as five Khwarij terrorists were killed in exchange of fire between the Security Forces and Khwarij in general area Karama, South Waziristan District while four personnel of the Security Forces also embraced martyrdom.

The Khwarij terrorists were killed due to effective engagement by the Army troops, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The four brave sons of soil who valiantly embraced martyrdom during intense fire exchange were identified as Naib Subedar Taib Shah (age: 38 years, resident of District Tank), Lance Naik Gulab Zaman (age: 30 years, resident of District Karak), Lance Naik Muzammil Mehmood (age: 30 years, resident of District Karak) and Lance Naik

Habibullah (age: 28 years, resident of District Orakzai), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

"Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area as Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," it further said.



Acting President, PM pay tribute to security forces for killing 5 terrorists in S Waziristan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the security forces for killing five terrorists of Fitna al-Khawarij in Karama area of South Waziristan.

In their separate messages, the acting president and the prime minister also expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of soldiers of the security forces Naib Subedar Tayyab Shah, Lance Naik Gulab Zaman, Lance Naik Muzammil Mehmood and Lance Naik Habibullah.

They saluted the security personnel who sacrificed their lives while fighting against the Fitna al-Khawarij in defense of their homeland.

They said the sacrifices of the brave soldiers will never go in vain.

They also prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in Jannah and for grant of patience to their families to bear the loss with equanimity.

Incarcerated ex-PM Khan doesn't expect US President-elect Trump to seek his release

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan has congratulated US President-elect Donald Trump, expressing hope that the latter would remain neutral "unlike" Joe Biden, whom he accused of believing in a lobbying campaign against him orchestrated by former army chief General (ret'd) Qamar Javed Bajwa using former diplomat Hussain Haqqani.

Speaking to journalists and lawyers in Adiala Jail, issued a strong condemnation of the current Pakistani government, accusing it of undermining democracy and suppressing dissent.

Khan, who remains imprisoned, stated that his release is a matter to be resolved within Pakistan, not through US intervention. He acknowledged two mistakes: extending General Bajwa's tenure as army chief and forming a weak coalition government instead of calling for fresh elections.

Khan painted a bleak picture of Pakistan's current political climate, asserting that democracy exists only in name. He criticized the judiciary, claiming its independence has been compromised, and stated that elections alone are insufficient for true democracy.

He emphasized the need for free and fair elections, an independent judiciary, the rule of law, and accountability, arguing that even dictators can stage sham elections.

Murad says his government encourages investment opportunities

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah during his meeting with Australian High Commissioner Mr Neil Hawkins said that his government has launched various initiatives to attract both local and foreign investment.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh.

The CM and the Australian High Commissioner discussed matters of mutual interest, including investment, climate change, the Indus Delta, Archaeology, and others.

Mr Hawkins said that the Indus Delta was historic and most importantly needed to be protected. At this, the CM said that Pakistan was a water-starved country. "Sindh being the lower riparian province is faced with water shortage, therefore the water required



to be released to [downstream Kotri] sea has been an invincible job," he said

and added as a result, sea intrusion has become a big threat.

Mr Shah said that apart from Dhabeji SEZ, other key zones are ready for investment including the Bin Qasim Industrial Park (BQIP) and Korangi Creek Industrial Park (KCIP), where utilities and land are readily available. Additionally, following the Sole Enterprise Special Economic Regulations, 2020, single enterprises investing at least USD 50 million can attain SEZ status, with two such zones already operational in Sindh.

The Sindh Enterprise Development Fund (SED) has mobilized private investments amounting to Rs 7 billion in sectors such as agriculture, mining, and mineral processing, offering a subsidy scheme to boost productivity, the CM said and added this initiative has generated an economic impact worth 10 times the invested amount.

Seminar on Social Behaviors Change PWO Attock

Raza naqvi

ATTOCK: The District Population Welfare Office Attock organized a seminar on the topic of "Social Behavior Change." Additional Deputy Commissioner General, Anil Saeed, attended as the chief guest. Other attendees included CEO Health Attock, Director IRMNCH Program, Deputy Director Education, Deputy Director Colleges, representatives from the Social Welfare Department, District Livestock, TEVTA College, and various other participants. Zafar Iqbal, District Population Welfare Officer Attock, gave a detailed overview of social behavior change. Deputy District Population Welfare Officer, Dr. Anika Malik, discussed the importance and benefits of social behavior change. Sanam Khalid, Psychologist at the Adolescent Health Center Attock, provided awareness about health issues and personal hygiene. In conclusion, Zafar Iqbal Rahmani, District Officer Attock, thanked the chief guest and all participants.

A Tribute to Karachi's Unsung Heroes: The Police Force

Arisha Irshad Ali

KARACHI: a city that never sleeps, is also a city that faces constant security challenges. Amidst the hustle and bustle, there's a dedicated force of men and women who tirelessly work to keep the city safe - the Karachi Police. They are the unsung heroes, often overlooked, yet always on the front lines, protecting our lives and property.

The sacrifices made by these brave officers are immense. They leave their families behind, risking their own lives to ensure our safety. Their dedication is unparalleled, as they work tirelessly, day and night, to maintain law and order.

Last October, I had the opportunity to witness firsthand the courage and resilience of one such officer. Muhammad Babar, a young police officer, was injured in the line of duty. Despite his severe injuries, his spirit remained unwavering. His story is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our police force.

It is imperative that we recognize and appreciate the sacrifices made by these brave individuals. Let us express our gratitude and support for the Karachi Police. By doing so, we can honor their selfless service and inspire future generations to join the noble cause of protecting our city.

Federal Ombudsman issues direction to federal departments to address public grievances

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: On the instructions of the Federal Ombudsman, Ijaz Ahmed Qureshi, Major General (Retd.) Haroon Sikandar Pasha and Khalid Sial from the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat held an open court in Attock, where they heard complaints against federal departments and directed officials on-site to resolve several issues related to passports, gas, electricity, and NADRA. During the open court, complainants raised a large number of issues regarding electricity, gas, NADRA, Benazir Income Support Program, Pakistan Railways, State Life Insurance Corporation, Pakistan Post Office, and other federal and provincial departments. Most complaints concerned electricity and gas connections, excessive bills, delays in financial aid from the Benazir Income Support Program, and delays in issuing passports and identity cards. The Ombudsman officers issued immediate instructions to relevant departments to address the grievances. Several complainants reported unresolved issues regarding incorrect electricity bills and pending gas and electricity connections despite having submitted demand notices. Following the open court, the Federal Ombudsman officers met with district administration officials in Attock to discuss solutions to public issues. They also visited the NADRA office and praised the management and performance there. NADRA officials promptly addressed complaints and submitted their reports. The open court was attended by local officials from federal departments, Attock's Assistant Commissioner Shagufta Jabeen, district administration officials, and members of the media.

Punjab government should focus on the problems of traders, petrol rates: Alhaj Naseer

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Mumtaz Tahir leader and central president of Cloth Board Ittehad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra has said that instead of metro buses in Faisalabad, the Punjab government should focus on the problems of traders, petrol rates, inflation and parking plazas. Metro buses are not so necessary. First, activate the urban transport. Politicians have made it a tool to rob the people. While talking about Atah Bazars, he has said that the encroachment and parking problems have not been resolved and the Crown Metro Buses have come out to run. As the parking plazas are derelict, the district government seems unable to complete them. The streets of eight bazaars are dilapidated. The condition of Jhang Bazar is proof of the incompetence of the municipal officers. Naseer Yusuf Vohra also reminded the Commissioner and Administrator Municipal Corporation to control the smog in the city of Faisalabad. It has been done, but not only the city but also the fumes coming out from the factories around the city are causing smog. The environment department is also failing in this regard. All institutions of Faisalabad are failing.



Preparation of Lok Virsa

ISLAMABAD: Balouch stall holders carrying Balouchi traditional items for displaying on their stall in connection with Lok Mela title "Focusing on the Youth of Pakistan" starting on today at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Toyota Career Division originates successful job fair in Faisalabad

Abdul majid

FAISALABAD: The Career Division of Toyota took a significant step towards empowering its graduates by organizing a successful job fair at Government College of Technology Samanabad in Faisalabad. The event aimed to connect talented students of Toyota with renowned industries, bridging the gap between technical skills and employment opportunities. More than 100 students from vocational and technical institutions in Faisalabad city and Chinot were offered jobs at the job fair. The distinguished guests present at the ceremony included Chairperson NewTech Mrs. Gulminia Bilal, Chairman Brigadier Muhammad Sajid Khokhar, Mrs. Asifa Maqbool DG NewTech, Aamir Aziz Director



General TUTA Punjab, Miss Rubina Anjad, President Women Chamber of Journalists, Adam Khan Wazir, Senior Vice President Chamber of Commerce, Chief Manager State Bank of Pakistan, Engineer Asim Munir, Haji

Idrees Sudha Sheikh, Engineer Usman Regional Director North and Engineer Faiz Muhammad Buzdar, District Director TUTA in Faisalabad. Successful Job Fair Chairman and Chairperson Newtech congratulated Engineer Faiz

Muhammad Buzdar and Muhammad Asghar District Placement Officer for organizing the job fair. At the end of the job fair, industry representatives were presented with appreciation shields in recognition of their cooperation.

Journalist Ala Khan tortured by Maulana Shams Uddin's Family in Waziristan

Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: A disturbing incident occurred in the Khangai area near the Angoor Adda border, where journalist Ala Khan Wazir was severely tortured on Wednesday by approximately 30 members of Maulana Shams Uddin's Shamsi Khel family while reporting on the Khangai road under construction.

Local journalist Ala Khan Wazir recounted the harrowing experience, stating that he was detained in his house for three hours after the assault. Maulana Shams Uddin confiscated and destroyed his mobile phone.

Fortunately, Ala Khan Wazir was discharged from the district headquarters hospital Wana after receiving medical attention.

The Chairman of the Wana Union of Journalists, Adam Khan Wazir, vehemently condemned the violence against Ala Khan Wazir, demanding immediate arrest and punishment for those involved.

Deputy Commissioner of South Waziristan Lower, Muhammad Nasir, took notice of the tortured journalist Ala Khan Wazir and issued instructions to the DPO to prosecute those involved, ensuring that action will be taken according to the law and no one

will be forgiven.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Union of Journalists has strongly condemned the brutal assault on Ala Khan Wazir, a member of the Wana Press Club.

Despite the difficulties, Ala Khan Wazir remains resolute and committed to his work. Shams Momand, President of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Union of Journalists, has issued a statement emphasizing the journalist community's unwavering dedication to principled journalism.

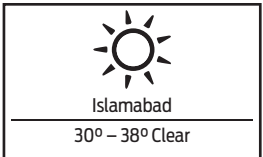
The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Union of Journalists stands firmly in support of Ala Khan Wazir, condemning the shameful incident.



Meanwhile a meeting was held at the Mehsood Press Club, chaired by President Farooq Mehsood, to address

the heinous violence inflicted upon Ala Khan Wazir. The members of the press club collectively expressed their

deep sorrow and outrage, demanding immediate and stringent legal action against those responsible for the attack.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:07 am
Zohr	11:51 am
Asr	3:32 pm
Maghrib	5:10 pm
Isha	6:35 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

Meeting of the Administrative Judges of ATC Court to review progress

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Administrative Judges of Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATC) was held today at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad, chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi. The meeting reviewed the performance of ATCs and took stock of key challenges to ensure the swift and efficient dispensation of justice in anti-terrorism cases. The meeting was attended by monitoring judges from Supreme Court Justice, Jamal Khan Mandokhail (via video link), Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan and monitoring judges of ATC courts and Prosecutors General from all provinces and ICT. The meeting was also attended by the Registrar, Supreme Court and Secretary, Law and Justice Commission were also present.

Opening the meeting, the Chief Justice welcomed the participants and outlined the purpose of the session, which was to assess the current status and performance of ATC cases, as well as to identify and address barriers to the efficient delivery of justice. He reminded the participants



of the immense responsibility that they carry in dispensing justice, urging them to uphold the law, impartially and without fear or favor.

During the meeting, it was disclosed that a total of 2,273 ATC cases are currently pending in Pakistan, with a significant portion—1,372 cases—

awaiting resolution in Sindh alone. The Chief Justice expressed concern over the backlog and emphasized the importance of expediting these cases to

ensure justice is not delayed. Key challenges facing ATC courts were discussed, including: Ensuring adequate security for witnesses, facilitating online appearances for witnesses, Establishing and enhancing Forensic Scientific Laboratories (FSL) to support evidence-based decisions, creating additional ATC courts to manage high caseloads effectively.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice issued specific directions that forensic scientific lab (FSL) Sindh to extend help to Balochistan in operationalization of FSL labs in Quetta. He further directed that the ATC judges completing their term in ATC courts should be accommodated on soft positions. He further announced that outperforming ATC judges must be accommodated in foreign trainings with the support of Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan.

The Chief Justice desired the Attorney General for Pakistan, along with the Prosecutors General of each province, to take up these issues with their respective governments. He called for swift and coordinated action to address the infrastructure and resource needs of ATCs, which are essential for delivering timely and fair outcomes in anti-terrorism cases.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong on Thursday.



Photo: PID



LAHORE: Meher Kashif Youni Honorary Consul Kyrgyzstan presenting Copy of Holy Quran to Governor Punjab.

Hazara University Scholars meet new Chairperson of Media Studies



Bureau Report

MANSEHRA: MPhil research scholars led by Raja Muhammad Sohail Khan and Shahid Qayyum Raja met with Dr. Majid Al-Ghaffar, the newly appointed Chairperson of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at Hazara University. The scholars congratulated Dr. Majid on his appointment and presented him with recent print media reports. In return, Dr. Majid gifted them a copy of his book, Broadcast Journalism.

During the discussion, Dr. Majid emphasized the vast scope of Communication and Media Studies, encouraging students not to limit their pursuits. He urged research scholars to focus on high-quality research that benefits the nation rather than seeing their work as merely a means to obtain a degree.

On the importance of research, Dr. Majid emphasized that Hazara University is fully committed to fostering high-quality research, advising scholars to pursue research not solely as a requirement for degrees or promotions but as a means to disseminate knowledge. Published research, he noted, is a credible source of knowledge, as it informs the public of ongoing work in specific fields.

Expressing their thoughts, scholars Raja Sohail Khan and Shahid Qayyum shared that they are currently active in the media field and chose Hazara University for further study due to the department's esteemed reputation.

Global experts urge end to lead use in Landmark Health Study

City Desk

KARACHI: Aga Khan University's Dr Zafar Fatmi has co-authored a new paper published in the Lancet Planetary Health, highlighting the urgent need to eliminate lead from the global economy. The study, led by Stanford University and co-authored by experts from renowned institutions including AKU, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, University of Southern California, and the Centre Scientifique de Monaco, presents compelling evidence for a swift global phaseout of lead.



"Why do we allow trillions of dollars of damage to human health, entire ecosystems, and the global economy to accrue for the sake of \$100 billion in benefits?" asks Dr Fatmi, Section Head of Environmental, Occupational Health, and Climate Change at AKU's Community Health Sciences. The authors argue that despite its limited economic value, lead's impact on health, productivity, and ecosystems is staggering, affecting life expectancy, cognitive development, and environmental health worldwide.

Multi-Session dialogue on enhancing engineering education CECOS University

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Engr. Waseem Nazir, Chairman of the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), convened a significant multi-stakeholder dialogue at CECOS University of IT & Emerging Sciences aimed at addressing the pressing challenges in engineering education. The event featured five focused sessions moderated by faculty members from CECOS University.

Engr. Waseem Nazir, Chairman PEC highlighted the necessity for ongoing partnerships between academia, industry, and regulatory bodies to foster a robust engineering education framework that meets both current and future workforce needs. The PEC remains committed to ensuring that engineering education in Pakistan evolves in tandem with industry requirements, equipping graduates with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in a competitive environment.

Goethe Institute's Regional Head visits NUML

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Alexandra Mittler, Regional Head of the Goethe Institut, visited the National University of Modern Languages today to further solidify the institute's long standing partnership with NUML.

She was accompanied by Mr. Jan Krausser, Cultural Attaché at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad, and Ms. Maha Jafarey, Head of the Goethe Institut in Karachi.

The visit focused on enhancing collaborative ties between NUML and the Goethe Institut, particu-



larly around Goethe exams conducted at NUML.

The delegation aimed to assess the examination facilities, address any chal-

lenges in conducting exams and the registration process, and explore opportunities for expanding academic and cultural exchanges.

Pro-Rector academics, Dr. Safer Awan also provided insights into the various international institutions established at NUML, highlighting the university's efforts to enhance global partnerships.

In a subsequent meeting, Director General NUML, Brig Shahzad Munir expressed appreciation for the Goethe Institut's role in fostering cultural ties and urged further exploration of collaborative avenues, noting that NUML could play an integral role in strengthening cultural and academic connections.

Immediate Regulation on Emerging Tobacco and Nicotine Products

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) is urgently calling for immediate regulation on emerging tobacco and nicotine products, which have seen a troubling rise in popularity among children and youth in Pakistan. Health activists warn that these products, often marketed as safer alternatives to traditional cigarettes, pose significant health risks and contribute to the growing tobacco epidemic, particularly among vulnerable populations.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad, Program Manager at SPARC, expressed grave concern over the



tobacco industry's tactics. "The industry is aggressively promoting emerging nicotine products, which are designed to attract young users through appealing marketing strate-

gies that mislead them into believing that these products are less harmful than conventional cigarettes. This deceptive narrative undermines public health efforts and

exposes children to addictive substances," he stated.

Dr. Khalil further highlighted the urgent need for regulatory measures. "Pakistan currently lacks a legal framework governing the promotion, sale, and advertisement of these products. The government must act swiftly to restrict emerging tobacco and nicotine products to protect the health of our future generations," he urged.

The marketing tactics employed by the tobacco industry are particularly troubling. Emerging tobacco and nicotine products often feature vibrant packaging, trendy designs, and enticing

flavors aimed specifically at younger audiences. This intentional targeting has led to a concerning increase in nicotine addiction among minors, with many youth believing they can use these products without significant health risks.

SPARC calls for comprehensive tobacco control measures that encompass all forms of tobacco and nicotine delivery systems. "We urge the government to introduce stringent policies restricting the sale and production of emerging tobacco and nicotine products, ensuring a healthier future for our children and society," Dr. Khalil added.

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Triumph of Trump: A Setback for the American Establishment or a Victory for Democracy?

The re-emergence of Donald Trump in the U.S. presidential race signifies a pivotal moment in American politics, challenging the traditional influence of the establishment. By electing a leader with polarizing views, Americans have demonstrated that their voice can't be subdued by powerful institutions alone. This victory represents the American public's resolve and their insistence on electing leaders who resonate with their sentiments, despite widespread opposition.

Contrary to conventional American diplomacy, Trump has previously voiced his disinterest in interventionist policies, advocating instead for a focus on domestic interests. He has criticized NATO allies for relying on U. S. defense spending, suggesting that they should shoulder more responsibility for their security.

new reality where the current regime no longer enjoys implicit American support. During the Biden administration, a delicate balance existed, with the U. S. State Department favoring Pakistani elections, while Congress and the Senate were largely influenced by the Pakistani diaspora, who were critical of the current regime's policies. However, Trump's decisive style may end this ambiguity, presenting a more straightforward but perhaps challenging diplomatic path.

militarily. Trump's journey is also a telling example of the American public's resilience against media influence. Despite mainstream media outlets portraying him negatively, public opinion has remained robust in his favor. This election has shown that the power of the media, though significant, is not absolute; the American public has proven capable of making independent choices beyond media narratives.



Analysis

Kiran Asim

The American establishment employed numerous tactics against Trump: he faced relentless media opposition, lawsuits, accusations, and attacks on his closest allies. Trump was painted as a "cult leader," his family was embroiled in cases, and his every move met resistance. Despite these pressures, Trump stood resilient, and his persistence has redefined the boundaries of what a presidential candidate can withstand.

Some Pakistani observers hope Trump's victory could mean support for former Prime Minister Imran Khan, though expecting Trump to exert direct pressure for Khan's release or intervene in Pakistan's domestic issues might be misguided. Trump's reluctance to engage in foreign political entanglements implies he might not actively push for such matters, especially given his prioritization of the U. S. over foreign interests.

Trump's approach also encourages countries to "set their house in order." The American administration, through various diplomatic gestures, has hinted that allies should prioritize stability and governance. Pakistan, in particular, has received such signals to avoid dependency on foreign validation for political decisions and instead cultivate its democratic and governance frameworks.

This trend may inspire a similar effect globally, where citizens prioritize their interests and ideals over media-driven narratives. In Pakistan and elsewhere, it could encourage a more discerning public, one that challenges established narratives and focuses on policies rather than personalities.

This election marks a potential defeat for the establishment, which has historically wielded considerable power in influencing candidates and public opinion. For the first time, perhaps, the establishment has been forced to accept a candidate they fundamentally opposed, reflecting a deeper shift in American democracy where the people's will has overcome the preferences of elite power structures.

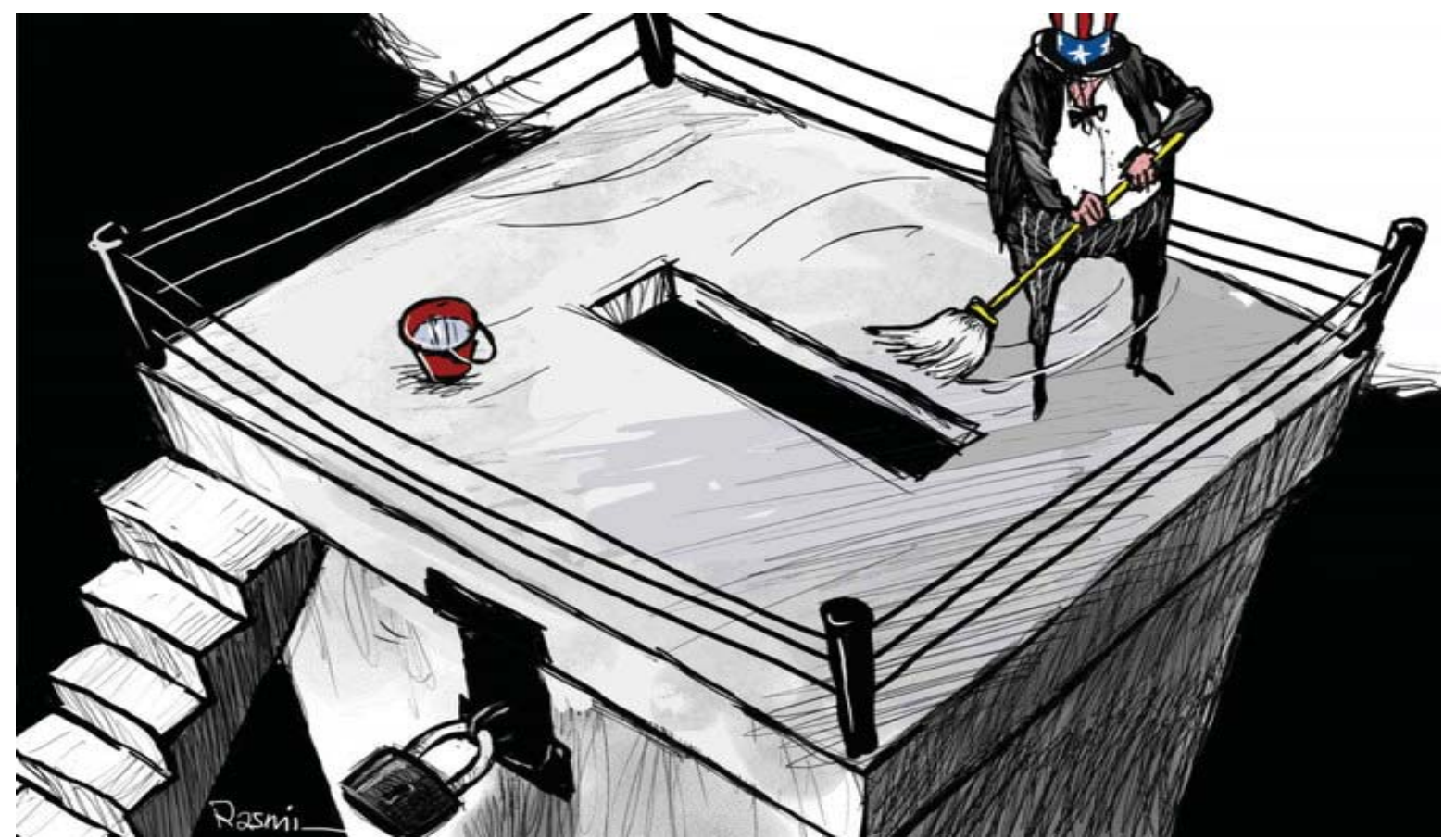
Trump's success has sent ripples through Pakistan's political landscape, where political parties like the PML-N may view his victory with apprehension. Key figures from this party, who previously celebrated Trump's legal challenges and openly criticized him, could now face backlash. Notably, Trump may remember that some PML-N ministers tagged him in tweets comparing Capitol Hill's January 6 incident with Pakistan's own political upheavals.

Trump's re-entry into American politics may signal a shift away from conventional alliances and global commitments. His "America First" approach could limit U. S. participation in international coalitions, creating a ripple effect among allies who have come to rely on the U. S. as a strategic partner. Nations within NATO and other international bodies may need to rethink their defense and foreign policies as Trump might pressure them to become more self-sufficient, both financially and

In the broader scope, Trump's victory not only signifies a significant moment in U. S. politics but also an evolution in global diplomacy. His direct and often unconventional stance may pave the way for a new model of governance where foreign allies are expected to become more self-reliant and democracy is asserted without elite influence. This event will likely be remembered as a critical juncture, challenging the old norms and showing the resilience of the American democratic process.

In international contexts, especially in countries like Pakistan, Trump's leadership style may bring significant changes.

With Trump's return, Pakistani politicians may find themselves adjusting to a



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

Addressing Pakistan's State-Public Communication Gap for a United Future

The ongoing struggles faced by Pakistan's state structure can largely be attributed to a fundamental communication gap between the government and its people. This gap has persisted since the country's inception, creating deep-seated misunderstandings, fostering mistrust, and ultimately contributing to systemic inefficiencies. This disconnect has been especially problematic in a nation as diverse as Pakistan, where each province—Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), and Balochistan—carries unique social, cultural, and economic realities. A failure to engage meaningfully with these distinct regions has resulted in the formation of policies that often feel imposed, disconnected from ground realities, and, therefore, ineffective.

On the other hand, the public often holds an idealized or unrealistic expectation of what the state can and should do. People may assume that the state has unlimited resources or that it could address all issues effectively if it simply had the will to do so. This lack of understanding about the state's own limitations—be it financial, logistical, or bureaucratic—breeds frustration and disillusionment. Consequently, the public may perceive the state as deliberately neglectful, corrupt, or uninterested in their welfare, while in reality, the state faces complex challenges in balancing competing priorities with limited resources. This mutual misunderstanding, where neither side sees the other's perspective accurately, erodes the foundation of trust that is essential for effective governance.

Total Sanitation: Still a challenge for city governments - I

Hussna Khattak

Massive rural urban population influx is gradually adding to problems of major cities in terms of fresh air, clean drinking water and sanitation cover and waste disposal, exposing millions of residents to environmental and health hazards.

ered drains, stagnant sewage and absence of toilettes make these neighborhoods hazardous for residents."

Criticizing the PTI government for neglecting sanitation problems, Safdar Baghi emphasized an urgent need for a comprehensive plan to bring more and more people under sanitation cover also ensuring replacement of outdated and leaking pipes.

Sanitation cover conspicuously has emerged as a persisting challenge to city governments in wake of emerging poor localities and slum areas with residents either defecating in the open or lack the facility of proper toilettes.

The lush green landscapes of Wazir Bagh, Shalimar Gardens and Jinnah Parks were once children used to play with colorful butterflies hovering over flowers of Gul e Dawoodi, had succumbed to neglect of successive governments.

Peshawar once known as 'City of Flowers' is also not an exception to this phenomenon like other mega cities in the country where numerous localities still lack sanitation cover although the government officials claim launching of a number of projects in this area.

Mud, dust and stagnant water now mar these recreational spaces, reflecting a broader trend of urban decay fueled by rapid and unplanned construction. Deterioration of Peshawar's natural beauty is not just an aesthetic concern; it also poses serious health risks like polio and hepatitis.

The city's historical charm, characterized by its Mughal-era gardens and fragrant Guli Dawoodi blooms, is being overshadowed by pollution, poor waste management and an inadequate infrastructure for sanitation.

According to Mian Javaid, Director Sanitation and member BoD Sarhad Rural Support Program, poor sanitation in cities emerged as a major challenge in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) that necessitates joint efforts by authorities and the communities.

Safdar Baghi, former Nazim of Nothia Jadeded mentions to areas like Kohati, Gunj, Khalasa, Hazar Khwani, Latifabad and Faqirabad that speak loudly of sanitation and sewerage crisis with visitors often coming across unpleasant odor of garbage and sight of rusty pipes spewing contaminated water.

"As a pilot project, sanitation improvement schemes were launched in different areas of the province including those at Aliabad and Muslimabad villages in Swabi district," he informed.

Ultimately, the success of any state depends on its ability to represent and serve its people. Pakistan stands at a crossroads: without bridging this communication gap, the state will continue to struggle with regional tensions, unaddressed grievances, and growing discontent. However, if the government takes intentional steps to listen to its people and address their specific concerns, it can foster a stronger, more united nation. The journey towards effective governance in Pakistan will require a commitment to inclusivity, empathy, and a willingness to engage with the diverse voices that make up the country. In doing so, the state can not only address immediate issues but also lay the groundwork for lasting unity, resilience, and prosperity.

Funded through the IR & G program, he said the project was aimed to enhance quality of life of poor households with latrine construction while 1000 sanitation kits were distributed among people vulnerable to sanitation concerns.

To be continued



Analysis

M Azam Tariq

Each of Pakistan's regions has unique needs and priorities, shaped by history, tradition, and specific socio-political concerns. This communication gap has also contributed to widespread misconceptions on both sides. The state frequently relies on outdated or limited information, leading to skewed perceptions about regional loyalty and priorities. This lack of awareness manifests in policy and decision-making that does not reflect the true needs of Pakistan's people. For example, the government may prioritize national security issues over social welfare or local development projects, assuming that these are universal concerns when, in reality, many citizens feel more impacted by local issues such as employment, healthcare, and education. These policies, while often well-intentioned, are poorly received because they do not address the immediate concerns of the public. As a result, the state may view the public's dissatisfaction as disloyalty or indifference to national goals, further reinforcing its alienation from the people it aims to serve.

To bridge this communication gap and build a more cohesive national identity, it is essential for the Pakistani state to adopt more inclusive and regionally sensitive governance approaches. This could involve a range of measures to ensure that each province's unique demands and concerns are given due consideration. For example, decentralizing certain powers to local governments could empower regional leaders to address local issues more directly and responsively. Local governments are often more attuned to the specific needs of their communities, allowing them to create policies that resonate with the public's immediate priorities. By sharing authority with local representatives, the central government can foster a sense of ownership and accountability among citizens, making them feel that they are stakeholders in the national project rather than passive subjects.

Moreover, establishing regular forums for dialogue between government officials and local community leaders could help to reduce the mistrust and misunderstanding that currently prevail. Such forums would provide a structured space for citizens to voice their concerns and contribute to policy discussions, thus promoting a more collaborative form of governance. Public participation in governance not only legitimizes government actions but also helps create policies that reflect a broader spectrum of interests, reducing the chances of alienation. Additionally, transparent communication about the state's limitations and challenges can help manage public expectations, encouraging a more balanced and realistic view of what the government can achieve.

Beyond structural reforms, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability within government institutions is crucial. When the public sees that the government is responsive, honest, and committed to addressing their concerns, trust naturally increases. This trust can have a ripple effect, leading to greater public support for government initiatives, even in challenging circumstances. Furthermore, investments in education and public awareness campaigns could bridge the knowledge gap, helping citizens better understand the government's role and responsibilities while encouraging active citizenship.

Writer is a student at University of Sargodha. He can be approached at azamtariq@haider@gmail.com.

Federal Minister Riaz Pirzada felicitates Azerbaijan on 4th victory day

Azerbaijan stands united with full resilience to celebrate Victory Day: Ambassador Farhadov

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

The Embassy of Azerbaijan in Pakistan organized an official reception on the 4th anniversary of Victory Day. Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H. E. Khazar Farhadov and his spouse warmly welcomed to guests.

Federal Minister Housing Riaz Hussain Pirzada was the chief guest, Governor Sindh Mr. Kamran Khan Tessori, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Dean of Diplomatic Corps H. E. Mr. Atajan Movlamov, Diplomats, High Commissioners, Defense Attaches and businessman and media persons were also attended the event.

Federal Minister for housing and work Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada said this while addressing on its 4th anniversary of the victory day.

It is indeed an immense pleasure to attend the reception to celebrate the fourth anniversary of Victory Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the minister said.

Federal Minister for housing and work Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada said this while addressing as chief guest to the fourth anniversary of Victory Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan.



He said that this day has its eminent significance in the history of Azerbaijan, celebrated with great pride.

Pirzada said that on behalf of the government People of Pakistan, I extend my heartfelt felicitation to the brotherly people of Azerbaijan and the community present here on the occasion.

The people of Azerbaijan and Pakistan share common historical, cultural and religious affinities that closely bind us together, he said.

The minister said that over the 34 years of our diplomatic relations, two countries have supported each other in every

situation and stood together.

He said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan have enormous potential for enhanced trade and investment and both sides are committed to take these relations to new heights.

Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov has said that Azerbaijan is united with full resilience to celebrate November 8, the Victory Day of Azerbaijan.

"We stood by our commitment to peace, but we made it clear: Azerbaijan would never accept the occupation of its lands, The" the Ambassador of the Republic

of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov said this while addressing the ceremony on the Victory Day of Azerbaijan here.

He said that this day holds profound significance not only for the honor of our nation but also for the future we are building and it is a symbol of resilience, strength, and the unyielding spirit of Azerbaijan.

"We are deeply grateful to the countries that stood with us, and today I must highlight the steadfast support of our brothers and sisters in Pakistan."

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan said that throughout the second Karabakh War, Pakistan's leaders



voiced unequivocal support for Azerbaijan's just cause, strengthening our determination.

He said that Pakistan has consistently honoured our friendship, even refusing to establish diplomatic relations with Armenia due to the occupation of our lands.

In recent years, several agreements were signed during the high level visits of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Azerbaijan and the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev to Pakistan.

Khazar Farhadov said that along with increased trade volume, the launch of direct flights, joint investment projects, and Pakistan's planned high-level participation at COP29, make a significant contribution to the growth of our multifaceted cooperation.

Since our earliest days of independence, our nation has faced enormous challenges and the country was subjected to military aggression, occupation, ethnic cleansing, and genocide by Armenia, he said.

He said that nearly one million of our people became refugees and internally displaced persons, yet we never lost our resolve.

On September 27, 2020, this resolve was tested again and Armenia launched attacks on Azerbaijani civilians and military positions from multiple directions, using heavy artillery and other weaponry, he said.

The Ambassador said that in response to this provocation, Azerbaijan began a counter-offensive, a Patriotic War for the freedom and integrity of our homeland.

Under the visionary and determined leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, the Victorious Army of Azerbaijan defended our people and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, he said.

Khazar Farhadov on September 19-20, 2023, we undertook local anti-terrorist measures to end the presence of illegal Armenian forces in Garabagh, restoring full sovereignty over our territories within just 24 hours.

He said this decisive action has created unprecedented opportunities for lasting peace and stability in the region and "we continue to call on Armenia to embrace a constructive approach to peace, recognizing the new realities of our region."

He said that Azerbaijan upheld the principles of international law, reaffirmed our territorial integrity, and brought long-overdue justice by implementing United Nations Security Council resolutions that had been ignored for decades.

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan said that this victory allowed us to fulfill our promise to return our internally displaced people to their rightful homes.

"Our victory was not the end of the story; it was the beginning of a new chapter and true to our

principles, Azerbaijan immediately launched peace initiatives and began large-scale restoration work in the liberated territories."

"We introduced the Great Return Program, developing smart villages with a green energy concept to allow our displaced citizens to return home with dignity," he said.

The Ambassador said that environmental stewardship and the fight against climate change are also at the heart of our national agenda.

He said that Azerbaijan is honoured to be hosting COP29 in 2024, one of the largest environmental conferences in the world, underscoring the global respect and trust our nation has earned.

In a significant move demonstrating its commitment to environmental sustainability, Azerbaijan has declared 2024 as the "Green World Solidarity Year."

He said that as we celebrate this day of triumph; let us honour with the deepest respect and gratitude our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Azerbaijan's independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty.

Their courage and their love for Azerbaijan live on in each of us, inspiring us to carry forward their legacy, he said. He wished that may our country continue to thrive, in peace, unity, and progress.

Photos by Ramzan Mughal / Sultan Bashir



First-ever model police stations in merged districts inaugurated by KPK Police, the Government of Japan, and UNDP

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan jointly inaugurated newly constructed model police stations in the merged districts of Bajaur, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, and Orakzai. This marked the successful completion of a project funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by UNDP in partnership with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, for improved policing services in the merged districts.

Established by UNDP Pakistan's flagship Rule of Law Programme, these Model Police Stations provide a range of new facilities to better serve the people of merged districts, including well-equipped and furnished working spaces and reception areas to accommodate women and men police officers and visitors, a gender-responsive desk to address cases of gender-based violence.

Mr Awal Khan, Additional Inspector General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police,



thanked UNDP Pakistan and the Government of Japan for their support in improving police infrastructure facilities to serve the people of the merged districts, "The Government of Japan and UNDP provided invaluable support in advancing the Rule of Law Roadmap, which strengthens justice and democracy in our region. The initiatives, including Gender Desks and Model Police Stations, play a crucial role in enhancing public safety and empow-

ering marginalized communities."

Addressing the ceremony, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H. E. WADA Mitsuhiro said, "The project has supported them to harness these skills in enhancing police services by implementing the KP Rule of Law Roadmap and providing robust police training while taking a gender-sensitive participatory approach. We believe that such a holistic approach was critical to bringing long-term peace and

stability to the most vulnerable communities in Pakistan. Peace and stability are indeed basic human rights and they are central to achieving sustainable development in Pakistan."

While thanking Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and the Government of Japan for their strong partnership with UNDP in advancing security and justice in Pakistan, Dr. Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative UNDP Pakistan, said, "Bridging the gap in formal policing services between the merged districts and all of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is essential for building safer, more peaceful communities, and ensuring equal access to these services—especially for women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. At UNDP, we are confident that this project's policy, capacity building, and infrastructure pillars will achieve these goals."

The UNDP Rule of Law Programme is implementing a range of interventions to strengthen security and justice sector in Pakistan.

United Nations must play its role in stopping the genocide of Kashmiris in IIOJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

BAGHDAD/RAWALPINDI: Former AJK premier and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that in November 1947, the Indian army, Dogra forces and Hindutva forces illegally massacred millions of Muslims in the Jammu region of occupied Kashmir when they were migrating towards Pakistan. The massacre of Muslims in Jammu in 1947 is the worst massacre in human history and the massacre of Kashmiris that began in 1947 is still ongoing today. He said that the Jammu massacre in 1947 is the darkest chapter in the history of Kashmir and the wounds of this heinous massacre are still fresh in the memories of Kashmiris. He expressed these views while addressing a luncheon hosted in his honor by Iraqi parliamentarian Sheikh Abdul Hadi Alhasnawi.

The President of the Muslim Conference visited various holy places during his visit to Iraq including shrines of Hazrat Ali



Murtaza and Hazrat Piran e Peer Shaikh Qadir Gilani. The former Prime Minister AJK further briefed the Member of National Parliament of Iraq and said that the purpose of the massacre of Muslims was to change the population ratio in the region and this massacre reminds us of the criminal face of the Hindutva forces. The sole purpose of the brutal massacre by the Dogra soldiers, Indian soldiers and Hindutva forces RSS and Jank Singh was to convert the Muslim majority in Jammu into a minority.

CIIE crucial for promoting global trade, investment, and cooperation, says Malawian economist

Xinhua

LILONGWE: As the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) unfolds in Shanghai, China, it stands as "a pivotal platform for promoting global trade, investment, and economic cooperation," said Velli Nyirongo, a Malawian economist based in Britain.

In a written interview with Xinhua on Tuesday, Nyirongo said that by providing access to the "extensive Chinese market," the CIIE empowers developing and emerging economies to diversify their export destinations and integrate more deeply into global supply chains.

This year's CIIE, the world's first national-level expo focused solely on imports, has drawn around 3,500 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions. Notably, a record 297 Fortune 500 companies and industry leaders are participating in the six-day event, where over 400 new products, technologies, and services are being unveiled.

Among its benefits, the CIIE reduces trade barriers, offering favorable entry conditions for products from various countries, which promotes inclusive growth, economic resilience, and a more equitable global trade landscape, Nyirongo said.

"This initiative aligns with

China's commitment to high-standard opening-up, supporting emerging economies in strengthening their industrial capacity and global presence," Nyirongo added.

"For African nations, the CIIE presents an opportunity to reduce reliance on traditional markets, providing a buffer against regional economic fluctuations," he said.

Nyirongo further explained that diversified market access, combined with new trade partnerships, contributes to a more balanced and sustainable global economic framework.

According to the Malawian economist, China's open coopera-

tion policy offers numerous benefits, including enhancing global economic interdependence and making trade more inclusive and resilient by fostering partnerships across diverse economies.

He said that through mechanisms such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China promotes zero-tariff access for African goods. This, Nyirongo noted, has led to greater export diversity for countries like Malawi and increased their participation in the global economy.

At the opening ceremony of the 2024 FOCAC Summit in early September, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that



China will grant all least-developed countries with diplomatic relations with China, including

33 African countries, zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent of tariff lines. This policy makes China the

first major developing country and the first major economy to take such a step, turning China's vast market into a significant opportunity for Africa.

"For Malawi, such policies support local industries by creating a reliable export market, which encourages local investment and industrial expansion," said Nyirongo, describing it as "a unique chance to improve the trade balance."

"To maximize this benefit, Malawi should focus on promoting value-added exports, particularly in agriculture and manufacturing sectors where it has competitive advantages," he said.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
92,520.48	92,021.44
Day's High	Day's Low
92,694.53	92,185.69
Index Value	Change
17,339,052,405	+499.04
Percentage	Time
+0.54%	7 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,140.74	-25.94
Percentage	Time
-0.32%	7 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
43,774.70	+44.77
Percentage	Time
+0.10%	7 Nov, 12:35 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,381.41	-99.26
Percentage	Time
-0.25%	7 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183.70	185.95
Bahrain Dinar	731.71	739.71
Canadian Dollar	200.07	202.47
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	40.14	40.54
Euro	296.35	299.10
Hong Kong Dollar	35.39	35.74
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	897.47	906.97
Malaysian Ringgit	63.34	63.94
New Zealand \$	164.01	166.01
Norwegians Krone	24.95	25.25
Omani Riyal	716.16	724.66
Qatari Riyal	75.63	76.33
Saudi Riyal	73.70	74.25
Singapore Dollar	208.7	210.70
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	315.50	318.30
Thai Bhat	8.18	8.33
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	356.45	359.95
US Dollar	277.50	279.00

Emirates Group announced its best-ever half-year financial performance

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Emirates Group today announced its best-ever half-year financial performance, posting a profit before tax of AED 10.4 billion (US\$ 2.8 billion) for the first six months of 2024-25, surpassing its record profit before tax for the same period last year.

This is the first financial year that the UAE corporate income tax, enacted in 2023, is applied to the Emirates Group. After accounting for the 9% tax charge, the Group's profit after tax is AED 9.3 billion (USD 2.5 billion).

Demonstrating its strong operating profitability, the Group maintained a robust EBITDA of AED 20.4 billion (US\$ 5.6 billion), slightly lower from AED 20.6 billion (US\$ 5.6 billion) last year.

Group revenue was AED 70.8 billion (US\$ 19.3 billion) for the first six months of 2024-25, up 5% from AED 67.3 billion (US\$ 18.3 billion) last year. This reflects the consistently strong customer demand across business divisions, and across regions.

The Group closed the first half year of 2024-25 with a solid cash position of AED 43.7 billion (US\$ 11.9 billion) on 30 September 2024, compared to AED 47.1 billion (US\$ 12.8 billion) on 31 March 2024. The Group has been able to tap on its own strong cash reserves to support business needs, including payments for new freighter aircraft orders and other debt payments. The Group also paid AED 2 billion in dividend to its owner, as declared at the end of its 2023-24 financial year.

His Highness (HH) Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group said: "The Group has surpassed its record performance of last year to deliver a fantastic result for the first half of 2024-25. This again illustrates the power of our proven business model working in combination with Dubai's growth trajectory as a city of choice to live, work, visit, connect through, and do business in."

FTO probes unauthorised medical colleges, universities into billions of rupees in tax losses

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) has found that medical colleges and universities secured undue and unauthorised tax exemptions, causing multi billion-rupees losses to the national exchequer.

"We have found that there are medical colleges involved in getting benefits of Rs700-900 million in each case. Thus, it runs into billions of rupees and total tax losses have been estimated at Rs7-9 billion," FTO high-ups said during the media briefing, here on Wednesday.

Over the past 10 months, the FTO Secre-



tariat received 10,515 complaints, of which

9,900 were resolved, Advisor Legal Almas Ali Jovindah said. Particularly, the proactive use of Section 33 of the FTO Ordinance, aimed at informal dispute resolutions, has surged, streamlining the resolution process for taxpayers.

A key impact of the FTO's intervention has been the expedited processing of delayed tax refunds. In just 10 months, Rs2 billion was refunded to taxpayers, a marked increase from Rs17.742 million in 2023. Additionally, Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jah has championed a record number of 31 own-motion investigations, addressing systemic issues within the tax administra-

tion, reaffirming the FTO's dedication to eradicating taxpayer grievances. In the first 10 months of the current calendar year, the number of complaints increased by 67pc. "And we have conducted 117 outreach sessions in 2024," the legal advisor said.

A recent case exemplifies this commitment: the FTO issued recommendations to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on unjustified withholding tax deductions by the Punjab Council of Arts and Culture.

The decision corrected tax practices to align with the Income Tax Ordinance, ensuring that low-income individuals were not burdened unfairly.

Farewell call

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Mitsuhiro Wada, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, paid a farewell call to the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Dawlance unveils 'Prima Line' and 'D'Solar Line' at Dealers Convention 2024

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: At the Dealers Convention 2024, Dawlance, Pakistan's leading home appliance manufacturer, proudly launched two groundbreaking product lines, the Dawlance Prima Line and D'Solar Line. These new offerings are designed to meet the unique needs of Pakistani consumers, addressing both modern lifestyle aspirations and the pressing energy challenges facing the country.

Mr. Umar Ahsan Khan, CEO of Dawlance, expressed his enthusiasm at the convention, stating: "Today's launch of the Dawlance Prima Line and D'Solar Line is a milestone in our mission to redefine home appliances in Pakistan. These new product lines symbolize our dedication to providing quality, sustainability, and innovation that enhances the everyday lives of our customers."



With the debut of these two product lines, Dawlance is poised to continue its legacy as a trusted leader in home appliances, while promoting energy conservation and self-reliance. As the company

expands its product portfolio to meet the unique needs of Pakistan, Dawlance remains at the forefront of technological advancement and sustainable development in the region.

Mobilink Bank honoured with multiple awards at VEON Ignite 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank, Pakistan's leading digital microfinance institution, was celebrated with multiple prestigious awards at VEON Ignite 2024. This annual gathering brings together over 200 global leaders from VEON's extensive network, focusing on driving digital innovation and future strategies. Mobilink Bank's accomplishments in digital financial services, community investment, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) highlight its continued efforts to redefine financial accessibility in Pakistan.

Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, Interim CEO Mobilink Bank, expressed his pride in this achievement, stating, "The Financial Services Award signifies our vision of a connected and inclusive financial ecosystem, where everyone can access



essential services at any time. Aamir Ibrahim, CEO Jazz and Chairman Mobilink Microfinance Bank, remarked, "We are honored to be recognized at VEON Ignite 2024, a testament

to our vision of transforming Pakistan's banking landscape. Jazz is committed to financial inclusion and building a cashless economy, driving positive change and delivering value through innovation.

SECP's Startup Summit 2024 to Boost Pakistan's Startup Ecosystem

Commerce Desk

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

The Pakistan Start-up Summit 2024 will gather leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs to boost Pakistan's start-up ecosystem, focusing on innovation, regulatory progress, and sectoral opportunities. Key topics include embedded finance, data protection, and digital financing for Pakistan's market.

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

The two-day summit will feature expert-led sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities that bring together entrepreneurs, investors, regulators, and industry leaders. By promoting dialogue and cooperation, the SECP aims to create a supportive environment and ignite the entrepreneurial spirit in the youth of Pakistan to shape a robust economic future.

Jazz's Garaj partners with Standard Chartered Bank to set up regional availability zone in Pakistan



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Garaj, Pakistan's leading cloud services and cybersecurity solutions provider by Jazz, has partnered with Standard Chartered Bank to create a regional availability zone in Pakistan. This strategic initiative will enhance Standard Chartered's operational resilience and customer experience across multiple countries, reinforcing its commitment to digital transformation and streamlined global data center operations.

Asif Aziz, President Enterprise Solutions, Jazz Business, shared his thoughts on the collaboration, "We are thrilled to support Standard Chartered Bank in enhancing operational resilience and ensuring secure, uninterrupted services for its customers."

Commenting on the partnership, Rehan Shaikh, Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Pakistan, stated, "This strategic partnership strengthens the Bank's technology infrastructure and advances our digital thought leadership."

Alif Holdings launches 18 Park Residence in Lahore's Bahria Town

Tahir Amin Malik.

LAHORE: The Ground Ceremony was held at Main Canal Road, near Bahria Town, Lahore. This project marks the launch of 18 Park Residence, a pioneering residential development by Alif Holdings. Bahria Town, Lahore. The main feature of this ceremony was that in this project every apartment in the private pools has been kept and its spanning area consists of 4 kenal and set to rise 17 stories, and this ambitious project introduces a new concept of urban living, promising a vibrant community of over 215 apartments. The construction is expected to be completed within 3.5 years, bringing a fresh

modern housing option to a prime location with easy access to the Ring Road and Motorway. 18 Park Residence emphasizes bringing high-end, world class amenities within reach of the middle class. In a first for Pakistan, the project features apartments that come with private swimming pools whether its a 1 bedroom or 2 bedroom unit. Ahmed Saljouk Director of Finance and Development Alif Holding said that we have designed 18 park residences to be budget friendly without compromising on quality and its prices starting from 11.5 million PKR, our vision is to create a space where middle class families can access high quality living.

PM felicitates Pakistani cueist Asif on winning World Snooker Championship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday congratulated Pakistani cueist Muhammad Asif for winning the IBSF World Snooker Championship title for the third time.

In a thrilling final of the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) World Snooker Championship, Asif defeated Iran's Asian champion Ali Ghareghozlou 5-3 to claim the title. "Mohammad Asif has made the nation proud by clinching the World

Snooker Championship title for the third time.

Asif's family members and coach also deserve felicitation," the prime minister said, according to a PM Office statement.

Lauding the efforts by Mohammad

Asif to win the title, he said Pakistan's capable youth were bringing fame to the country in the sports field. The government is also striving for world-class facilities for sportsmen as a priority to enable them to compete in international contests.



Asif qualifies for knockout round of Master World Snooker



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani cueist Muhammad Asif has qualified for the knockout round of IBSF Master World Snooker Championship 2024 at Doha, Qatar.

According to details, the matches played on Thursday, Asif beat Rajat Khaneja of India by 3-0 (117(66)-16, 73-15, 118(105)-6) and Steve Hanna of Australia by 3-0 (104(69)-33, 105-0(65), 72-30), respectively.

The knockout round of the championship will kick off on Friday.

Khelta Punjab Games competitions being held quite successfully in all districts of Punjab

Sports Desk



LAHORE: Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal has chaired an important meeting regarding Khelta Punjab Games at National Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar and Director Admin Dr M Kaleem participated the

meeting in person while all the Divisional and District Sports Officers of Punjab participated in the meeting through video link.

DG Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal took reports from all the sports officers of Punjab about the district level competitions.

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal said that Khelta Punjab Games competitions are taking place in all districts of Punjab province quite successfully in accordance with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. "All the sports officers should take strong and effective measures for locating fresh talent," he added.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal further said that District level competitions of Khelta Punjab Games will conclude on November 14. "The closing ceremonies of the Inter-Club District level competitions will be held on November 14 in all the districts of the province".

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal said that the best performing players at the district level competitions of in Khelta Punjab Games will be given prizes at the closing ceremony.

Zone-II Whites, Zone-I Whites and Zone-I Blues secure victories in Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket,"

Sports Desk

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

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Century by Raja Abdul Ahad 115 Shayan Khan 97, Muhammad Asghar 76 deadly bowling by Umer Shah 4/13. Scores in Brief:

Zone-II Whites beat Zone-I Green by 81 runs at KCCA Stadium. Zone-II Whites 183 all out in 37.2 overs. Abdullah Ahsan 59 6x4, M. Imam 27, S. Ittatt Hussain 2/18, Behran Bhattani 2/25 Rayyan Talah 2/27.

Zone-I Green 102 all out in 30 overs. S. Ittatt Hussain 44. Umer Shah (mf) 4/13, Mohib Nasir (rlb) 3/11.

Later Umer Shah of Zone-II Whites received Medicam Man of the Match Award from Nusratullah Khan Secretary Zone-II.

In the 2nd Match Zone-I Whites beat



Zone-III Blues by 179 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-I Whites 240/5 in 40 overs. Muhammad Asghar 76 7x4, Zargham Mehmodd 67 8x4, S. Hamza Bin Zia 23.

Zone-III Blues 61 all out in 31.5 overs. M. Areeb Danish 3/12, Abdul Kabeer 2/9, Danish Akmal 2/9, M. Azam Abbas 2/16.

After the end of the Match Former first Class Cricketer Bahart Kumar give Medicam Man of the Match Award to Muhammad Asghar of Zone-I.

In the 3rd Match Zone-I Blues thrilling 1 run victory against Zone-IV Blues at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-I Blues 237/4 in 40 overs. Shayan Khan 97 9x4, Jazim Ali Khan 36, Mehdi Jaffri 33. Raja Abdul Ahad 2/27.

Zone-IV Blues 236/5 in 40 overs. Raja Abbdul Ahad 115 11x4, Muhammad Musaffah 53 3x4, Furqan Rafi 24 not out.

After the end of the Match Raja Abdul Ahad and Shayan Khan received Medicam Man of the Match Award.

Ashir's hits maiden first-class ton, bowlers dominate day 1 in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sialkot's Ashir Mehmood hit maiden first-class century (112 not out, 158b, 18x4s, 1x6) while Mohammad Adil, Ahmed Bashir, Test spinner Sajid Khan and Nisar Ahmed's five-fers made headlines on the opening day of the third round of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2024-25.

Ashir stitched an unbeaten 200-run opening partnership with Azan Awais, who hit his third-consecutive half-century as the stumps were drawn after 51 overs due to bad light at the Rana Naved ul Hasan Academy, Sheikhupura. Mohammad Adil's seven-fer routed Larkana, who were bowled out for 63 in 23.2 overs while Abbottabad finished the truncated opening day with 81-2 in 25 overs with an 18-run first innings lead at the National Ground in Islamabad.

At the Margharz ground, Lahore Whites' Ahmed Bashir wreaked havoc with 7-31 to take his tournament tally to 22, as Islamabad were bowled out for 167 in 47.4 overs. Aarsal Sheikh resisted the onslaught with a gritty unbeaten half-century (63 not out, 106b, 8x4s) while he was supported by Shayan



Sheikh who contributed 43 off 40. In turn, Lahore Whites were 90-3 in 32 overs with a 77-run deficit.

Test spinner Sajid Khan bagged his 15th first-class five-wicket haul as AJK were bundled out for 171 in 53.4 overs. Sajid was backed up by Mohammad Imran Jr and Mohammad Amir Khan who bagged two wickets each. At the close of play, Peshawar were 74-2 in 23.1

overs at the Ashfaq Cricket Ground Sirdheri, Charsadda.

Nisar Ahmed (5-25) and Test fast bowler Mohammad Abbas (3-36) helped Lahore Blues to decimate Quetta for a meagre 101 in 45.4 overs at the Saeed Sports City Bedian, Lahore. In turn, Quetta reduced Lahore Blues to 36-5 in 18.3 overs to share the honors on day one before the stumps were drawn due

to bad light.

Karachi Blues had a fruitful day against FATA at the Multan Cricket Stadium as they finished the day's proceedings with 221-5 on the board thanks to Abdullah Fazal's unbeaten 96. FATA's Asif Afridi returned figures of 3-32.

At Diamond Cricket Ground, Islamabad, Hyderabad were bundled out for a mere 96 as Faisalabad searched for their maiden win of the tournament. Shahid Ali (4-24) and Asad Raza (4-36) shared eight wickets among them. Faisalabad finished the day with a 116-run lead as Mohammad Faizan's brisk 83 led them to 212-8 at close of play. Hyderabad's Bilawal Bhatti continued his bowling form with 4-43.

Bahawalpur had a productive day against Multan at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium as they notched 238-2 in 76.1 overs with Ali Hamza Wasim top-scoring with a dogged 187-ball 84. Skipper Abid Ali contributed 64 in 123-run opening stand with Ali while Mohammad Faizan Zafar was unbeaten on 64 when stumps were drawn. Elsewhere, Karachi Whites lost three wickets for 28 runs as only 11.4 overs against Rawalpindi at Shoaib Akhtar Stadium, were possible.

Naseem Shah 'confident' of Pakistan's comeback in second ODI against Australia

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan pacer Naseem Shah has stated that the team's spirited performance in the first ODI against Australia has boosted their confidence, which will help them make a strong comeback in the second ODI.

Pakistan lost the first ODI by two wickets at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) after a spirited performance with the ball while defending a modest 203-run total.

The second match of the series will be played on 8 November (tomorrow) in Adelaide, while Perth will host the third ODI on 10 November.

While talking to the media on Thursday in Adelaide, Naseem shared that the team discussed the shortcomings in the last match and will aim to win the second ODI to level the series.

"We have learned a lot from the last game and are working to rectify those lessons in the next game," said Naseem.

"The entire team sat down and discussed ways to improve for upcoming matches. We analyzed our batting mistakes and aimed to improve them. Our bowling effort was fantastic, and we plan to enhance it further."

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For the unversed, Naseem Shah was forced to leave the field after two balls into his eighth over due to cramps during the first ODI against Australia in Melbourne.

He spoke about his current fitness level, emphasizing that muscle cramps are a common occurrence that can strike any athlete, regardless of how fit or well-conditioned they may be.

"Alhamdulillah, I am completely fine. Cramps are a common thing; they can happen to anyone, whether a batter or a bowler, regardless of their fitness level," the fast bowler remarked.

National Women's One-Day Tournament to commence from Friday in Karachi

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The five-team National Women's One-Day Tournament 2024-25 will take place from 8 to 30 November in Karachi.

Challengers, Conquerors, Invincibles, Stars and Strikers will compete in a double-league format, with each team getting to play eight matches, before two top teams qualifying for the final on 30 November.

Each day, two 50-over matches will take place, with HPC Oval Ground and UBL Sports Complex hosting them.

The prize pot for the 21-match tournament is PKR 3.3 million, with the winning side bagging a

prize money of PKR 1.5 million and runners-up getting PKR 1 million.

The matches will begin at 9:30 AM, with the toss taking place at 9:00 AM.

Also, the five mentors who worked in the Champions One-Day Tournament 2024 will be involved with the teams in the National Women's One-Day Tournament.

Challengers will have the services of Waqar Younis, while Conquerors will be mentored by Misbah ul Haq, Sarfaraz Ahmed will be available to Invincibles, while Stars and Strikers will have the mentorship of Shoaib Malik and Saqlain Mushtaq, respectively.

Additionally, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) today confirmed the 16-member squad of each participating team.

Challengers will be led by all-rounder Aliya Riaz, while Conquerors will be captained by national women's team captain Fatima Sana.

Wicketkeeper-batter Muneeba Ali will lead Invincibles, while Sidra Amin and former captain Nida Dar will lead Stars and Strikers, respectively.

National Women's One-Day Tournament Squads

Challengers: Aliya Riaz (captain), Arijah Haseeb, Arim Barkat, Esha Rahupoto, Fatima Shahid, Gull Rukh, Samina Aftab,

Maham Manzoor, Momina Riasat, Natalia Parvez, Tehzeeb Shah, Tasmia Rubab, Umm-e-Hani, Yusra Amir, Zaib-un-Nisa Niaz, Zamina Tahir

Conquerors: Fatima Sana (captain), Aleena Shah, Dua Majid, Farzana Farooq, Hafsa Khalid, Humna Bilal, Khadija Chishti, Laraiab Malik, Mahnoor Aftab, Mehrab Fatima, Najiha Alvi, Nashra Sundhu, Rehmat Noreen, Rida Aslam, Saira Jabeen, Syeda Aroob Shah

Invincibles: Muneeba Ali (captain), Amber Kainat, Areesha Noor, Ayesha Zafar, Fatima Zahra, Ghulam Fatima, Haleema Dua, Iram Javed, Neha Sharmeen, Noor-Ul-Iman, Omaira Sohail,



Saima Malik, Saiqa Riaz, Shabnam Hayat, Tania Saeed, Yusra Ahtesham

Stars: Sidra Amin (captain), Aima Saleem, Aimen Anwar, Anosha Nasir, Huraina Sajjad, Kaynat Hafeez, Laiba Fatima,

Laiba Mansoor, Neelam Mushtaq, Rabia Rani, Rameen Shamim, Sadaf Shamas, Sidra Nawaz, Soha Fatima, Tuba Hassan, Waheeda Akhtar

Strikers: Nida Dar (captain), Aleena Masood, Aliza Sabir, Amna

Bibi, Anam Amin, Ayesha Bilal, Eyman Fatima, Fajar Naveed, Fariha Mahmood, Gull Feroza, Muqaddas Bukhari, Noreen Yaqoob, Sabaq Shahzadi, Syeda Masooma Jafri, Warda Yousaf, Zunash Abdul Sattar

Farewell call

ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Amb. Tapas Adhikari pays a farewell call to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Nepal's outgoing ambassador calls on PM Shehbaz Sharif

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari Thursday paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House.

During the meeting, the prime minister stressed that Pakistan valued its friendly relations with Nepal. While fondly recalling his meeting with Nepalese Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli on the margins of the UNGA in New York in September this year, the prime minister underscored the need to expand bilateral cooperation,

particularly in trade and investment. PM Shehbaz Sharif appreciated Ambassador Adhikari's efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and Nepal, while acknowledging his role in promoting people-to-people contacts and cultural exchange between the two countries.

Ambassador Adhikari praised Pakistan's progress under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership and expressed gratitude for the support extended to him during his tenure in Pakistan.

The prime minister emphasized the need to enhance regional cooperation for peace and prosperity of the peoples of South Asia.

Chief Justice Afridi Initiates Judicial Reforms for Accessible, Efficient Justice

Spokesman report

ISLAMABAD: Following his commitment to improve service delivery and access to justice, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of Pakistan has initiated diagnostic study for design and execution of short and medium-term strategic interventions. A dedicated team of professionals from various fields, with passion to work pro bono, has undertaken functional assessment of the available resources, effectiveness of existing court processes and systems and the challenges and opportunities. This exercise will be followed by finalization of a workable reform plan with timelines and impact assessment mechanism.

The proposed reform interventions focus on reduction of cases backlog, improved accessibility and transparency through simplification of processes, technological integration and public centric approach, by exploiting the available resources and the existing legal framework. Prioritization of cases involving



marginalized segments of the society and high impact cases would be the key feature of the reform interventions.

Stakeholders' engagement, throughout the design and implementation process is being taken care of. Initially, professionals from diverse backgrounds, court staff and other key players of justice sector, including Bar, are being involved for meaningful input.

The draft strategic plan would be put to public debate and feedback before its finalization.

Acting President for further strengthening bilateral ties with Qatar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has said that Pakistan greatly values its relations with Qatar and underscored the importance of further expanding bilateral relations in the areas of mutual benefits. He expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador of Qatar, Mr. Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Talking to the Ambassador, the Acting President stated



that both brotherly countries had great scope for increasing economic and trade relations. He highlighted that Pakistan offered investment opportunities and Qatari companies should benefit from the investment-friendly environment of Pakistan.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani applauded Qatar on the successful holding of the FIFA World Cup 2022.

The Acting President also thanked the Government of Qatar for hosting a Pakistani Diaspora, which served as a strong bridge to promote

cultural linkages between the two countries.

Appreciating Pakistan as a business-friendly country, the Ambassador said that Qatar's Minister for Investment would soon visit Pakistan with his delegation to explore the possibilities of investment in various sectors that would help promote economic relations. Regarding the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Qatar, the Ambassador hoped that the visit would further deepen investment ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Inaugurates SFiber Phase 2 in Gilgit-Baltistan

City Desk

GILGIT BALTISTAN: Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to Gilgit Baltistan inaugurated SFiber Project Phase 2 of Special Communications Organization. Inauguration ceremony was attended by Minister of Planning and Development Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Mukam, Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah, Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Mr. Gulber Khan, Senior military and civil officials.

In line with Pakistan's IT Vision and SCO's Vision 2025, Special Communications Organization (SCO) has completed second phase

of its SFiber Project, delivering high-speed optical fiber internet and IPTV services across Gilgit-Baltistan. The project has laid 950 kilometers of optical fiber infrastructure, providing high-speed internet across 16 districts of the region and benefiting 15,000 households and businesses.

SCO Sector Commander Gilgit Baltistan, Colonel Muhammad Kashif Iqbal briefed esteemed guest of honor on the project covering extensive telecommunications and internet services designed to transform the region. He stated, "Completion of the SFiber Phase 2 project marks a significant step forward in our mission to provide high-speed, reliable internet access for all. SCO is committed in expanding our



current customer base to 30,000 within next year, while ensuring that everyone benefits from high-speed internet services."

Prime Minister Mr

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has lauded completion of high-speed internet infrastructure in Gilgit-Baltistan, calling it a transformative step towards a digitally connected

Pakistan. He highlighted SCO's crucial role in creating an Information Corridor parallel to the Pakistan Economic Corridor, fostering economic and literary opportunities, especially for youth while building a more inclusive digital future for all.

Completion of SFiber Project Phase 2 has greatly boosted IT sector in Gilgit-Baltistan. It will ensure provision of high speed internet to extensive network of Software Technology Parks and Free Lancing Hubs in the region, garnering job opportunities for youth while harnessing their potential. This initiative is creating valuable employment opportunities in various sectors, empowering youth to actively contribute in socio-economic building of the nation.



Brig Gen Hojjatullah Qureshi Deputy Minister of Defence & Armed Forces Logistics Islamic Republic of Iran called on Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami at Naval Headquarters Islamabad.

Chairman PAEC speaks at IAEA's World Fusion Energy Group

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman PAEC Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar headed the Pakistan delegation in the Inaugural Ministerial Meeting of the IAEA's World Fusion Energy Group (WFEAG). The meeting was held in Rome, Italy.

He delivered Pakistan's national statement at the event and highlighted that global warming is one of the great challenges of the world and as the humanity is desperate to develop carbon free sources of energy, Fusion is holy grail of the clean energy source.

He appraised the audience of Pakistan's research contributions in the field of fusion energy, that include the development of one glass and two metallic Tokamaks. He further stated that the role IAEA is playing to further global cooperation in the field of fusion technologies is commendable. It is pertinent to mention that the country is currently designing a medium sized Tokamak for research purpose.

He said that the PAEC is running a dedicated fusion research program on basic level in the country. He appreciated IAEA's efforts to ensure a clean energy future of the world.

Tarar, Kundi calls for joint efforts to improve law and order situation in KP

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, and Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, met on Thursday to call for joint efforts aimed at improving the law and order situation in the province.

During the meeting at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, both leaders expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and criticized the provincial government's apparent indifference. They discussed potential measures to address and improve the situation. The conversation also touched on the federal government's efforts to promote economic development and involve the youth in positive, constructive activities.

Governor Faisal Kundi emphasized that steps would be taken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to steer the youth away from anarchic politics and towards more productive pursuits.

In response, Minister Attaullah Tarar assured that the federal government was fully committed to providing all possible support to enhance security in the province.

Kazakhstan introduces a new visa for modern nomads "Neo Nomad"

Spokesman Report

Astana: Under the directive of the President of Kazakhstan, K. K. Tokayev, a new visa type, the Neo Nomad, has been introduced. This visa targets so-called "modern nomads"—foreign tourists who combine work with travel.

The new visa policy draws on the international experience of more than 50 countries that have successfully implemented similar programs after the pandemic.

To obtain a Neo Nomad visa, a foreign citizen must demonstrate a stable income of at least \$3,000 outside of Kazakhstan. Also, in addition to the basic income requirements, foreign applicants will need to have



health insurance and a criminal record certificate.

The visa is aimed at tourists working remotely in various fields, from

programming, marketing and finance to consulting, design and e-commerce.

Foreign tourists will be able to stay in Kazakhstan for up to one year while remaining employed by their foreign companies. This will not only allow them to immerse themselves in the culture and life of the country, but will also bring economic benefits to Kazakhstan. It is expected that the economic effect from the introduction of the visa will amount to about 3.6 billion tenge per year if 500 people receive the visa.

Foreigners who take advantage of Neo Nomad will reside and spend in Kazakhstan without taking up jobs in the domestic labor market—which is an important aspect of this program.