



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
عائشہ رضی اللہ عنہا سے روایت ہے کہ  
حضرت ابو بکر رضی اللہ عنہ کسی اپنی قسم  
نہیں توڑتے تھے، یہاں تک کہ اللہ تعالیٰ  
نے قسم کا نفاذ تیار اس وقت انہوں نے  
کہا کہ اب اگر میں کوئی قسم کھاؤں گا اور اس  
کے سوا کوئی چیز بھلائی کی ہوگی تو میں وہی کام  
کروں گا جس میں بھلائی ہو اور اپنی قسم کا نفاذ  
دے دوں گا۔  
(بیگناری: ص 62)

Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited

## “Lack of decision-making” behind failure to attract PIA bidders: Fawad Hassan

Former interim minister for privatisation Fawad Hassan Fawad on Sunday expressed surprise over the cabinet's approval to initiate the privatisation process of Pakistan International Airlines with a sole bidder. “What was the need for bidding if there was only a sole bidder, who does not have an aviation background? This process harmed the entire privatisation effort,” he said



## Bangladesh to seek Interpol red notice for fugitive Hasina loyalists

Bangladesh said Sunday it would request an Interpol “red notice” alert for fugitive leaders of the ousted regime of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was toppled in a revolution in August. “Those responsible for the indiscriminate killings during the mass uprising in July and August will be brought back from wherever they have taken refuge,” Asif Nazrul, the interim government's law adviser, told reporters on Sunday.

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## Arab-Islamic summit

RIYADH : The 57-member OIC and 22-member Arab League include countries which recognise Israel and those firmly opposed to its regional integration.



Photo: SPA

# Arab, Muslim leaders to meet in Saudi Arabia for talks on Gaza, Lebanon wars

SPA

RIYADH: Arab and Muslim leaders will convene in Saudi Arabia for a summit scheduled for Monday that will focus on Israel's wars in Gaza and Lebanon, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

“The escalating violence in the Palestinian and Lebanese territories, including the brutal Israeli aggression, has compelled Arab and Islamic leaders to take urgent action,” read a statement on SPA. The summit builds on the earlier Arab-Islamic summit

held in Riyadh on Nov. 11, 2023, to address the dangerous and unprecedented developments in Gaza and the rest of Palestine. “This requires solidarity among Arab and Islamic nations to confront these challenges and mitigate their conse-

quences,” SPA added. The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Palestine, along with the secretaries-general of the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, aim to initiate immediate inter-

national action to halt the war on Gaza and achieve a lasting, comprehensive peace. The Saudi state news channel Al-Ekhabriya broadcast footage on Sunday of Nigerian President Bola Tinubu and Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati landing in Riyadh.

## Dar hopes new US administration will reinvigorate efforts for peace in ME

Spokesman Report

RIYADH: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday expressed the hope that the new US administration following last week's elections would lend its weight to reinvigorate efforts for peace in the Middle East in accordance with the UN resolutions and international law, as a priority.



will not be enough. He also stressed to act now to fulfil the moral and legal duty to stand with the people of Palestine for their rights and demand justice for them. “The whole Muslim Ummah

is looking at us today. We need to demonstrate unwavering political will and complete unity and take concrete steps to effectively address the situation at hand.”

He stressed for securing an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and the region, ensuring unfettered humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, forcing Israel to stop demonization of UNRWA and urging the UNGA to ensure UNRWA continues its vital operations.

Ishaq Dar also called for pursuing full implementation of the UNGA resolution ES-10/24, supporting Palestine's admission as a full member of the UN, exploring

legal avenues to hold Israel accountable for war crimes, imposing an immediate arms embargo on Israel, undertaking a comprehensive review of Israel's membership of the UN, and nominating a Joint Arab-Islamic Special Envoy on Middle East as a focal point to coordinate progress on the implementation of the Resolutions adopted by the Joint-Arab-Islamic Summits. He said the first Joint Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh in November last year had adopted far-reaching decisions to end war in Gaza. However he said unfortunately, after more than a year, the situation in the Middle East had become worse.

## PM departs for Riyadh to attend Arab-Islamic Summit

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departed for Riyadh on Sunday to participate in the Arab-Islamic Summit. According to the Prime Minister's Office, he is set to address the summit and engage in discussions on critical regional issues.

The prime minister is also expected to hold meetings with various global leaders on the sidelines of the event. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi are accompanying him on this important diplomatic mission. The summit, convened by the Saudi government, will focus on key issues in the Middle East, including the current situation in Gaza and Palestine.

Heads of state and government from member countries of the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) are attending this extraordinary gathering.

## Transactions begin on agreements between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, says Malik

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Transactions on agreements worth \$2.2 billion between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have begun, Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik has said while quoting the kingdom's investment minister, Khalid A Al-Falih.

He told this to Aaj News anchorperson Shaukat Piracha who is in Saudi Arabia to cover the 'Global Harmony Initiative' in Riyadh. The

short interview was part of the news programme Rubaroo which was aired on Sunday.

Last month, the two countries signed 27 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth \$2.2 billion, spanning key sectors such as industry, agriculture, IT, food, education, mining, health, petroleum, energy, and other areas of mutual cooperation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had expressed optimism that the



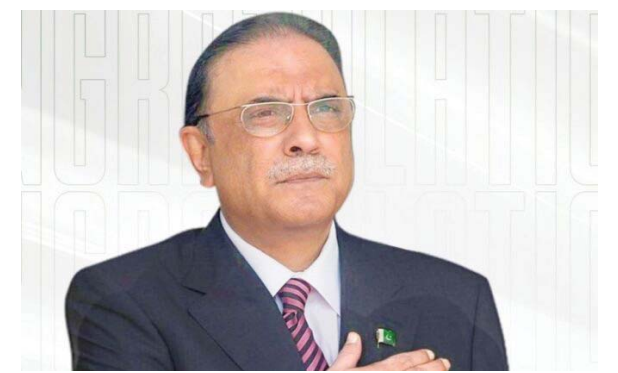
agreements would pave the way for further collaboration.

On October 30, the kingdom's investment minister announced

that the total number of MoUs has risen to 34 after the addition of seven more MoUs, increasing their worth to \$2.8 billion. “The kingdom will also increase the number of visas provided to Pakistani workers,” Khalid A Al-Falih had said.

While speaking about the agreements, Malik compared the amount of MoUs with the annual International Monetary Fund's loan for Pakistan which stands at \$1.1 billion.

## President commends Pakistan Army for conducting two successful operations against Khawarij



City Desk

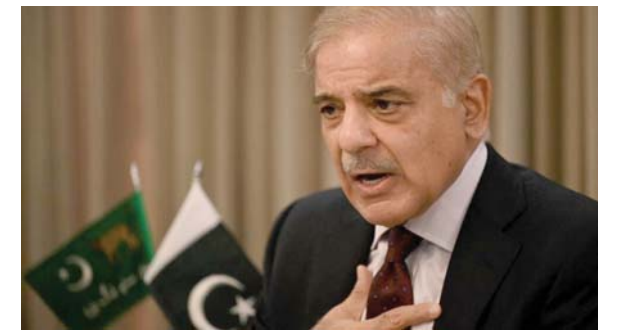
ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday lauded the Pakistan Army for conducting two successful operations against Khawarij in North Waziristan.

The president paid tribute to the security forces for thwarting terrorist infiltration,

a statement issued by the President House Press Wing said. President Zardari saluted the determination and sacrifices of Pakistan Army, reaffirming the commitment to eliminate terrorism.

He also commended the security forces for their timely actions to send the Khawarij to their doom.

## PM pays tribute to security forces for successful operation against Khawarij



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday paid tribute to the security forces for killing four Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists in Spinwam area of North Waziristan and injuring two others who were subsequently arrested.

The prime minister praised the officers and personnel of security forces for their successful operation

against Fitna-al-Khawarij in Spinwam, North Waziristan. He said the entire nation was proud of the brave soldiers of the security forces.

“We will continue to fight against the specter of terrorism till its complete eradication from the country,” PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

He vowed to continue crushing the nefarious designs of Fitna al-Khawarij.

## 10 terrorists killed, eight injured in separate North Waziristan operations: ISPR

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: At least 10 terrorists from banned outfit Fitna al-Khawarij were killed and eight injured in separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan district on Sunday as intelligence-based operations continue in KP and Balochistan, the military's media said.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations said that two Khawarij were killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in an intelligence-based operation in the general area of Spinwam, North Waziristan.

In another incident, security forces picked up the movement of a terrorist group, who were trying to infiltrate through the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, in the general area of Spinwam. “Own troops effectively engaged and thwarted their

attempt to infiltrate,” it said and added that two terrorists were killed while two got injured.

“Sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area. Security Forces of Pakistan are determined and remain committed to secure its borders and eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country,” it said.

Earlier in the day, the ISPR said that six militants were killed and six others wounded in a security operation in the Spinwam area.

The operation was launched following intelligence reports about the presence of militants, according to the statement. Weapons and ammunition were recovered from the site.

“The killed militants were involved in terrorist activities and the murder of innocent civilians,” it said.

# Successful Surgery of 530 Children Under CM Children's Heart Surgery Programme

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Chief Minister Children's Heart Surgery Program continues successfully as marked reduction in pediatric heart surgery waiting list, pending for years, has been witnessed. Surgery and interventional cardiology procedure under the Program has been successfully completed, patients on track to recovery. The Programme is being monitored through a dedicated dashboard.

The concerned authorities briefed, "530 patients are being treated in 06 government and 08 private hospitals on the panel." They added, "Registration and entry of details in the central database is ensured for timely surgery of patients coming for treatment. About 4500 sick children



have been referred for treatment in Punjab."

Children's cardiac surgery is being

done in Children's Hospital and Cardiology Institutes of Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad and Rawalpind, besides

04 private hospitals in Lahore, 03 in Multan and 01 in Islamabad.

Madam Chief Minister said, "The health of every child is important, we will try hard to save their lives." She added, "In the Children's Heart Surgery Program, not only Punjab, but also children from other provinces including KP will be treated." She highlighted, "It was extremely painful for young children suffering from heart diseases to go through the agony of waiting for a year for surgery."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "The lack of special heart surgeons and trained allied staff will be fixed to increase the capacity of children's hospitals." She added, "We are trying to ensure treatment of every child suffering from cardiovascular diseases."

## World STEM Education Day



**Correspondent**

SWAT: School 21 and ARY B Global jointly organized a ceremony at SPS College Swat to commemorate World STEM Education Day under the shared vision "Let's Build Pakistan Together."

Students showcased innovative STEM projects, including waste-to-electricity conversion, earthquake and flood safety measures, environmental impact studies, drip irrigation systems, 3D printing demonstrations, and biodiesel production from mustard oil.

The ceremony drew large parental attendance, with participants praising STEM Education as a vital step toward a brighter future.

School 21 and ARY B Global pledged to expand STEM education nationwide.

The event concluded with the Director of SPS College presenting honorary shields and gifts.

## 126 dengue fever cases reported in Punjab, two in Attock district



**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: As many as 126 dengue fever cases have been reported across the Punjab including two in district Attock here on Sunday. The spokesman of the Punjab Health Department while briefing the media says that 126 new cases of dengue fever were reported throughout the province. The majority of the new infections were recorded in Rawalpindi, with 104 cases, followed by Lahore with eight cases, Faisalabad with two, and Chakwal, Attock and Sargodha each reporting three cases.

Single cases were also identified in Mandi Bahauddin, Sahiwal and Gujranwala. He further added that 737 cases were reported in the current week, bringing the cumulative count of dengue cases across Punjab in 2024 to 6,759. The Health Department reassured the public that hospitals across the province were well-stocked with essential medications and prepared to accommodate the rising number of patients. The Health Department also set up a helpline 1033 for individuals seeking information or wishing to report dengue-related concerns, the health department added.

## PPP activists held protest rally against chairman of town committee Dadu

**Zainab Hyder**

DADU: PPP activists held a protest rally and staged demonstration at Sehwan Chowk against chairman of town committee Dadu on Sunday in Radhan town for non providing the facilities of roads, drainage and supply of drinking water to village Jam Khan Zardari in the limits of Town committee Radhan in Dadu district.

MB Zardari, Asad Shaukat Zardari led the protest. The various social workers also joined the protest.

The residents warned if their genuine issues will not be resolved they will continue their protest.

On that occasion, MB Zardari speaking to the protest said that they are workers of PPP, and their elders have been dealing with PPP since Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's period but Radhan Town, PPP Chairman Ghulam Dastgir Gorar has not provided any basic facilities including road, school and drainage system in village Jam Zardari for the past 17 years.

Ghulam Hussain Zardari said that funds of millions of rupees were embezzled but their village was neglected in basic facilities like water supply, drainage and roads.

He said that several times they had visited the office of the chairman of town committee Radhan but he was not ready to resolve their issues.

On that occasion, Sajjad Ali, Rehman Ali Zardari, Mukhtiar Ali and Kamal Zardari spoke the protest and demanded from PPP chairman Bilwal Bhutto Zardari and CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah to take notice and provide facilities to residents of Jam Khan Zardari village in the limits of town committee Radhan.

## Pakistan Railways suspends train operations from Quetta for four days



LAHORE: Pakistan Railways on Sunday announced suspension of train operations from Quetta for four days due to security concerns and in the interest of passengers' safety.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan Railways, Aamir Ali Baloch in a statement said the operations would be resumed soon after the security clearance was granted.

Baloch highlighted that Pakistan Railways, with the support of the Balochistan government and security agencies, had successfully made it possible to connect Quetta with rest of the country.

He categorically stated that such incidents could not weaken the resolve of his department to work relentlessly to facilitate the masses.

He said 50 injured persons were currently under treatment at trauma centre, where the medical teams of Pakistan Railways were providing them due care.

The CEO commended the Quetta Division team for their immediate response and launch of emergency relief operations following the incident.

He said compensation would be provided to the families of the deceased and to the injured as per Pakistan Railway's insurance policy.

## After blast- security alerts

LAHORE: Bomb disposal personnel searching the luggage at Railway Station to deal with any untoward incident.



Photo: Online

## IG Sahib! Don't Just Increase Police Numbers - Elevate Its Integrity

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: Sindh Police, one of the country's oldest institutions, is facing a significant crisis despite its historical legacy. The public, who once saw it as a haven, is rapidly losing confidence in it. In the past, Sindh Police's role was one of pride for every citizen. However, now, when it should ensure

public service and maintain peace, the institution is increasingly burdened by allegations. Particularly, accusations of harshness toward the poor, leniency toward the influential, and alleged support for drugs and other social evils have seriously tarnished its image.

The political influence and interference based on personal interests, along with failure to maintain impartiality in

judicial matters, have also left a stain on the honor of Sindh Police. The current Inspector General, Ghulam Nabi Memon, now has a historic opportunity to address this institutional crisis, restore the dignity of Sindh Police, and steer it back to its core mission and duties. This requires strong policies and reforms under his leadership, ensuring that the police serve as a true sanctuary



for the public.

The current situation of Sindh Police and the need for reforms is a critical demand of the times so that it can fully serve the people and restore the dignity of its glorious past.

## Two million rupees to be released for medical treatment of martyred policeman

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Medical charges of two million rupees have been released to the police officials of Attock Police and other districts of the Punjab here on Sunday following the directives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar. Police spokesman says, Constable Muhammad Tufail from Attock was granted Rs. 500,000 for his wife's kidney and hypertension treatment; the wife of martyred Sub-Inspector Atif Mahmood Khan from Toba Tek Singh received Rs. 200,000 for a major surgery, Assistant Mush-taq Ahmed of Lahore Traffic Police was granted Rs. 200,000 for treatment of various ailments, Sub Inspector (retd) Muhammad Iqbal Javed was provided Rs. 200,000 for his wife's major surgery and constable (retd) Zahoor Ahmed was given Rs. 1.35 lakh for his wife's treatment. Additionally, Head Constable Muhammad Shafiq and Sub-Inspector Najmul-Abbas each received Rs. 100,000 for treatment of various diseases, Consta-



ble Langri Muhammad Javed Akhtar was granted Rs. 100,000 for heart treatment, and Constable Muhammad Latif received 1 lakh rupees for an eye operation. Head Constable Sajid Amjad was also provided with Rs. 100,000 for his wife's treatment, while constables

Muhammad Farooq, Muhammad Azam Shahid Iqbal, and Nisar Ahmed were given more than Rs. 200,000 for treatment of different illnesses. The funds were released after scrutiny and approval by the Welfare Management Committee, the spokesman added.

## Female police officials in Islamabad allege harassment

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A disturbing report has emerged alleging the harassment of female police officials stationed in Islamabad's Security Division.

Sources indicate that the officers have filed a complaint against several colleagues, including a head constable and a deputy constable, accusing them of harassment.

The female officers claim they have been subjected to harassment under the guise of duty assignments.

They reportedly stated that they are considering resigning due to the ongoing harassment. The complaint has been submitted to the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Security Division.

A police spokesperson has confirmed that an investigation into the matter has been launched and the accused officers have been temporarily reassigned.

Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	5:10 am
Zohr	11:52 am
Asr	3:30 pm
Maghrib	5:08 pm
Isha	6:33 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

# Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed assumes acting charge as rector IIUI

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) has assumed the charge as the Acting Rector of the International Islamic University Islamabad.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the President of Pakistan and Chancellor IIUI, approved his appointment as the Acting Rector of IIUI.

Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, an esteemed academic leader, brings a wealth of experience in higher education

to IIUI. Dr. Mukhtar's interim leadership is expected to strengthen the university's dedication to building an environment conducive to high-quality education and research.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed is the current Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). He has previously served as Chairman HEC from 2014 to 2018, Executive Director HEC from 2013 to 2014 and as Member (Operations and Planning) HEC from 2005 to 2011. He has also served as Executive Director at HEC. Dr. Mukhtar has also served as Deputy Director General, Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) based in Rabat, Morocco,

where he was responsible for Directorates of Education, Science, Culture and Communication, ICPSR, CPID (Planning and Strategic Division) and ISESCO Regional Centres.

With a Bachelors and Masters of Science from University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and Masters in Business Administration and PhD from University of California, Riverside, USA, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed has over three decades of educational development and management experience at national and international level that includes teaching, research, administration, policy development, linking educational research to industry / commercialization, intro-



ducing entrepreneurial approaches to education and a diverse range of educational development programmes. His distinguished career is enriched with diverse academic, research and administrative experience both in public and private sectors of higher education in Pakistan and abroad.

## Performance

ISLAMABAD: A folk artist from Cholistan breathes fire as he performs during the annual Lok Mela festival, at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Offered Funeral Prayer of Martyred Havildar Shaukat Hussain in District Khanewal

Waqar Paracha

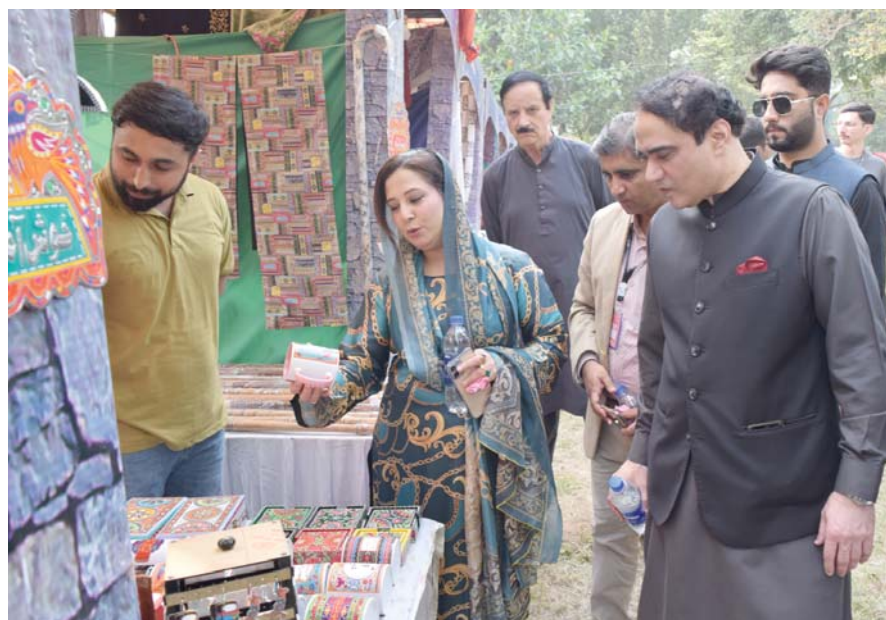
KHANEWAL: The funeral prayers of Havildar Shaukat Hussain, who was martyred in the bomb blast at Quetta railway station, were performed in his native village.

The funeral prayer of Havildar Shaukat Hussain, who was martyred in the bomb blast at the Quetta railway station yesterday, was performed in his native village 8-ATR. Havildar was cremated with full military honors and protocol at Chak No. 8 at R. Afridian Wala. Flowers were laid on the grave of Army Havildar by senior officers of the Pakistan Army. Martyr Havaldar Shaukat Hussain had three children. was the father of

## Parliamentary Secretary Information & Culture visited Punjab Pavilion

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Parliamentary Secretary Information and Culture Department Ms. Shazia Rizwan has visited the Punjab Pavilion built at the Lok Mela by Punjab Arts Council. Executive Director Punjab Arts Council Muhammad Tanvir Majid and Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain welcomed the Parliamentary Secretary on her arrival in the Punjab pavilion. Shazia Rizwan said on this occasion that handicrafts are a regular industry in Punjab. Presenting artisans from across the province at the national level is undoubtedly an achievement of the Punjab Arts Council. Artisans from every part of the province have been invited to the Punjab Pavilion to represent the entire province. Executive Director Muhammad Tanvir Majid while briefing the Parliamentary Secretary said that Punjab is a culturally rich



province where many cultures are prevalent. The Government of Punjab is rendering valuable services for promoting art and culture in the province. 50 skilled artisans from

across the province have been invited to the Punjab Pavilion. Folk artists from all corners of Punjab are performing in the festival. Bhangra, Ladi, Jhomar and Simi folk dances

are also part of the Punjab Pavilion. The historical building of "Chouburgi" and the glimpse of traditional villages also add to the glory of Punjab Pavilion.

## "Iqbal Day" celebrated at Amblem Higher Secondary School, Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD: A grand function of "Iqbal Day" was held at Amblem Higher Secondary School, Rawalpindi. Dr. Mehdi Tahiri, director of Khana Farhang, Rawalpindi, was the chief guest of the event. In recognition of the services of Rooh Forum and Abrouyamullat system of education in connection with the promotion of Hikmat Iqbal, Khana Farhang Democratic Republic of Iran, Rawalpindi has chosen the Amblem system to organize this year's Iqbal Day celebration. On the occasion of the honor ceremony, Dr. Mehdi Tahiri said that the Persian language is the cultural and scientific heritage of the Islamic nation, and in view of the vastness of this language, Hakeem Ul Ummat Allama Muhammad Iqbal has given it priority to express his concern. Persian linguist Dr. Asad Kazmi said that the unusual expression of Iqbal's philosophy and thought in Persian and Urdu has made these languages more popular in the East and West. The host of the ceremony, Lt. Col. (Retd.) Syed Murtaza Ali Shah said at the beginning of the ceremony that wise Iqbal is undoubtedly a mirror of Quran and Sunnah, Mawdat Ahlul Bayt Athar and Ikram Sahabah. On the one hand, Iqbal's thought shows the path of peace and security to the warring nations, while on the other hand, it gives the message of self-awareness to the weak, inferior and subjugated nations. In order to prevent Yazidism of all eras. He emphasized the necessity of practical promotion of the Prophet's saying, "Hussain Min Wa Anna Min Hussain" in order to awaken the spirit of Hussain. On this occasion, educationist Abrar Ahmad Khan, representing All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association, said that with the support of Rooh Forum, Apsma is going to introduce the academic and practical program of values and morals through Ihya Hikmat Iqbal in its member schools.

## Daily The Spokesman raises concerns over smoking in Punjab's cities

Zain ul Abideen Abid  
Special Correspondent

In its November 6 edition, the daily newspaper "The Spokesman" raised concerns about the increasing issue of air pollution caused by smoke-emitting vehicles. The editorial highlighted that continuous traffic congestion and the widespread issuance of fake fitness certificates for vehicles are significant contributors to the deteriorating air quality. The article urged the government to take immediate action to address these issues, as the presence of poorly maintained and unfit vehicles on the roads poses a serious threat to public health and the environment.

In response, the Punjab government has launched a city-wide monitoring campaign focusing on public transport, aiming to curb the problem at its source. Starting today, authorities have begun taking strict action against vehicles that emit excessive smoke. Traffic police and environmental protection agencies have been mobilized to conduct checks and enforce regulations to ensure compliance. Additionally, steps are being taken to halt the practice of issuing fake fitness certificates, a fraudulent activity that allows unfit vehicles to operate without proper maintenance.

This initiative is part of a broader strategy being implemented across Punjab to tackle air pollution and improve the quality of urban life. By enforcing these regulations, the government aims to reduce emissions from vehicles, alleviate traffic congestion, and promote a healthier environment for the residents of Punjab.

## Alhaj Naseer strongly condemn the explosion at Quetta railway station

Abdyl Majid

FAISALABAD: Central President Cloth Board Union Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra has strongly condemned the blast that took place at the railway station in Quetta, Balochistan province this morning and demanded the government to pursue the terrorists involved in the incident. They will be taken to their logical conclusion. He has further said that terrorists who target innocent people are not pitiable. Naseer Yousuf Vohra expressed regret over the death of 25 people and prayed for the recovery of 53 injured.



## Islamabad Police bust key accused in robbery, murder cases

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have successfully apprehended the key accused in two high-profile criminal cases, including a mobile shop robbery and the brutal murder of an elderly man.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations/Investigation Muhammad Arsalan Shahzaib, along with senior police officials, briefed the media during a press conference at the Rescue-15 office on Sunday. SSP Shahzaib said that the first case involved a robbery at a mobile shop within the jurisdiction of the Secretariat Police Station, where four armed suspects targeted the business. In a separate incident, he said that an elderly man was found murdered in Bhara Kahu, with his throat slit. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, swiftly took notice of these serious crimes and ordered the formation of special police teams under the leadership of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza, and SSP Arsalan Shahzaib, he said adding that these teams were tasked with investigating both cases.

## Pakistan seeks \$13m WHO grant to strengthen climate resilience in health systems

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services has reaffirmed its dedication to global health at COP-28 by endorsing a health declaration aimed at addressing the impacts of climate change.

Director of Nutrition at the Ministry of National Health Services Dr Mehreen Mujtaba announced plans to introduce a 'National Health Adaptation Plan' that evaluated climate-related risks across various provinces.

With the support of international donors, Pakistan had completed a vulnerability assessment and was seeking a \$13 million grant from the World Health Organisation (WHO) to enhance training programmes designed to bolster climate resilience within health systems, she said. In a session titled 'Building Resilient Health Systems in the Wake of



Climate Crisis in South Asia' at the Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), the panelists highlighted the necessity for adapting strategies that enhanced climate and health resilience, supported by a robust and sustainable financial framework. Special remarks were made by Dr

Robert Marten, AHSPR, Geneva; while the panelists comprised Dr Upasona Ghosh, PHFI, India; Rabia Tabassum from SDPI; Environmental Health Scientist, Nepal, Dr Meghnath Dhimal and Dr Syed Manzoor Ahmed Hanifi from ICDDR-B, Bangladesh. The panel organisers were Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Rabia Tabassum and Khansa Naeem from the SDPI.

The experts emphasised that climate change presented significant health risks within the health-care sector.

Dr Meghnath Dhimal said there was an alarming rise in climate-related health issues, such as heat-related illnesses, vector-borne diseases and respiratory problems, which were exacerbated by air pollution.

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## Arab-Islamic summit held in Riyadh

The escalating violence in the Palestinian and Lebanese territories, including the brutal Israeli aggression, has compelled Arab and Islamic leaders to take urgent action.

Key priorities include halting the aggression, protecting civilians, providing support to the Palestinian and Lebanese people, unifying positions, and exerting pressure on the international community to take decisive steps to end the ongoing attacks and establish lasting peace and stability in the region, SPA reported on Sunday.

Given Saudi Arabia's historic role in serving Islam and Muslims, and its commitment to defending Arab and Islamic causes, particularly the Palestinian cause, the Kingdom, under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has called for an Arab-Islamic summit to be held in Saudi Arabia on November 11, 2024. This urgent meeting is convened in response to the ongoing Israeli aggression on Palestinian and Lebanese territories.

The summit builds on the Arab-Islamic summit held in Riyadh on November 11, 2023, as Arab and Islamic leaders recognize the urgent need for unified efforts and a collective stance to address the dangerous and unprecedented developments in Gaza and the rest of the Palestinian territories. This requires solidarity among Arab and Islamic nations to confront these challenges and mitigate their consequences.

The summit tasked the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye, Indonesia, Nigeria, Palestine, and any other interested countries, along with the secretaries-general of the Arab League and OIC, to initiate immediate international action that seeks to halt the war on Gaza and pressure for a serious political process to achieve lasting, comprehensive peace based on internationally recognized principles.

In response to the ongoing crisis in Gaza Strip, the Ministerial Committee formed during the Extraordinary Arab and Islamic Summit has embarked on a series of diplomatic engagements with world leaders and officials, aimed to garner international support for an immediate ceasefire, the protection of civilians, and the restoration of essential services to the besieged Gaza Strip.

During their meetings, committee members emphasized the urgent need to halt the Israeli military aggression, which has led to the displacement of countless Palestinians and the destruction of critical infrastructure, and called for the establishment of safe corridors to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and medical supplies.

The committee members strongly condemned Israel's continued violation of international law and humanitarian norms, including the denial of basic rights like access to water, electricity, and freedom of movement. They reiterated their unwavering support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state based on the June 4, 1967, borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

They asserted the need to revive the peace process to ensure a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace, and support the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state. The committee calls on the international community to fulfill its responsibilities and act against Israel's violations of international and humanitarian laws.

## Child Labour—Addressing a pervasive social issue

Hussna Khattak

Toiling hard at an auto workshop in the bustling town of Nowshera, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, youngster Adil Khan was encircled by scattered spare parts and tools, fixing engines and CNG kits to earn some money for supporting his family.

With his small hands looking blackish and greasy and eyes navigating complex machinery of vehicles at his Pabbi town auto market, Adil entered into this grueling profession in 2020, driven by poverty that forced him to abandon his education at Amankot primary school.

"Year 2000 was very painful for my family when my mother had to borrow heavy amount of money for treatment of my father's pancreatic cancer," he recalled, telling a painful story. "Father's protracted ailment and mother's discomfort compelled me to work at auto market and help my family."

With distress in his eyes, he continued, "poverty had deprived me of education as well as my childhood. "Now, am here working till late hours and my ambition for education has drowned deep somewhere in my heart."

Adil's story is the one among millions daily witnessed in our surroundings with kids of hundreds of thousands families compelled to early age labor due to families financial compulsions. Although respective governments launched number of projects in education, legal and social sector to ameliorate the lot of people and ensuring that school run-away or dropout students are enrolled afresh and curb child labor, yet the desired results are still awaited.

Jehanzeb Khan, Manager, Society for Protection of the Rights of Child (SPARC)

KP states that a large number of children in Pakistan are currently engaged in child labor due to poverty and socio-economic imbalances. "Pakistan Labor Force survey reveals a worrisome number of children aged 10-17 who are engaged in various forms of labor countrywide." Pakistan's cuisine

"Literacy rate in Pakistan is around 62.8%, with almost half of the population lacking access to quality education," Naem said. "This lack of opportunity forces youngsters to opt for an early age labor, particularly in impoverished areas. Therefore, we need comprehensive policies to protect children's rights and ensure quality and affordable education for them."

As the country faces numerous socio-economic problems, efforts to combat child labor usually seem like insufficient. Since, the country's debt burden, low economic growth and pressure on foreign exchange reserves continue to haunt every government, their first priority remains to better economic conditions.

Therefore, number of issue of key importance slip down on the priority list due to shabby economic conditions and unnecessary tug of war among political parties that badly affect our socio-economic sectors. Many public sector organizations and NGOs working in this area face financial constraints and dwindling enthusiasm that hampering their ability to make a meaningful impact.

Though the government has recognized education as a fundamental right under Article 25-A of the Constitution, its implementation in far flung areas remains weak. The civil society activists have urged the KP government to increase minimum employment age from 14 to 16 years, allowing more children to acquire education.

Meanwhile, Fazal Shakoor Khan, Provincial Minister for Labour KPK has mentioned to different steps taken to combat child labor

including Rs177.5 million allocations for education of child laborers and planned appointment of wage magistrates to enforce minimum wage regulations.

"Education Emergency Program has been launched in nine remote districts to provide stipends and support to families to encourage school enrollment under KP Govt's Rs 3.1 billion education emergency program," he stated.

The Minister informed that each child in these districts would receive a monthly stipend of Rs1,000 besides an option to enroll their children in registered private schools at the government expenses.

"Initially 40,000, mostly the street children from nine districts would benefit from this initiative," he said. "Approximately 50 million free textbooks would be provided to children on enrollment from grades 1 to 12 and 506 talented students would be granted ETEA scholarships."

The minister also mentioned to adopting multi-faceted policies also involving the government and private organizations for meaningful action and transparent utilization of financial resources for breaking child labor cycle.

Although KP Child Protection and Welfare Act had been enacted to combat forced labor, yet the real test lies in its enforcement. The road ahead requires unwavering commitment from all stakeholders to ensure that children like Adil Khan are given a chance to reclaim their childhood and secure their future through education.

As the government and society grapple with this pervasive issue, addressing child labor is not merely a policy issue but a moral imperative and only through concerted efforts can we hope to turn the tide against this deeply entrenched social problem.

## Enhancement of Services Chiefs' Tenure

The tenure of the Army Chief is a crucial factor in shaping the professionalism, operational readiness, and overall relationship between the military and civilian leadership. In many countries, the duration of an individual's tenure as Army Chief can have significant implications for both the military and the broader political landscape.

One of the main arguments in favor of a longer tenure for the Army Chief is that it offers greater stability and consistency in military leadership. A prolonged term allows the Army Chief to implement long-term strategic initiatives, manage complex defense reforms, and ensure the military operates smoothly without the disruptions that frequent leadership transitions can cause. A prolonged tenure for an army chief can be particularly critical during times of national security challenges or when the military is engaged in long-term operational commitments. In countries dealing with external threats or internal instability, having continuity at the top of the military leadership helps ensure defense strategies remain consistent and that military operations proceed without disruption. A longer tenure also enables the army chief to cultivate stronger relationships with political leaders, international allies, and military personnel, promoting trust and more effective collaboration.

The length of an army chief's tenure plays a key role in balancing military leadership, civilian oversight, and national defense. While extended tenures can sometimes be viewed as a threat to democratic governance and civilian control, there are cases where such extensions have positively impacted the independence and professionalism of the armed forces. In these instances, longer terms have allowed the military to stay focused on its primary mission—defending the nation—while maintaining political neutrality and upholding democratic

institutions. With the right safeguards in place, extending the tenure of the army chief can enhance national security and contribute to democratic stability.

One notable example is General Valery Gerasimov, who has served as the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation since 2012. His long tenure has positively influenced the Russian military's ability to implement long-term strategies, improve readiness, and maintain a high level of professionalism. Under his leadership, the Russian military has modernized its doctrines, shifting focus to hybrid warfare, cyber capabilities, and rapid-response forces.

The continuity in leadership has allowed these complex reforms to be carried out smoothly, avoiding the disruption that might arise from frequent changes in command. Moreover, this extended leadership has enabled Gerasimov to build strong institutional relationships that facilitate better coordination across different branches of the military, ensuring that Russia's defense forces are well-prepared for a range of potential conflicts. A longer tenure for the army chief also enables the military to establish and pursue long-term defense objectives, especially when confronting emerging and evolving security threats. This strategic flexibility is essential for countries with global ambitions or those navigating complex geopolitical landscapes. For Russia, maintaining continuity in military leadership has been pivotal in shaping its defense strategy in regions like Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and beyond.

Turkey offers a unique case study in the relationship between the army chief's tenure and military independence, particularly considering the country's history of military coups and the

significant role the military has historically played in politics. While the Turkish military has traditionally been a dominant force in political affairs, recent reforms have sought to curtail its political influence and reinforce civilian oversight.

Despite these changes, the extended terms of army chiefs have played a key role in preserving the professionalism and operational effectiveness of the military. Historically, long-serving army chiefs, such as General İlker Başbuğ (2008–2010), have played a key role in stabilizing Turkey's defense institutions during periods of political and economic instability.

Extended leadership allowed these commanders to focus on modernizing Turkey's military and upholding the professionalism of the officer corps, even amid significant political challenges. A longer tenure also enabled the army chief to retain control over the military's internal affairs, ensuring the force remained apolitical and centered on its core mission—national defense—while shielding it from undue political influence by civilian governments or political factions.

In this context, Pakistan has also decided to extend the tenure of its services chiefs. The recent amendment to the Services Act by Parliament has been widely supported, especially by members of the Armed Forces. There is broad consensus that a three-year term for services chiefs was insufficient to implement meaningful long-term changes, and increasing it to five years will help address this challenge.

A shorter tenure of just three years also meant greater political control over the military, contributing to the politicization of the armed forces. When compared to other modern military powers, this

adjustment aligns Pakistan more closely with global norms. For instance, in the United States, the tenure is four years; in the UK, it's three to four years; in China, five years; in Germany, three to five years; and in France, four years. Research and global examples suggest that longer tenures for services chiefs help ensure the military's independence and protect it from external interference. This extended leadership period allows chiefs to make decisions that not only benefit the military in the medium to long term but also support broader national interests.

Furthermore, the extension of the services chiefs' tenure in Pakistan will bring several additional benefits, such as policy continuity, adequate time for implementing a strategic vision, greater stability, and the potential to rebuild trust between the government and military leadership, which has sometimes been strained in the past. Overall, this move strengthens the professionalism of the armed forces while safeguarding the institution from political interference, offering more autonomy to military leaders to manage military affairs—ultimately benefiting both the armed forces and the country.

Pakistan is currently grappling with significant internal and external challenges, including financial crises and terrorism. These issues demand continuity in leadership, and the current military leadership is deeply familiar with these challenges. A leadership transition would require time for new leaders to understand the situation fully, while every moment is critical for the country's response.

It is important to note that these amendments are not intended to benefit any individual, but rather to enhance the independence, professionalism, and strength of Pakistan's military. The people of Pakistan recognize the importance of this move and fully support it as a step toward strengthening the country's defense and stability.



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

## Indus Dolphin - A model for biodiversity conservation efforts

Majid Abbasi

In an era of declining wildlife population worldwide, the saga of Indus River Dolphin conservation reveals a magnificent story of community-based upkeep of an endangered species.

With WWF's revelations in its 2024 Living Planet Report about 73% decline in wildlife populations worldwide, the survival story of Indus Dolphin stands out as an example of community-based conservation and a beacon of hope for this endangered species.

This remarkable progress showcases the power of community-based conservation, an approach that not only bolstered dolphin numbers but also engaged and empowered local communities. Indus Dolphin, a unique and endangered freshwater species, is thriving today largely due to these collective efforts, led by WWF and the Sindh Wildlife Department.

Locally known as 'Bhulan', Indus Dolphin is one of four freshwater dolphin species surviving globally. Found solely in Pakistan's Indus River system, this endangered species had faced significant challenges over decades like water pollution, dams' construction and frequent use of fishing nets.

In Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regions, community-managed protected areas have also led to remarkable recoveries in populations of ibex and markhor, demonstrating praiseworthy conservation with community's involvement. By recognizing the revenue potential of trophy hunting licenses, local communities have also found economic incentives in preserving these species.

"Involving communities in conservation is now a globally recognized best practice," Dr Uzma remarked as she mentioned to recent Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) urging to protect 30% of the world's land and marine areas by 2030

— a commitment known as "30 by 30."

"Under this framework, community-managed protected areas are essential to achieving these ambitious goals, helping countries restore, protect and maintain biodiversity," Uzma noted.

Despite achievements, challenges still remain there as conservation, particularly for an impacted species like Indus Dolphin, is not a quick fix. The slow reproductive rate of dolphins, with mothers birthing only once every two years, means that population recovery is gradual. On top of this is water scarcity in Indus River, driven by excessive irrigation and other demands.

As effects of climate change are also challenging for people and wildlife with winters in Pakistan become milder, the pastures once inaccessible in the cold are now grazed by livestock year-round, leading to conflicts between herders and wildlife. These human-wildlife conflicts often result in the killing of wildlife, disrupting delicate ecosystems.

"As Pakistan and the world confront biodiversity loss, Indus Dolphin's journey serves as a model of conservation efforts," stated Hammad Naqi Khan, Director General WWF-Pakistan. "Declining wildlife populations are early indicators of ecosystem health. When ecosystems damage, they cease to provide us essentials like clean air, water and healthy soil."

He said, the WWF is urging policymakers to pursue nature-based interventions to address biodiversity and climate issues by promoting regenerative farming, wetland restoration and forest conservation.

For Pakistan, embracing a broader community-based approach to conservation protects wildlife besides ensuring that local communities are stewards of their environments, fostering sustainable practices and economic benefits.

The Indus Dolphin conservation efforts also demonstrate community involvement as a primary driver of success, providing blueprint for global community as we approach COP29 and other climate summits.

# From Page to Stage: 10th Islamabad Literature Festival Highlights Pakistan's Literary Legacy and Future



ISLAMABAD: The 10th Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), 'Words Change Mindsets', comprising fifty intellectually inspired sessions, including movie screening, dance recital, mushairas, theatre, and a memorable Sufi night, concluded with a fantastic closing ceremony at the Allama Iqbal Auditorium last evening. The event was graced by 100+ prominent voices in literature and art who spoke and reflected as keynotes and panelists in the festival, and esteemed guests.

Commenting on the transformative character of such events, renowned writer, and critic Muneeza Shamsie shared, "ILF has shown us the unifying power of words, fostering dialogue across divides and inspiring change." Poet and writer Najeeba Arif echoed the sentiment, adding, "Literature shapes our perspectives and allows us to see the world through others' eyes."

The event also featured remarks by Mohammad Mikail Soomro, Head of Corporate Communications, Getz Pharma, who emphasized the value of supporting literary platforms, saying, "We are proud to be part of an initiative that encourages intellectual discourse and nurtures Pakistan's vibrant literary culture."

Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director, Oxford University Press Pakistan, expressed his gratitude to attendees and contributors, stating, "Our passion and commitment is towards ensuring that Literature continues to drive the change towards a progres-

sive and equitable society. We are blessed to have found an ever-expanding group of friends like you to empower our mission."

Bringing up the last five of the total seventeen book launches; Day 3, continued with Akbar in Wonderland by Umber Khairi. In a lively conversation between the author and Aamir Ghauri, Khairi shared insights on her protagonist's challenges of social and political ethos in the nineties.

In the Urdu fiction category, Najeeba Arif's Mazahir o Mubahis was presented, in conversation with Abid Hussain Sial, who explored the themes of cultural identity and modernity. Shahid Siddiqui's latest work, Toronto, Dubai, and Manchester, was discussed in a session with Asghar Nadeem Syed, highlighting Siddiqui's narrative journey through the socio-political landscapes of three cities.

M. Athar Tahir's Telling Twilight offered a poetic exploration of nature and nostalgia, with Tahir discussing his work with filmmaker Ammar Aziz. Similarly, Pani pe likhi kahani by Muhammad Asim Butt was launched in an engaging discussion with Qasim Yaqoob, delving into Butt's reflections on time and memory.

A heartfelt session was held for My Friend Mairaj: An Intimate Biography by Shamim Ahmad, who, in conversation with Safiya Aftab, spoke on the legacy and personal memories of Mairaj Muhammad Khan. In a session filled with introspection and personal insights, Aankh se Aasman jata hai by Tariq Naecem, was launched, with Mehboob Zafar moderating a conversation

on Naecem's unique poetic vision.

The festival also celebrated English poetry with the launch of Poetry in English from Pakistan, edited by Ilona Yusuf and Shafiq Naz. A diverse panel of poets, including Naecem Pasha, Rayan Khan, Alamgir Hashmi, Harris Khaliq, Waqas Naecem, Haseeb Sultan, Wajahat Malik, Athar Tahir, Mehvash Amin, Saad Ali, Zain Ul Abidin Khan Alizai, and Sophia Bano, presented their works, with Ammar Aziz moderating a discussion that highlighted the rich tapestry of Pakistan's English-language poetry scene.

An engaging lineup of panel discussions and sessions sparked lively conversations on diverse topics relevant to Pakistan's socio-cultural and literary landscape. Season 2 of Capital Talk featured a thought-provoking conversation between Hamid Mir and Meher Bukhari, touching on pressing issues in journalism and public discourse. In a timely discussion on social media: Free Speech vs. Censorship, panelists Farnood Alam, Husnain Jamal, and Munizae Jahangir, moderated by Khayyam Mushir, delved into the challenges of balancing freedom of expression with the need for responsible content regulation. Munizae spoke of the pains of fighting fake news but insisted that censorship must change its role towards protecting the rights of the minorities and not suppressing the voice of people.

Visual Journey: Documenting The National Art Gallery of Pakistan; moderated by Hammad Husain, the session delved into insights regarding preserving

Pakistan's heritage. Naecem Pasha's philosophy of humility and accessibility in designing his masterpiece won hearts. "Sango Khesht has to be subservient to Art and Culture."

A literary discussion, Pakistani Urdu Adab ke Khud-o-Khaal, brought together esteemed voices like Zehra Nigah, Iftikhar Arif, Najeeba Arif, and Abid Hussain Sial, moderated by Shakeel Jazib, to explore the evolving identity of Urdu literature in Pakistan. On the question of geography of literature, Zehra Nigah commented, "Literary molds evolve with time to stay relevant - very much like the physical structures. Literature has never had boundaries, and it will stay connected to its historical legacy while reflecting present dynamics." Arif Iftikhar expanded on how rich Pakistani literature has been with stalwarts like Ibne Insha, Yusufi, Rashid, Pitras, Faiz, and countless more, and how their works are gems of the glorious history and literary wonders of Urdu language.

The sessions Urban Dialogues: Decoding Islamabad's Dynamics with Naecem Pasha, Fauzia Asad Khan, Sikander Ajam Khan, and Hammad Husain, moderated by Hamid M. Husain, examined Islamabad's urban growth and social shifts. Theater group Swaang performed Daastan-e-Mizaah, adding a cultural touch to the festival through a comedic exploration of Pakistani society.

In Fostering a Global Mindset: Co-Existence of Local and International Exam Boards, panelists including Ghulam Ali Mallah, Amanda Ingram, Andrew Coombe, Arshad Saeed Husain, and Shahid Soroya, moder-

ated by Faisal Bari, debated the merits of a diversified educational approach. Shahid spoke of the learning crises of fifty-four million children in school, while Coombe defined the essence of curiosity that must define pedagogical and assessment's objective.

Pakistani English Literature: Defining a Canon featured Muneeza Shamsie, Harris Khaliq, and Ilona Yusuf, guided by Aroosa Kanwal, discussing the evolution of English literature from Pakistan and the challenges in forming a literary canon. Commenting on the nature of literary festivals, Harris Khaliq said, "festivals may not contribute to the literary canon, but they definitely enable the shift in the mindset."

Hameed Akhtar's legacy was revisited in Hameed Akhtar ke Sawaal with Iftikhar Arif, Saba Hamid, Asghar Nadeem Syed, and Harris Khaliq, led by Shahzad Sharjeel. Exploring the economic opportunities via strengthening the AI infrastruc-

ture became the main discussion point in How Pakistan can capture its share of the \$2 Trillion AI Market. It saw insights from Faisal Aftab, Owais Barlas, Fizza Amjad and was moderated by Basit Riaz Shaikh. In Who Owns the English Language? Contemporary Pakistani Anglophone Fiction-Raazia Sajid, Umber Khairi, and Sonia Irum, shared their views on Pakistani writers' contributions to Anglophone literature. The session was moderated by Aroosa Kanwal.

The constitutional discourse in We the People and our Constitution, featuring Hamid Khan, Ahmer Bilal Soofi, and Farhatullah Babar, with Mujahid Bareilvi as moderator, delved into citizens' rights and constitutional awareness. Our Education System and the Future Workforce Needs, with experts A. H. Nayyar, Faisal Mushtaq, Shahid Siddiqui, and Shoaiba Mansoor, moderated by Faisal Bari, focused on aligning education with workforce demands. Shoaiba shared the update on

vocational and technical integration in the federal schools, but all panelists agreed on the need for a paradigm shift with strong training, and evaluative framework for the teachers.

A session on digital storytelling, Beyond the Hype: Content Creators Crafting Stories, included creators Huzaifa Nizam (Huztory by Huzaifa), Noman Jaffar (Islamabadwala), and Maryam Raja, moderated by Sonia Irum, exploring the influence of digital narratives. Concluding with Pindi Afsanay ka School, Hameed Shahid, Ravish Nadim, and Nilofar Iqbal, moderated by Khaleeq ur Rehman, reflected on the unique narrative style emerging from Pindi's literary scene.

The ceremony concluded with a soulful Sufi night performance by Akbar Ali Khan, leaving the audience deeply moved and inspired. The festival's closing celebrated literature's unique ability to reshape perspectives, fostering greater understanding and empathy across society.

## Northern Autumn Part 2



Munaza Kazmi

National Park at 11:15am, again a beautiful bright morning welcoming my adventure, along the way I stopped at a Sacred Rock, the driver told me it's some sign posts for the soldiers of Altit's Raja. I don't get any other detail.

My next stop was Attabad Lake, which was on an alarming state of drying up, and a crowd of constructions. For reaching the lake first I crossed Pakistan's longest tunnel, around 3.5 kilometers in length, covered in a time of 15 minutes, more-over there was a sequence of tunnels coming over and over. It's a very good initiative by Pakistan's government as before its construction people have had to travel by climbing the mountains. In a meanwhile I exchanged few dialogues with the driver as I wanted to know about the local people, which he told me and for travelers I would say it's a genuine advice from my side, to wear modest clothes, as it offends

the local community and their cultures, further as we respect the women of our society we should to their women as well. These people though are simple, but they too are one of us, our Pakistani brothers and sisters.

After Attabad, I reached Sost by crossing Hussaini Bridge, the dangerous of the world, Beriut Lake known for fluffy duckling and the celebrated Passu Cones, let me tell you my dear reader whenever I saw Passu Cones, I felt an energy, a powerful semi-human soul calling me from there. Maybe I just over imagine!

The car was going on 80 kilometers, slowing down on turns, where I found an undiscovered water channel and I couldn't stop myself and asked driver to park the car then ran into the river, oh it was beyond words...the silvery clear water, the cool fresh breeze, the scenic view, with the colors of Autumn, like a fairytale.

It was a minute's drive after that I reached the check point of Khunjerab National Park, which is completely safe area guarded by Pakistan Army. Khunjerab National Park known for majestic landscapes, Snow Leopards, Ibex, Black Bears and wild birds, this park is a natural reserve where hunting is prohibited, hence it's a safe haven for the wild. For going to the top, where its Pak China Boarder, known as Khunjerab Pass, further it required 2 hours, but they pass in minutes, since you would all be consumed in sightseeing. I reached there around 03:10 pm, where I took



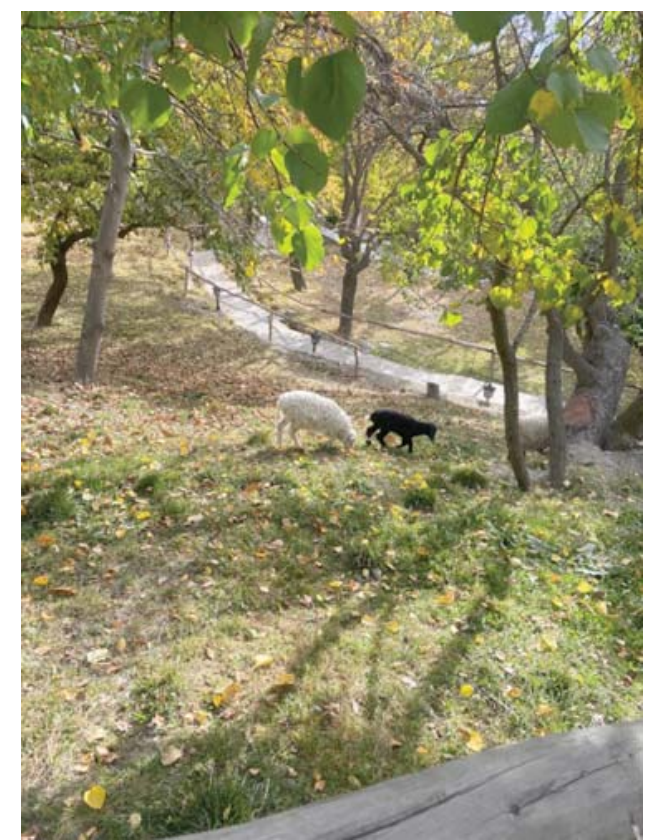
some photos, watched the wild Yaks, a distant sight of a Bear, and some green and black uniformed soldiers guarding the boarders in extreme cold, so that we can sleep in peace in our cozy houses.

At 03:30 pm I turned the car backward and rolling down rekindling the views, it took 4 hours to reach back to the hotel, and it was complete dark that is not a recommended time on road.

Hotel manager Mr. Abbas was kind enough to come all the way from office to the parking area to assist me back to the lobby, where

warm kettle of tea and aromatic tasty samosas were waiting for me.

For the next day, I was compelling to cancel all my plans for sightseeing as I was caught by high fever, hence the day spent by watching the sheep from the balcony. Next day, after checking out from Serena Altit Residence, I traveled to Karimabad, another small community village known for the Baltit Fort on the hill top, where I checked in to Hunza Serena Hotel, the newly constructed luxurious hotel, of which later of I will write a full



review.

There I met my friend Mr. Faisal, the Cluster Manager of Serena's North, who was so kind to upgrade my room to the Kanwal Suite, the best thing about my suite was its view from the balcony, of the Karakorum, Lady Finger, and some of the gigantic snow-capped mountains whose name I have forgotten, beside in their cradle of these the UNESCO awarded Baltit Fort stands, moreover the sight of locals working in fields with the sound of some chubby buffalos down the hills.

Hunza was my last spot, but the unforgettable one, because it is the destination where I tried Nashasta, a desert of which my grandfather told me tales of his childhood, made by the Executive Chief Mr. Shahbaz.

In end I would say, People are wonderful, if You are wonderful, and it takes People to make someone's journey the Memorable.

(Munaza Kazmi holds MPhil in Management Sciences. She's a travel writer, a published author, & co-author of scientific contributions.)



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
93,291.68	92,520.48
Day's High	Day's Low
93,514.55	92,566.49
Index Value	Change
21,537,800,610	+771.20
Percentage	Time
+0.83%	8 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,072.39	-68.35
Percentage	Time
-0.84%	8 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
43,970.02	+240.68
Percentage	Time
+0.55%	8 Nov, 12:06 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,500.37	+118.96
Percentage	Time
+0.30%	8 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.35	186.60
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.05	202.45
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	297.25	300.00
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	895.85	905.35
Malaysian Ringgit	62.5	63.10
New Zealand \$	163.14	165.14
Norwegians Krone	24.78	25.08
Omani Riyal	715.66	724.16
Qatari Riyal	75.62	76.32
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	206.27	208.27
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	316.79	319.59
Thai Bhat	7.93	8.08
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	357.45	360.95
US Dollar	277.30	278.80

**PIC directs SBP to provide list of employees with dual nationality in 10 days**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) on Saturday directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to release, within 10 days, a list of employees holding dual nationality or married to foreign nationals, in accordance with the Right to Access to Information Act 2017, The News reported.

In the case of Azmat Khan vs SBP, the PIC ordered the central bank's governor to provide this and additional requested information.

Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui and Information Commissioner Ijaz Hassan Awan noted that petitioner Azmat Khan sought details on SBP officers, employees, and those affiliated with local or international NGOs, community development organisations, or non-profits.

The petitioner had also asked for details of action taken by SBP against the employees holding dual citizenship, married with citizens of other countries or providing consultancy to international NGOs and institutions.

The chief information commissioner said the information sought by the petitioner is public record and no exemption can be granted to the central bank on its disclosure under the Right to Access to Information Act.

The SBP had informed the commission in its reply the said information did not fall under Right to Access to Information Act. The commissioner said it was the authority of commission to decide on this matter, not the State Bank.

The commission said the State Bank filed a review appeal against the decision to disclose the information, arguing they had not been heard in the case.

The SBP also took a position in the appeal in a similar case — Rana Abrar v State Bank of Pakistan — the Information Commission had issued orders to provide information, but the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had suspended commission's orders on SBP's plea.

Regarding the SBP's claim they were not heard in the case, the commission said notices were issued to them and the decision announced after their non-appearance.

**Tax ombudsman reveals 529 billion rupees sales tax fraud in Punjab**

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: The Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Secretariat has detected a significant tax fraud involving approximately 529 billion rupees in sales tax, implicating Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) tax collectors

It was disclosed here Sunday by Dr Waqar Ch Arain Advisor to FTO during an awareness session with business community. He said the scam was brought to the notice of FTO Dr Asif Mahmood Jah who deputied Almas Ali

Jovindah Advisor Legal for thorough investigation which revealed startling disclosures. According to concrete evidence, certain FBR officials allegedly collaborated with fraudulent companies to manipulate tax records, paving the way to receive unwarranted tax refunds. The fraudulent practices reportedly involved falsifying invoices, inflating input taxes, and issuing refunds for sales that never occurred. These tactics facilitated an extensive siphoning of public funds under the guise of legitimate tax refunds.



Almas Ali Jovindah investigation sheds light on deep-rooted issues within the tax collection system, which have long enabled such scams. The report points out a lack of stringent oversight and effective auditing processes that allowed this fraud to persist over time. Following this revelation, FTO Dr

Asif Mahmood Jah, has recommended FBR Chairman for an inquiry into the matter for taking strict action against those involved. The scandal underscores the need for reform in Pakistan's tax administration system to restore public confidence and prevent future financial misconduct.

**Traditional food**

Islamabad: People visiting food stall during ten days "Folk Festival Lok Mela" at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.



Photo: APP

**Remittances growth to strengthen account balance amid low growth, says APBF**



**Commerce Report**

LAHORE: As the remittances to Pakistan have hit a record high in October The All Pakistan Business Forum has said that foreign flows are crucial which can support the country's account balance amidst low

volumes of foreign direct investment (FDI) and nominal growth of exports.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood observed that the inflows of workers' remittances sent home by overseas Pakistanis remained robust, reaching a four-month high of over \$3 billion in October 2024, with significant increases from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United Kingdom (UK). This rise in remittances is expected to keep the current account near breakeven and help the rupee remain stable against the US dollar.

**Soft loans for SMEs must to achieve high economic growth target: BMP**

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has asked the government to announce soft financing with very low interest rate and without any collateral for SMEs with a view to spur the economic growth in the country.

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

The meeting forwarded several recommendations so that the small industry could deal with the challenges posed by the present economic crisis, saying mere statements would not work unless solid



measures are taken by the government, including a sizable reduction in fuel prices, bringing down key policy rate to single digit, regionally competitive energy rates and substantial cut in duties and taxes.

It is unfortunate that the State Bank has several times introduced a financing scheme for Small and Medium Enterprises, enabling them to get loans without collateral but it was never implemented in its true spirit.

**Need stressed to unlock regional economic potential**

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: SAARC Chambers of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday stressed the need for unlocking potentials of regional economic cooperation and integration to boost trade among SAARC countries especially with Afghanistan at this critical juncture.

In a statement here today he said inter regional trade in South Asia is less than one third of its potential which indicates 67 percent of trade is not being fully exploited. He said the role of Afghanistan as a connector and as a land bridge between Central Asia, the Middle East and South Asia needs to be reviewed in prevailing scenarios to primarily focus on promotion of trade and



investment.

He said even today, Afghanistan is seen as a viable doorway to South Asian countries for direct access to oil and gas in

the republics of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

He said better trade ties will help promote economic growth and to do away with abject

poverty in the region especially in Afghanistan thus enhancing its cross border and transit trade with neighbouring countries.

He said poor trade facilitation at borders and prevalence of a variety of non tariff barriers are major hurdles in further enhancing mutual trade manifolds with Afghanistan.

Iftikhar Malik said Pakistan after Iran and China is the third largest trading partner of Afghanistan which exports cement, pharmaceuticals products, sulphur, stone, plaster, peel of citrus fruit, melon, vegetable fats, edible fruits and oil etc and Afghanistan's main exports are carpets and rugs which accounts for 45 percent of total exports, while dried fruits constitutes 31%, medicinal plants 12 percent.

**First time from private sector: Saigal appointed as KPT Board acting chairman**



**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: The Chairman of Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIATF) Fahimur Rahman Saigal has been appointed as acting chairman of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Board for the first time from the private sector in the history.

The seat was vacant due to the resignation of the previous chairman. Chairman of PIATF was

elected as acting chairman of KPT Board by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, government of Pakistan.

The business community across the country congratulated Fahimur Rahman Saigal on assuming the charge of chairmanship of KPT Board.

Fahimur Rahman Saigal will perform the duties till the appointment of the permanent chairman of the Karachi Port Trust Board and will carry out all the responsibilities.

The acting chairman said that it is a great honor for him to take the charge of acting chairman of this prestigious post, as the KPT is considered as the gateway to Pakistan and the Central Asian region, contributing significantly to Pakistan's economy.

**RCCI Calls for Review of Bank Road Pedestrianization Plan in Sadar**

**Commerce Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) has voiced serious concerns over the decision to designate Bank Road in the Sadar Commercial Area as a pedestrian-only "walking street." RCCI President Usman Shaukat expressed his worries about the negative impact this move will have on local businesses and urged authorities to reconsider.

In a statement, President Usman Shaukat emphasized that the pedestrianization of Bank Road would hinder customer access, especially affecting women and senior citizens who may

find it difficult to navigate the area without convenient parking options. He stated, "The long-standing issue of parking in Sadar Commercial Area needs an effective solution. RCCI had previously recommended the construction of a parking plaza, yet no action has been taken. Without addressing parking, restricting vehicle access will harm businesses and discourage shoppers."

He further highlighted the high operating costs and rents of shops in the commercial area, stressing that limited customer access will jeopardize sales, impacting not only shop owners but also reducing the area's tax contribution.

# President, PM congratulate Pak cricket team on ODI series win against Aussies

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday felicitated Pakistan Cricket Team on winning the one-day international (ODI) series against Aussies eleven at their home ground in Australia.

The president lauded the national team for achieving the remarkable triumph in Australia after a gap of 22 years span, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

He further observed that Pakistan team performed well for which the entire team deserved accolades.

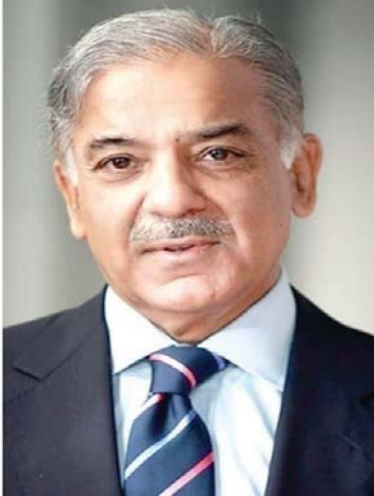
The president expressed the optimism that the national cricket team would continue its winning streak in future.

The prime minister termed it as the happiest occasion for the nation because the national team achieved victory in ODI series in Australia after a gap of 22



years, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The bowlers and batters displayed an excellent performance against Australia,



he said, adding the members of the team and management worked hard for which they deserved such victory.

Separately, on X account, the prime

minister posted, "Big Day for Pakistani Cricket! Congratulations to the Pakistan cricket team on their historic ODI series victory against Australia. After 22 years, Pakistan has defeated Australia on their home ground, and that too, in a convincing manner."

He further posted that this victory was the result of unity and teamwork of their brilliant players; as well as efforts of coaching staff and the PCB under the able leadership of Chairman Mohsin Naqvi.

"May this be the start of a great and glorious period for Pakistani Cricket Team", he added.

The national team overwhelmed the last two games with ball and bat, completely outclassing the strong Aussies team.

Pakistan cricket team defeated Australian team by 2-1 in ODI series and registered a historic and rare win since 2002.

## Bilawal extends congratulations to national cricket team

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended warm congratulations to the national cricket team for their historic victory in the One Day International (ODI) series against Australia. Pakistan's cuisine



In a press release issued by the Media Cell of Bilawal House on Sunday, Chairman PPP praised the players' outstanding performance, which not only clinched a series win but also won the hearts of the entire nation.

He expressed the hope that the team would continue to display the same spirit and determination, carrying forward their winning momentum in future matches.

## Mohsin Naqvi hails national team on ODI series win against Australia

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi has felicitated Pakistan cricket team on historic ODI series win over Australia on their home soil.



Celebrating the momentous achievement, he highlighted that defeating the World Champions Australia in Australia was a feat that had brought immense pride to the nation. "The entire nation's pride has been lifted by the outstanding performances of our players, who outclassed Australia in all departments — batting, bowling, and fielding," said the PCB chairman. "This victory belongs to every player and member of the management who contributed to this team effort."

In a commanding eight-wicket win, Pakistan's bowlers set the tone for success. Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Haris Rauf delivered stellar bowling performances, restricting Australia to a low score. In the chase, once again, Abdullah Shafique and Saim Ayub showcased composure and skill, securing victory with responsible batting, while Captain Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan made vital contributions with the bat.

Chairman Mohsin Naqvi further added, "Today's triumph has spread joy across the entire nation. Our team's determination, effort, and unwavering commitment have brought about this success. I firmly believe that with such spirit, hard work, and dedication, our team will continue to achieve great things."

The PCB congratulates the Pakistan cricket team and acknowledges the invaluable role played by the entire management team in this victory.

## Four more fixtures decided of Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Four more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various Grounds of Karachi.

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

**Scores in Brief:**  
Liaquatbad Eaglets defeated Azad Cricket Club by 9 wickets at Abbasi Gymkhana Ground. Azad CC 116 all out in 30.1 overs.

Karimullah 37, Mubashir Ali 3/22, Aun Muhammad 2/8. Liaquatbad Eaglets 117/1 in 15.4 overs. Farman Ahmed 68 10x4 2x6, Muhammad Talah Khan 42 2x4 4x6.

In the 2nd Match at Afza Ground Taiser Town Tiger Cricket Club beat Al-Hussaini Cricket Club by 48 runs. Taiser Town Tiger CC 240/6 in 40 overs. Habibullah 99 9x4 4x6, Saeed hHassan 52 4x4 3x6, Mairaj Khan 35, Shoukat Ali 2/33 Jaffer Khan 2/46.

Al-Hussaini CC 192 all out in 27 overs. Muhammad Irfan 52 8x4 3x6, Azmat Khan 44 5x4, Hassan Khan 22, Arshad Khan 21, Jumma Khan 2/17, Salman Khan 2/21, Nayaid Balouch 2/35, Saeed Hassan 2/35.

In the 3rd Match Sher Pao Gymkhana beat Eleven Star Cricket Club by 7 Wickets at Pak Star Ground. Eleven Star CC 109 all out in 26.5 overs. Ayaz ur Rehman 17, Muhammad Zeeshan 3/18, Nasir Hussain 3/18, Noor Khan 2/16, Imtiaz 2/37.

Sher Pao Gymkhana 113/2 in 8.1 overs. Nasir Hussain 76 9x4 6x6, Ahmed 24.

In the Fourth Match Eaton Cricket Club beat Mujahid Gymkhana Colts by 85 runs at KCCA Stadium. Eaton CC 235 all out in 35 overs. Imran Amin 55 7x4 not out, Shayan Rasheed 40, Yar Muhammad 32, Faraed Agha 25, Amir Malik 23, Shaheer Zahid 3/52, Aqibur Rehman 2/49.

Mujahid Gymkhana Colts 173/7 in 40 overs. Qaiser Mehmood 41, jansher Abdullah 99, Khan Azam 20, Osama Hussain 2/19, Khurram Mehmood 2/32.



Group photo of participation during Sports Sciences & Education held at Skills University, Islamabad

# Pakistan Cricket Team historical victory against Australia in 3rd ODI

Asim Tanveer

PERTH, AUSTRALIA: Pakistan defeated Australia by 8 wickets in the third and final One Day International (ODI) cricket match of a 3-match series. The third and final ODI, played at Optus Stadium in Perth, saw Pakistan claim the series 2-1 with this victory.

In this decisive ODI match against Australia, Mohammad Rizwan won the toss and chose to bowl first. Just like in the previous game, Australia's first wicket fell at a score of 20 in Perth. Australia had made five changes to their team, and it was captain Josh Inglis's debut match as ODI captain.

The Australian batsmen kept falling prey to Pakistan's swinging and destructive bowling. Australia's entire team was bowled out for just 140 runs in 31.5 overs. Technically, only 9 players were out, but batter Cooper Connolly was injured when he was struck on the hand by a short-pitched delivery from Mohammad Hasnain. Connolly sustained a serious arm injury and retired hurt after scoring 7 runs, and he did not return to the field to bat again.

Pakistan cricket team captain Mohammad Rizwan won the toss and opted to bowl first, inviting Australia to bat. Australia's first wicket fell at a score of 20 when opener Jack Fraser was dismissed after scoring 7 runs. The second wicket fell at 36 when Hardy was out after scoring 12, and from there, the wickets kept falling. Opener Matthew Short also got out LBW to Haris Rauf after scoring 22 runs. Captain Josh Inglis scored 7 runs and was caught by Pakistan's wicket-keeper-captain Mohammad Rizwan on a delivery from Naseem Shah. Maxwell had a tough time as he was dismissed for the third consecutive time by Haris Rauf, getting caught by Saim Ayub after facing just two balls without scoring. Sean Abbott showed some resistance by scoring 30 runs off 41 balls, but eventually, he became a target for Shaheen Shah Afridi at the end.

Adam Zampa was dismissed for 13 runs, falling to Naseem Shah and Saim Ayub. The last Australian wicket to fall was that of Lance Morris, who was bowled out for a duck by Shaheen Shah Afridi. Pakistan gave away 22 extras, including 6 leg byes and 16 wides. In total, Pakistan bowled 34 wides in the entire series, which is a significant negative record.

For Pakistan, Shaheen Shah Afridi took 3 wickets for 32 runs, bowling 8.5 overs. Naseem Shah bowled 9 overs, conceding 54 runs and taking 3 wickets. Mohammad Hasnain took 1 wicket for 24 runs in 7 overs, while Haris Rauf also took 2 wickets for 24 runs in 7 overs. Haris Rauf took 10 wickets in the entire series, having bowled around 20.5 overs, maintaining a very low strike rate in the process.

Pakistan's innings began posi-



tively and confidently. Saim Ayub and Abdullah Shafique initially played defensively and then switched to an aggressive approach. Several catches were also dropped, allowing Pakistan to keep up the momentum.

In 17 overs, Saim Ayub and Abdullah Shafique provided an 84-run opening stand. On the first ball of the 18th over, Abdullah Shafique was caught out by Morris on his own delivery. He scored 37 runs off 51 balls, hitting one six and one four. On the last ball of the same over, Morris struck again, creating some excitement by taking the valuable wicket of Saim Ayub, who was bowled after scoring 42 runs off 52 balls, with one six and four

fours. Pakistan had lost two wickets for 85 runs.

Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan ensured no further loss of wickets and led Pakistan to an 8-wicket victory in 26.5 overs. Babar remained unbeaten on 28, while Rizwan stayed not out on 30. Together, they added 58 runs for the third wicket. Lance Morris took 2 wickets for Australia.

With this win, Pakistan defeated Australia in a bilateral ODI series in Australia after 22 years. The last time they defeated Australia with the same margin of 2-1 was in 2002. Notably, this is also Pakistan's second consecutive bilateral ODI series victory against Australia. Two

years ago, when Australia last toured Pakistan, a three-match ODI series was played, which Pakistan won by 2-1 as well.

Thus, under the leadership of Mohammad Rizwan, Pakistan emerged victorious. In his debut as captain, Mohammad Rizwan proved to be exceptional. Pakistan's pace attack created complete havoc, while Australia's batting lineup set negative records that had never occurred before in Australia's ODI history. No batter managed to score 50 in any of the three matches.

Similarly, Australia's streak of not winning at Optus Stadium continued, and overall, Pakistan maintained their dominant record in Perth. Today's victory was once again led by Pakistan's fast bowlers, mirroring the previous match. The Pakistani pace attack caused complete destruction.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman of the Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, and Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board Mohsin Naqvi congratulated the Pakistan cricket team for winning the ODI series against Australia.

In his congratulatory message, President Asif Ali Zardari praised the Pakistan cricket team for winning the ODI series in Australia after 22 years. President Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman of the Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, and Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board Mohsin Naqvi, in their messages, stated that the Pakistan cricket team showcased excellent performance. The entire team deserves congratulations for this remarkable achievement. They expressed hope that the Pakistan cricket team will continue to achieve even more success in the future.

# Serena Polo Cup concludes with a thrilling finale



Sports Desk

Islamabad: Serena Hotels, under its Sports Diplomacy initiative and commitment to community engagement, organized the Serena Polo Cup 2024 on 10th November at Islamabad Club polo grounds. The event was attended by diplomats, members of the corporate sector, and polo enthusiasts, creating a vibrant atmosphere celebrating the spirit of the sport.

The final match of the Serena Polo Cup featured an exciting showdown between Team BN and Team Rizvi's by U Bank. Both teams displayed exceptional skill

and teamwork, captivating the audience with their skill of the game. Team Rizvi won the Serena Polo Cup with a score of 7, after an exciting tie across four chukkers that led to a decisive fifth chukker.

Serena Hotels congratulates both the teams for their outstanding performance at the Serena Polo Cup 2024. Hosting these events brings communities together and promotes diverse sports across Pakistan. Through initiatives like the Polo Cup, Serena Hotels provides a platform to celebrate athleticism and raise positive community connections.



The Sports Diplomacy efforts extend beyond polo, extensive support for various sports, including squash, tennis, and women's cricketer. These initia-

tives promote youth engagement, gender equality, and national pride, encouraging positive relations within both local and international communities

## Security Meeting

QUETTA: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi along with Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti chairing an emergency meeting on law and order situation in the province on Sunday.



Photo: PID

# Intelligence-based operations to be expanded in Balochistan after Quetta attack

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, along with Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, inquires after the health of a man who got wounded in Quetta blast on November 10, 2024.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti have decided to expand the intelligence-based operations in the province after the Quetta attack, which killed 27 people and wounded more than 50. "The federal government will provide all possible

support to the Balochistan government to deal with the menace of terrorism," Naqvi said while presiding over a meeting on the law-and-order situation in the province.

A powerful explosion rocked the area near the railway station in Quetta on Saturday, resulting in the deaths of 27 individuals and injuring more than 50 others, including both men and women.

Pools of blood and ripped backpacks were seen at the scene, where a large metal sheet protecting passengers from the elements had been blown off.

Initial reports said that the attacker was carrying seven to eight kilograms of explosives strapped to his body.

It was decided that "decisive steps" would be taken with full force to crush the terrorists. Officials presented a preliminary report of the suicide blast at the Quetta Railway Station in the meeting.

Naqvi announced his decision to provide resources to Balochistan on a "priority basis." Measures would be taken to provide training and strengthen the professional capabilities of police, the Counter Terrorism Department, Levies and other forces

of Balochistan to deal with the menace of terrorism, he added.

Balochistan CM Bugti stated that the professional capabilities of Levies, Police and CTD would be strengthened and developed on "modern lines" with the support of the federal government.

He expressed the government's resolve to defeat enemies who want to weaken Pakistan by furthering their "nefarious designs."

Bugti vowed to root out the menace of terrorism and ensure peace in the province. Before the meeting, both

leaders paid homage to the martyrs and offered prayers for the elevation of their ranks. The interior minister and the Balochistan CM expressed solidarity with the families of the martyrs.

"The federal government will provide all-out support for maintaining peace and the complete eradication of terrorism from the province," Naqvi told Bugti.

The chief minister said: "More efforts are being taken to ensure law and order situation. A handful of elements are involved in terrorist activities in Balochistan which would be rooted out in every way."

## Security forces kill 4 Khwarij terrorist in 2 separate engagements



### City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The security forces killed four Khwarij terrorists in two separate engagements in North Waziristan district.

"An intelligence based operation was conducted by the security forces in general area of Spinwam, North Waziristan district. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged Khwarij's location and after intense fire exchange, two Khwarij were sent to hell," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Sunday.

In another incident, movement of a group of Khwarij, who were trying

to infiltrate through Pakistan-Afghanistan border, was picked up by the security forces in general area of Spinwam, North Waziristan district.

Own troops effectively engaged and thwarted their attempt to infiltrate. Resultantly, two Khwarij were sent to hell, while two Khwarij got injured, it further said.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Khariji found in the area. Security Forces of Pakistan are determined and remain committed to secure its borders and eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country," the news release said.

## Bilawal commends security forces for their successful operation in N. Waziristan

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has commended the security forces for their successful operation in North Waziristan, which resulted in the elimination of six terrorists.

According to a press release issued by the Media Cell of Bilawal House, the PPP Chairman highlighted that neutralizing six terrorists and injuring six others marked a significant achievement by the security forces.

He emphasized that the ongoing intelligence-based operations against terrorists also reflected the nation's steadfast commitment to eradicating terrorism.



Bilawal Bhutto reiterated the Pakistan People's Party's unwavering support for the security forces in their fight against terrorism.

## Pakistan submits delegation to global ministerial conference on ending violence against children

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting children's rights and eradicating violence against children as its delegation, led by Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson of the National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), and Ms. Sarah Ahmad, Chairperson of the Child Protection Welfare Bureau (CPWB) Punjab, represented Pakistan in the first-ever Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children (VAC), said a press release issued here on Sunday.

This landmark event, hosted by the Government of Colombia in collabo-

ration with Sweden, UNICEF, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children and the World Health Organization, aims to accelerate global efforts toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goal target of ending violence against children by 2030. Hosted in Bogotá, Colombia, the conference gathered representatives from 143 countries, along with global leaders, child rights organizations, and United Nations bodies, to address the universal challenge of ending violence against children.

The conference commenced with an inspiring plenary session, where Mr. Gustavo Petro, President of



Colombia, underscored the urgent need to eliminate violence against

children. Leaders and stakeholders worldwide pledged their commitment to ensuring children's safety through universal access to comprehensive parenting support, secure and enabling environments, and effective response services for victims of violence to prevent recurrence and foster resilient pathways for children and families.

Pakistan's delegation presented the commitments followed by the National Preparatory Session held in Islamabad on October 3, where key stakeholders from national and provincial governments, civil society, and academia discussed the nation's child protection goals.

## Lahore still the world's most polluted city, but PMD offers hope of relief

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lahore has once again claimed the unfortunate title of the world's most polluted city, shrouded in a thick smog that has brought the region to a standstill. The severe air pollution, coupled with dense fog, has led to widespread disruption, including the closure of major motorway sections and a bus accident.

Visibility plummeted this morning, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) soaring to a staggering 951. This hazardous level of pollution prompted authorities to close various sections of the motorway network, including the M2 (Lahore-Kot Momin and Lahore-Sialkot sections), and portions of the M4 and M5 (Multan-Sukkur). The motorway near Jalalpur Pirwala remains closed as well, with citizens urged to stay indoors.



The hazardous conditions have resulted in a surge in respiratory illnesses, eye irritation, and throat problems. Despite government-im-

posed Green Lockdown restrictions, many businesses remained open late into the night, although markets are closed today.

Authorities have also taken action, removing 42 smoke-emitting buses from service. Multan and Lahore are the hardest-hit cities.

## AJK president seeks Austria's influence in EU for resolving Kashmir dispute



### Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, (AJK) on Sunday called upon Austria to utilize its influence within the European Union and international community to help resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute.

Talking to ambassador of Austria to Pakistan Andrea Wicke, Chaudhry appealed Austria to help resolve

the Kashmir conflict and end the human rights abuses in the occupied Kashmir region. Pakistan's cuisine the president AJK briefed Austrian Ambassador Andrea Wicke on the current situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the ongoing Kashmir dispute.

During the meeting, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and Austrian Ambassador Andrea Wicke discussed various issues of mutual interest.

## Drama producer Furqan Haider Rizvi passes away

### City Desk

LAHORE: Syed Furqan Haider Rizvi, the noted Pakistani stage dramas producer, passed away in America on Sunday. He will be laid to rest today in The Dalles (USA). Pakistan's cuisine

Renowned director Syed Furqan Haider's family sources confirmed that he was suffering from kidney disease.

He not only introduced artists



like Moin Akhtar and Umar Sharif to the world of stage dramas, but also brought commercial theater to new heights.