



China to continue support for Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts

China will continue to support Pakistan in counter-terrorism operations, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday, after two Chinese nationals were wounded in a shooting in the country's commercial hub Karachi last week.



Pakistan gov't 'blocks unregistered VPNs'

The unregistered VPNs have been blocked temporarily for whitelisting. The sources within the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) termed unregistered VPNs a 'security risk' for Pakistan, as they can be used to access 'sensitive information.' PTA has urged businesses to register their IP addresses to ensure continued VPN access and uninterrupted internet services for authorized users. Those registering must provide information about their intended use and specify their business activities.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Defence Cooperation

RAWALPINDI: Australian Army Chief Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir in Rawalpindi at GHQ.



Photo: ISPR

COAS Asim Munir discusses defence ties with Australian army chief

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, Chief of the Australian Army, met with General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of Pakistan, today at the General Headquarters (GHQ).

During the meeting, both leaders engaged in discussions covering matters of mutual interest, particularly the global and regional security environment.

The COAS emphasized Pakistan's appreciation for its ties with Australia, noting the importance of strong bilateral relations in promoting shared goals of peace and stability. Both sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthen cooperation in defense and security, recognizing the value of continued collaboration for regional and global peace.

Lieutenant General Stuart commended Pakistan's efforts in countering terrorism and expressed his resolve to deepen bilateral defense and security cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, upon his arrival at GHQ, the Chief of the Australian Army laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada to honor Pakistan's martyrs. He was accorded a warm welcome, with a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army presenting a guard of honor to him.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue meets Ambassador Shoaib Sarwar



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Ambassador Shoaib Sarwar, Pakistan's Ambassador to Denmark, who called on the Finance Minister at Finance Division today.

During the meeting, various aspects of bilateral ties and ways for further enhancing cooperation and collaborations in the field of trade and commerce between Pakistan and Denmark were discussed.

The Minister highlighted the role of Pakistani diaspora in the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan.

Ambassador Shoaib Sarwar apprised the Minister about the current state of bilateral ties and the scope and opportunities for further business ventures and collaborations. He also highlighted the role of Pakistani expatriates settled in Denmark for strengthening bilateral ties and promoting commerce and cultural exchanges between both the countries.

PM calls for immediate, swift action to halt Palestinians' genocide

Spokesman Report

RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday while regretting the 'deafening silence' of the international community over the systematic genocide of the people of Palestine, called for swift action to safeguard the inalienable rights of the oppressed Palestinians, by ensuring the establishment of an independent state.

Addressing an Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, the prime minister said that as Ummah, they were duty bound by their religion and conscience to stand resolutely with the people of Palestine more than ever before, 'we should not let this genocide and oppression to persist.'

The prime minister stressed that this conference must call for immediate and unconditional ceasefire, impose an immediate arms embargo on Israel and lifting of Israel's blockade against



Gaza, ensuring prompt delivery of food, water, electricity and medical aid.

The prime minister also called for holding of accountability of Israel for its war crimes, besides,

urging the summit to pursue the adoption of UNGA special session's resolution 10/24 that followed up a historic advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJA).

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also demanded a comprehensive review of Israel's membership of the United Nations.

He said for more than a year, Gaza had fallen into endless

darkness and despair with families torn apart, buildings, schools and hospitals blown up.

He alarmed at the silence of international community which shut its eyes in the face of such crimes committed against Palestinians, adding the atrocities being committed against Palestinians had been rightfully labeled as genocide not only by media, but also by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

"With each passing day, every moral code has been flagrantly violated by Israel yet the killing and destruction continued with no end in sight," he observed.

The prime minister questioned as to how long this annihilation be ignored. Israel has been emboldened with the international community's indifference and inaction. "There has been utter disregard for the humanity's repeated calls for a ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian relief and protection of civilians".

IMF proposes general sales tax on petroleum products in Pakistan: report

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund has proposed that Pakistan impose a general sales tax (GST) on petroleum products, alongside a suggestion to raise the levy to Rs70, as the two sides began talks in Islamabad, Dawn News reported.

An IMF delegation led by Pakistan Mission Chief Nathan Porter arrived in Pakistan on Monday and engaged in technical discussions on the first day.

The news outlet while citing sources reported that officials from the Federal Board of Revenue, the finance ministry, the State Bank of Pakistan, and the energy ministry met with the IMF team. Discussions included strategies to meet FBR targets and reforms in the energy sector.

A proposal has been made to impose a GST on petroleum products, which currently stands at zero. A petroleum levy of Rs70 rupees per litre was being collected with the likelihood of it being further increased.

PTI founder's release unlikely for now: Fazlur Rehman

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman denied knowing anything about the release of Imran Khan, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Fazlur Rehman while addressing the media in the Cathedral City of Wakefield, JUI Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman stated, "The release of the PTI founder seems unlikely at the moment." However, the JUI-F recognised that political changes are uncertain.

"I am not aware of any deal with the founder of PTI; I cannot comment on hearsay," says Fazlur Rehman.

On a question related to playing an alleged role in securing bail for Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and his sisters, Fazlur Rehman stressed that these cases were handled 'independently'. He further asserted the public's right to protest, saying that PTI's demonstrations should not be restricted.

He said that month-long nego-



tiations on the 26th Constitutional Amendment led to a reduction in the draft from 56 clauses to 22.

Fazlur Rehman in his media talk criticized the compromising nature of the top cadre of political parties, blaming it as the reason for 'frail democracy'. He also expressed his support for a strong military, emphasising, that a strong army is necessary for a secure Pakistan.

Commenting on the Kashmir issue, the JUI chief remarked that the solution now lies within the hands of Kashmiri people. JUI chief mentioned that a meeting with PML-N President Nawaz Sharif is not planned but wouldn't be an issue if it happens.

Punjab bans outdoor activities in four districts as part of anti-smog measures

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab banned most outdoor activities and ordered shops, markets and malls in some areas to close early from Monday to curb illnesses caused by intense air pollution.

The province has closed educational institutions and public spaces like parks and zoos until November 17 in places including Lahore, the world's most polluted city in terms of air quality, according to Swiss group IQAir's live ratings.

The districts of Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad and Gujranwala have seen an unprecedented rise in patients with respiratory diseases, eye and throat irritation, and pink eye disease, the Punjab government said in an order issued late on Sunday. The new restrictions will also remain in force until November 17.

"The spread of conjunctivitis/ pink eye disease due to bacterial or viral infection, smoke, dust or chemical exposure is posing a serious and imminent threat to public health," the Punjab government said.

Incarcerated ex-PM Khan says he will give protest date 'in a few days'



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan has claimed that he would give the protest date "in a few days" when his supporters would take to the streets for democracy and "restoration" of democracy.

"I am ready to make any sacrifice for the 'Haqeeqi Azadi' of Pakistan," he told reporters in the Adiala Jail on Monday. "Efforts will continue until the restoration of the judiciary and the release of our party workers and leaders."

"I will personally provide the date for a march within the next few days."

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief

Minister Ali Amin Gandapur told the party gathering on November 9 that Khan would give a "protest call" in November (this month). "The PTI supporters will wait for Khan's final call," he told supporters in Swabisaad in his address to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters at the Swabi rally - 'Awami Jirga'.

At the rally, Gandapur took oath from all supporters to act on Khan's "decisive call" which is expected to be given in November even if it takes "one's life or resources". He reiterated that supporters would not return home without getting Khan out of jail.

Khan claimed that the strategy was outlined during PTI's Saturday rally in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swabi. "This time, our supporters will not return home until their demands for the restoration of the Constitution, democracy, and an independent judiciary, as well as the release of party members, are met."

U. S. launches Climate Smart Agriculture Program in Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Bloom has inaugurated the Climate Smart Agriculture Program at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. This five-year activity aims to expose Pakistan's farmers to the latest trends in coping with the effects of climate change. With US support, the program will benefit farmers across the country. It should be noted that the Center for Advanced Studies was established in the past with the support of America in this university. US Consul General Lahore Kirsten Hawkins, USAID Mission Director Kate Som Wongsri and Vice Chancellor of University of Agriculture Faisalabad Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan also accompanied Ambassador Donald Bloom in the opening ceremony while representatives of government, teaching and agribusiness sectors of Pakistan.

Also participated. It should be noted that this program is another step in expanding the long-standing partnership between the United States and Pakistan in the field of agriculture, the foundation of which was laid by Nobel Peace Prize-winning American expert Dr. Norman Borlaug, on whose behalf Pakistan's wheat production increased significantly through efforts in the sixties. Ambassador Donald Bloom,



while expressing his views at the event, said that this project will play a significant role in increasing production and improving the employment of farmers. America and Pakistan have been promoting environmental protection during the last sixty years to increase agricultural production. Ambassador

Bloom emphasized that through such projects, the United States is helping to build a brighter, more prosperous future for the people of Pakistan that is resilient to the effects of climate change. Dr. Sarwar Khan said that in the sixties, a team of professors from Washington State University, Pullman,

stayed at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad for ten years and played an important role in its development and development. With the financial assistance of USAID, the Center for Advanced Studies established in 2014 has achieved concrete results for achieving food security.

Pakistan is set to become the diabetes capital in the coming years: Dr. Sajid



Special Correspondent

MULTAN: Dr. Sajid Mahmood Ashraf, Chief Operating Officer "The Diabetes Centre" shared these insights during a recent conversation with the media. He explained that in Pakistan, one out of every 200,000 children is diagnosed with diabetes. However, there are no government programs for the diagnosis of this condition at the primary or secondary healthcare levels. Around 6-7% of people with diabetes develop foot ulcers, which often lead to the amputation of toes, feet, or even legs. Due to the high prevalence of diabetes, Pakistan ranks as the third most burdened country globally, following China and India. If this trend continues, it might soon take the top spot.

He further mentioned that TDC has expanded its services to various cities in Pakistan, including Islamabad, Lahore, Sahiwal, Faisalabad, Karachi, Rawalakot, and Mirpur (Azad Kashmir), as well as internationally in Australia, England, the United States, and Canada. The Diabetes Centre is a comprehensive hospital for diabetes care, addressing complications related to the disease, such as heart and kidney ailments, dialysis, foot care, mental health, and nutrition clinics. In collaboration with the Health Services Academy Islamabad, TDC has also established an Institute of Endocrinology and Diabetology.

Dr. Ashraf shared that as a pilot project, the clinics in Lahore and Sahiwal are offering teleconsultation services. At TDC, treatment for the needy and poor is completely free, while wealthier patients receive care at significantly reduced costs. The organization aims to provide quality treatment for underprivileged patients, requesting media support to raise awareness about their mission.

Globally, there are 537 million people with diabetes, and nearly 33 million of them are in Pakistan. By 2045, the number of diabetes patients is expected to increase by 50%. In Pakistan alone, there are approximately 11 million pre-diabetics who are likely to develop diabetes at some stage.

The 100-bed, state-of-the-art "Diabetes Centre" in Islamabad offers free treatment to poor diabetes patients without discrimination, thanks to the support of charitable donors. Dr. Sajid Mahmood Ashraf urged the media and the journalist community to join this mission, promote the center, and highlight it in their TV programs, columns, and news stories, so both the rich and the poor can benefit from it.

He also announced that on the 14th of the month, a grand event would be held in Islamabad to mark World Diabetes Day, with international experts in attendance. The special guest for the event will be Governor Punjab, Mr. Salim Haider. The aim is to raise awareness about diabetes, inform people about the center, and encourage them to seek treatment, making this journey a bit easier for everyone involved.

Zafar Bakhtawari, pledges to support Swat's industrial, economic growth

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of UBG (FPCCI), Zafar Bakhtawari, stated that the development of Swat will benefit the entire national economy, and UBG (FPCCI) will fully support this endeavor. He assured that all issues facing the Swat Chamber of Commerce will be addressed on a priority basis, with every possible effort to improve the infrastructure in the region. He expressed these views during a meeting with the President of Swat Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Noor Muhammad Khan, highlighting UBG (FPCCI)'s commitment to actively support Swat's industrial and economic growth. Bakhtawari further guaranteed that these issues would be presented to the relevant authorities to ensure the protection of the business community's interests in Swat.



During the meeting, Noor Muhammad Khan discussed the pressing business and industrial challenges in Swat and requested support across various sectors. Emphasizing the importance of establishing the Swat Industrial Estate, he stated that this step is crucial for accelerating the region's business growth. He also highlighted the need for land allocation for the Swat Chamber building, repairs to the Kalam-Landakai Road, and infrastructure improvements. Additionally, he underscored the importance of enhancing security measures to create a safe environment for business.

Noor Muhammad Khan also stressed the need for modern processing plants to preserve fruits produced in Swat's orchards, which would benefit local farmers. He proposed utilizing the region's mineral resources and called for constructing a motorway from Chakdara to Fatehpur to improve accessibility and boost business activities. Bakhtawari appreciated these initiatives aimed at Swat's industrial and business growth and assured that he would bring these demands to the attention of the government for effective resolution.

AJK Information Secretary Ansar Yaqoob transferred

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Kashmir bureaucracy is undergoing a series of transfers and postings. Azad Kashmir Information Secretary Ansar Yaqoob has been transferred and replaced by Commissioner Muzaffarabad Sardar Adnan Khurshid, who has been promoted and posted as Information Secretary, while Masood-ur-Rehman, who has been transferred from Director General SDMA, has been posted as Commissioner Muzaffarabad. The new Information Secretary has assumed charge of his post. Journalist organizations have welcomed the appointment of the new Information Secretary.

Protest

LAHORE: Students protesting against a ban on entering Quaid-e-Azam Library, by the Punjab government in the provincial capital.



Photo: Online

Pakistan and Kashmir are inseparable, India should listen: Amir Muqam

Abdul Majeed Tahir

PALANDRI/SUDHANUTI: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam has said that Pakistan and Kashmir are inseparable. India should listen, the Kashmir issue has not ended with the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. We will continue to raise our voice against Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir on every front. The hearts of the Pakistani people beat with the Kashmiris. Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif boldly presented the case of the Kashmiris in the United Nations. The people of occu-

ped Kashmir rejected Modi's party in the elections. The region of Azad Kashmir is the first line of defense of Pakistan.

Addressing the ceremony, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (AzAD) President and Member of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Shah Ghulam Qadir said that Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan was a versatile personality and following his footsteps, we will liberate occupied Kashmir.

Former President of Azad Kashmir and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Alhaj Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, while addressing the ceremony, said that through the anniversary

ceremony of Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan on the land of Ghazis and Martyrs, we want to send a message to India that just as our ancestors liberated this region, we will also liberate Occupied Kashmir.

Host of the ceremony, former Minister of the Government, Dr. Najeeb Naqi Khan, while addressing the ceremony, said that we salute the services of Khan Sahib and thank the leaders who came to his anniversary.

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed, Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Azad Kashmir, Maulana

Saeed Yousaf Khan, retired Judge Justice Sardar Abdul Hameed Khan, former Minister of the Government, Sardar Farooq Ahmed Tahir, Member of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council Malik Hanif and other speakers also paid tribute to the services of Baba-e-Poonch, Colonel Muhammad Khan and reiterated the resolve that Occupied Kashmir will be liberated by following in the footsteps of our ancestors.

Earlier, a contingent of the Pakistan Army saluted, presented a guard of honor and laid floral wreaths at the mausoleum of Colonel Khan Muhammad Khan.

FACE Partners with International Experts for Training of Agriculture Department Punjab

City Desk

LAHORE: FACE, a not-for-profit organization engages international experts to conduct multiple trainings sessions for Agriculture Department Punjab. Dr. Upendra Singh, Vice President Research & Chief Scientist IFDC-USA conducted the first session in Lahore on Monday.

The trainings focus on improved crop yields through Site-Specific Nutrient

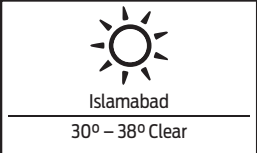
Management, 4R Nutrient Stewardship and Best Management Practices to Reduce Nutrient Losses and Gaseous Emissions from Agricultural Lands and improve nutrient use efficiency.

Secretary Agriculture Mr. Ifikhar Sahoo was the chief guest. The event was attended by officers from Extension Services, Soil Survey, Pest Warning, Planning & Evaluation. Other participants included faculty and students from academia, private sector, devel-

opment sector and farmers.

Speaking at the occasion Hasan Akram Chief Operating Officer FACE said "Producing more and healthier food in a sustainable manner is a global challenge and more so for Pakistan as our crop yields are lower than global averages. Our rapidly growing population and vulnerability to climate change makes agriculture efficiency even more crucial for food security and economic growth of the country".





SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:11 am
Zohr 11:52 am
Asr 3:29 pm
Maghrib 5:07 pm
Isha 6:33 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Clothes, shoes, and notebooks were distributed among poor schoolchildren

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Humanitarian Engineer Manzoor Ahmed Memon, Engineer Anwar Narai, teacher Hussain Bux Dahani, Muhammad Umar Seharo and Qayoom Sarohi distributed shoes, clothes, notebooks, and pencils among 38 poor and orphaned students at Government Boys Bachal Soomro Primary School, located near the Hyderabad Bypass. Engineer Manzoor Ahmed Memon and Engineer Anwar Narai mentioned that this assistance was provided to the underprivileged students through self-help, with support from humanitarian companions, to enable these needy children to continue their education. They added that this effort to serve humanity will continue in the future, and help will be provided to as many poor people as possible.

“Time to act now for global climate action rising to this moment”: Romina Khurshid Alam

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday emphasised the urgency for unified global response to protect rapidly degenerating ecosystems, lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable communities and infrastructure.

“Time to respond the century’s worst challenge to the sustainability of planet earth, human lives and ecosystems is running out fast and climate inaction is no option,” the PM’s coordinator Romina Khurshid highlighted while talking to media after plenary session of the two-week’s annual UN-led global climate conference (COP29), which began today in Baku, Azerbaijan.



Romina Khurshid Alam is leading Pakistan’s delegation at the climate conference, with emphasis to high-light Pakistan’s commitment to global climate action and the country’s actions for resilience building despite limited financial resources.

The 29th annual United Nations climate summit kicked off with delegates from nearly 200 countries reading for tough talks on finance and trade, following a year of weather disasters that have stretched developing countries in their key demands for more funds to cope with exacerbating impacts of climate change.

She also appealed for an “ambitious” new goal on providing climate funding to the world’s poorer nations, urging leaders of rich countries, historically

responsible for heat-trapping carbon emissions, to realise that climate finance is no charity which the developing countries are demanding for meeting their climate change adaptation and disaster resilience needs.

“We must understand that COP29 is the unmissable moment to chart a new path forward for everyone,” the PM’s climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam stressed.

Talking to the media, Ms. Alam said that a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings and events have been planned for engagement with global partners to invest in Pakistan’s mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building initiatives such as clean energy, smart agriculture and water conservation.

Performance

ISLAMABAD: Girls wearing traditional dresses perform during the annual Lok Mela festival, at Lok Virsa. Aiming to promote indigenous folk heritage, and provide a platform to artisans, folk artists and rural performers to get recognition of their talent at national level, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Only 20% of businesses and organisations are prepared for climate-related disasters

City Desk

LAHORE: Businesses and other organisations are not prepared for weather-related disasters, with out-of-date business continuity plans failing to reflect the frequency of disruption of climate-related events, according to ACCA’s latest report weathering the storm: building resilience against climate disruptions.

CFOs and finance teams are essential to building climate resilience through risk-based planning and sustainable business strategies. By championing transparency in emissions targets and transition plans, finance professionals play a critical role in reducing carbon footprints and advancing net-zero goals, ultimately supporting a fair, inclusive, and climate-resilient future.

ACCA will be sharing the findings of this report, and other research and guidance it has produced on a range of sustainability issues, at the COP29 climate summit in Azerbaijan. The report includes tool kits for finance teams to build skills in resilience in areas of scenario testing, crisis management planning and business continuity plans. It also lists key actions business and governments must take to build resilience and address climate-related risks. Find out more at our website.

SECP extends effective date of applicability of Expected Credit Loss (ECL) Model of IFRS 9 for Circular Debt

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has temporarily deferred the applicability of Expected Credit Losses (ECL) Model of International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS)-9, ‘Financial Instruments’ for companies holding financial assets, due directly or ultimately due from the Government of Pakistan in respect of inter-corporate circular debt, till the financial year ending on or before December 31, 2025.

This temporary deferment/extension has been allowed considering the development of comprehensive guideline on the matter by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan which will assist companies in applying the requirements of the ECL Model on circular debt situation which is specific to Pakistan and will pave the way for ensuring complete compliance with IFRS-9. The guideline is expected to be issued by December 31, 2024.

Allama Iqbal ‘tremendous teacher’ for modern Pakistan: President FCCI

Abdul Majid



FAISALABAD: Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal played an important role in awakening the sleeping nation for the revival of Islam, due to which today we are living in a free Muslim region with complete freedom. Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Rehan Naseem Bharara said this in his special message on the occasion of “Iqbal Day”. He described Iqbal as an epoch-making figure and said that he was very popular in the Indian sub-continent and also in the Islamic world and Europe at the same time. In a philosophical and wise manner, he presented the secrets of nature in a common understanding manner from which everyone can get guidance and use the powers hidden in the inner recesses of the self. He paid tribute to the thinker of Islam in wonderful words. He praised and urged people that even today they can benefit from Allama Iqbal’s thought to improve their practical life. He said that Fikr Iqbal is a torch for the young generation, they should take advantage of it and put Pakistan on the path of development and prosperity.

Bus service will be launched between Nishtar Hospital I and II: Fuad Rabbani

Zain Khan

MULTAN: On the directives of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a bus service will be launched between Nishtar Hospital I and Nishtar Hospital II. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Fuad Hashim Rabbani, will inaugurate the bus service on November 13. Initially, 10 buses will operate on the route.

These decision were taken in a meeting presided over by Additional Chief Secretary South Fuad Hashim Rabbani. Additional Secretary Muhammad Farooq Dogar and Manager Punjab Mass



Transit Authority Multan, Muhammad Yaseen attended the meeting.

Fuad Hashim Rabbani stated that the bus service would facilitate patients referred from Nishtar

Hospital I to Nishtar Hospital II, as well as provide convenient travel for doctors and paramedical staff. Waiting areas will be built at bus stops outside both hospitals, he added.

The Additional Chief Secretary Punjab Mass Transit Authority to expedite the purchase of electric buses to address smog. He said the Punjab government is gradually implementing a plan to introduce electric buses in major cities.

During a briefing, Punjab Mass Transit Authority Multan Manager Muhammad Ilyas disclosed that approval has been granted to purchase 69 electric buses for Multan city, with the procurement process set to begin soon. He also told that the authority has started preparations to operate buses between both the hospitals.

A grand at Qasr-e-Noor to boost Lahore’s business opportunities

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: A grand expo was held at the Qasr-e-Noor, Model Town Club, Lahore, Organized by Future Key Club Amjad Iqbal Amjad, inviting Lahore’s citizens to explore abundant business opportunities and entertainment. The event was officially inaugurated by former MNA Chaudhry Noor-ul-Hasan Tanveer, who was joined by prominent business figures, including Abbas Bhatti. The crowd’s excitement was palpable from the opening moments.

The well-known artist Roheel, also known as Shah Rukh Khan, along with Ayesha Noor, brightened the atmosphere by performing mimicry in their captivating voices. When Mian Muhammad Ayub, Ashraf Khan, and Dubai-based friend Jamman Khan arrived with their friends, the event reached its peak vibrancy. Representing the women’s community, Dr. Shehla Javed, Falahat Imran, Faiza Nabeel, and Nida added more color to the event.

Friends Shabbir Chauhan, Faiza Hussain, Chaudhry Adnan, and Khawaja Abdul Waheed demonstrated their friendship by joining the gath-



ering. The arrival of Umair from Bahria Town brought even more energy to the event. Dubai-based renowned companies, such as Perfect Legacy and Celo Property, presented their properties and services enthusiastically. Pakistan-based Star Marketing, Sheranwala Group, Kingdom Valley, Mahar Developers, Doctor Heights, and Al-Qasva

Society enhanced the event with their stalls.

The excellent management of Sana Naseer Shaikh, Uzma Mustafa, Akbar Sheikh, and Muhammad Nazim played a vital role in the event’s success. Their administrative skills and expertise were instrumental in making the event a success. The Chairman of Future Key

Business Club was very pleased with the success of this event. Ayesha Noor, Maryam Adeeba, and Tahir Amin demonstrated outstanding performance by offering their services. The participation of Maqbool, Monza, and Yasmin from Dubai added an international touch, further beautifying the expo.

OPPO’s OFans Festival is here with amazing discounts



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: OPPO, a global leader in smartphone devices, is thrilled to announce its consumer-focused OFans Festival, offering unmissable discounts and heartfelt surprises for OPPO fans. This 11.11, OPPO is giving back to its community with a generous PKR 10,000 discount on the Reno12 F 4G, making this the perfect moment for loyal fans to upgrade.

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Attabad Lake - a calamity driven tourist heaven

Robina Afzal

In 2010 a massive landslide triggered by an earthquake damaged Attabad village in breathtaking Hunza Valley, some 150 km away from Gilgit city. The disaster unleashed a torrent of boulders that badly affected the village and four neighboring settlements – Ainaad, Shishkat, Gulmit, and Gulkin. The tragedy claimed 20 lives and left over 6,000 villagers homeless.

However, from the ashes of this devastation, a stunning natural wonder emerged. The landslide blocked the flow of Hunza River, creating a new lake that stretched 21 km long and 100 meters deep.

Although the flood affected 170 houses and 120 shops yet the lake's crystal-clear waters now flow through the narrow valley, creating an enchanting spectacle attracts thousands of tourists and nature lovers.

No matter that the losses were painful, but the emergence of Attabad Lake has transformed the region into a thriving tourist hub, creating hundreds of jobs for local people.

"Once a source of pang and losses, the landslide created lake has become a blessing for our community," says Muhammad Ali, owner of the Lake View Hotel. "We've seen a significant increase in tourism that has created

new opportunities for employment and economic growth."

"Our hotel is always fully occupied during peak season, and we're planning to expand our facilities to accommodate more guests," he informed.

The lake offers a diverse range of activities like boating, jet-skiing and fishing besides winter sports when its water is frozen, attracting large number of tourists. Its unique blue color presents an eye-catching view for tourists with the barren treetops in its middle giving an insight into what led to its creation.

"It is now a vital source of depicting this region internationally as a tourists heaven," remarked Farman Kareem Baig a famous Gilgit Baltistan based photographer. "Photographs of the lake have been exhibited around the world, showcasing this natural wonder to global audience."

"It's a truly special place and I feel lucky to have been able to capture its essence through my lens," Farman said. "This is one of the great bounties of nature offering absolute leisure and pleasure to visitors."

He said it will also be becoming a blessing for local people as the federal government has approved a 52-megawatt power project on Attabad Lake. "On its completion, this project will provide much-needed relief to domestic electricity consumers and businesses, ending the region's power woes and

promoting sustainable development."

The soothing light of setting sun mixing with a deep shade of turquoise presents a bright contrast of orange hue penetrating the mighty mountains surrounding the 25-kilometre-long lake. The beauty continues to persist even after the sunset as the moon rising present a whole new level of mesmerizing grace to the sight.

Getting captured by the serenity this lake offers to visitors, water sports and hiking paths and an expanding number of hotels to accommodate the growing influx of visitors, are the other feathers in its cap.

"The lake's crystal-clear waters and stunning surroundings have attracted numerous hotels, tourist huts and adventure sports enthusiasts," stated Ahmad Hussain a local tourist guide. "Visitors can enjoy rafting in summer and snow sports in winter, making it a year-round destination."

He said besides increasing tourist influx, creation of this natural wonder has also increased the property rates Attabad village and adjacent areas.

"The lake's popularity has also led to a significant increase in property rates in this area while construction of tunnels on Karakoram Highway (KKH) above Attabad Lake, connecting Pakistan with China, will also be providing new source of income for local people through tourism," Ahmad Hassan said. "These tunnels have become a major

attraction, offering breathtaking views of the lake and surrounding mountains."

Attabad Lake is a shining example of how a calamity can be transformed into a tourist heaven. The devastating landslide that occurred in 2010 could have easily been a permanent setback for the region, but instead, it has become a blessing in disguise. The lake's crystal-clear waters, breathtaking scenery and adventure sports opportunities have made it a magnet for tourists, creating new economic opportunities and jobs for local people.

Amidst the marvelous lakes and brooks, tall pines, sky high peaks, Deosai plain, tracks, valleys and so on, also exists the jewel of Gilgit-Baltistan, the Attabad lake presenting enchanting view for tourists and nature lovers.

As we look to the future, we need to continue promoting sustainable tourism practices, ensure environmental protection and support local communities in their efforts to thrive. Attabad Lake proved to be a testament to fact that even in the face of calamity, there is sometimes potential for transformation.

Therefore, it is essential for the federal and the GB government to fully employ the tourist potential in Northern Areas by advertising its beauty and opportunities globally to attract more and more foreign tourists and earn precious foreign exchange.

Palestinian president urges suspension of Israel's UN membership

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Monday called on Arab and Islamic nations to press the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly to suspend Israel's UN membership if it does not comply with international law and its commitments.

Speaking at the Extraordinary Arab and Islamic Summit in Riyadh, he emphasized that the actions of Israeli occupation forces necessitate a collective effort to implement Security Council Resolution 2735.

The Palestinian leader urged member states to reevaluate their relationships with Israel, urging a halt to any normalization with the occupying power. "The international community must recognize Israel's continuous non-compliance with international law," he said, adding that the General Assembly resolution urges sanctions on Israel.

President Abbas called upon the summit leaders to protect Jerusalem and its residents, safeguard the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and maintain the historical and legal status of Islamic and Christian sites in the Holy City.

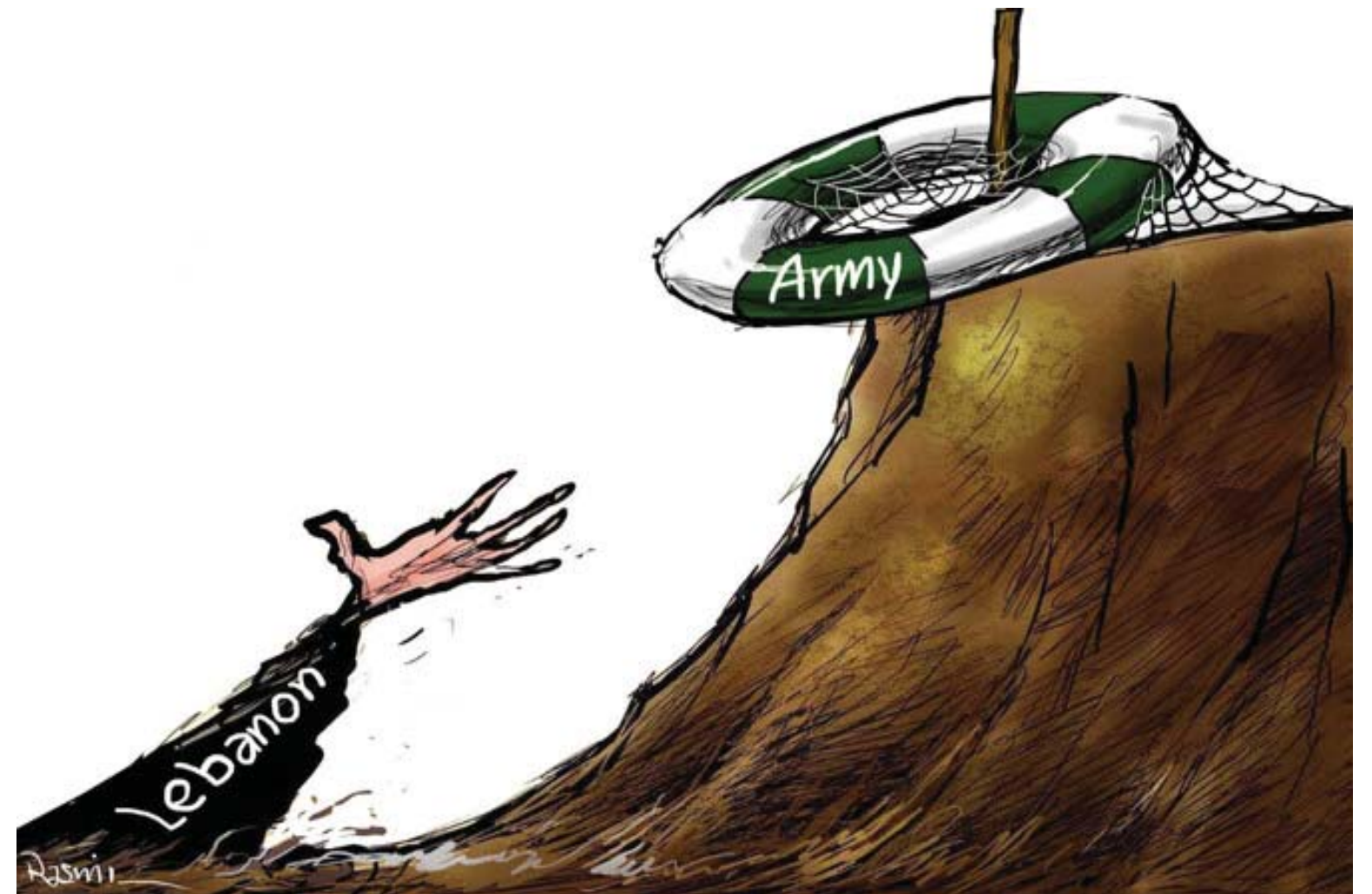
He further emphasized the need to back the State of Palestine's bid for full UN membership, implement the Arab Peace Initiative, and gather international support to help the Palestinian government bolster its people's resilience and national unity.

The Palestinian president appealed for economic support, asking the Arab and Islamic states to pressure Israel to release Palestinian funds and create a financial safety net to sustain the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Palestine.

President Abbas also announced the establishment of mechanisms, committees, and agencies within the Palestinian government to manage the Gaza Strip under the jurisdiction of the State of Palestine and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

He expressed gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for their dedication to the Palestinian cause and their efforts in hosting the summit.

President Abbas thanked the leaders present for their continued support of the Palestinian people and the vision of an independent Palestinian state as a foundation for peace and stability in the region.



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

Call for sustainable policies to resolve water contamination issues

Muhammad Tahir

Untreated industrial effluent and solid waste, use of pesticides and chemicals and absence of water reservoirs have been continuously contamination groundwater over decades making it harmful for human health and exerting an extra burden on our health budget.

Although different governments executed projects for clean drinking water by installing water filtration plants in different cities and towns yet their proper functioning, cleanliness and hygiene had been a burning question.

South Punjab, often characterized by its underdevelopment and socio-economic challenges, also faces this critical issue as majority of people in the region not having access to portable water. Housing 34.7 million people as per South Punjab secretariat record, its 23 percent population live in urban areas and out of a total population around 10 percent have access to clean drinking water.

Then there is an issue of maintaining and ensuring proper functioning of filtration plants, meant to be the primary source of clean water for local population as it helps prevent diseases like hepatitis, cholera, dysentery, typhoid and other diseases.

But many of citizens are seen often complaining about their efficient functioning, on time filters replacement, cleanliness and hygiene issues and in some cases their going out of order for months.

"There are issues like improper maintenance, insufficient funding and lack of accountability and clear enforceable maintenance protocol," said Salman Amjad, a resident of Shujabad Chowk. "Then there is also an issue that communities do not fully benefit

from these plants. In many areas, these plants exist but people are not effectively utilizing them."

It is commonly seen in our society that people often shy away from taking responsibility of community welfare projects. They can vocally criticize the governments and authorities for not providing basic amenities but once any welfare project is executed they take it as granted usually failing to dispense their duties.

"This lack of ownership is a barrier to proper functioning of these facilities. Without community engagement and a sense of responsibility, such facilities fall in despair," remarked Muhammad Ramzan, a resident of Vehari. "Filtration plant installed at Pipli village of tehsil Vehari could not be activated due to lack of local community's participation. People in the village are poor and could not afford electricity bill for functioning of the plant."

Contrary, at some places the same plants are properly functioning where people share financial burden for their better health. As electricity bill for running these plants and their maintenance are the major issues, the community members have appealed not to charge taxes in bills of filtration plants.

In many cases the communities cannot afford these bills except that some philanthropist or affluent of the area take this responsibility. But, this may not happen everywhere and the burden of costs often falls on local residents. Consequently, many plants are either shut down or operate sporadically, failing to provide continuous supply of clean water to people.

Meanwhile, Chairperson Chief Minister's Directorate for Evaluation, Feedback, Inspection and Monitoring (DEFIM) Brig Retd Babar Ala Uddin claimed that Water and Sanitation Authority was properly maintaining plants.

"We regularly monitor their functioning, ensure timely replacement of filters and cleanliness at this plants sites," Ala Uddin said. "We also take measures to improve plants working where and when needed across our jurisdiction of action."

However, he said making any project successful and efficiently working is a shared responsibility of the authorities and the communities. "Obviously the governments or authorities execute such projects for communities' welfare. As we do our bit therefore, the communities must also play their role in making these projects sustainable."

In this situation some citizens have demanded a structured maintenance program, funded and overseen by the government to ensure that all filtration plants are regularly serviced. The program should include timely replacement of filters, routine checks on water quality and immediate repairs of any damaged components. Regular monitoring and reporting should also be made mandatory, with a clear accountability mechanism to ensure that maintenance is not neglected.

As contaminated water whether it is ground or surface water, results in common and chronic diseases, the installation of new filtration plants and proper maintenance of already installed facilities, need an urgent intervention of the government departments, philanthropists and the local communities.

Since, it is a shared responsibility there is also need for raising awareness among masses and educate them about their responsibilities they owe for sustenance of such projects. Installation of these plants is a positive step but a comprehensive policy was required for plants sustenance, proper and on-time maintenance, community ownership and affordability to ensure provision of clean drinking water to citizens across the board.

Breaking the violence: Addressing sexual violence across Pakistan

In the recent years, there have been many cases reported in Pakistan, highlighting the sexual violence. According to Human rights of Pakistan, there are over 11,000 cases that have been reported between 2015 and 2020, but the actual number is higher as some of the cases are still unreported.

In 2023, reported cases of child abuse in Punjab were 4200 and 75% all across the Pakistan. There seems a slight decrease in comparison to 2022. These statistical approaches are needed to raise the awareness, improve laws and to prevent the sexual violence in the state. "Rape is not just a crime; it's a violation of humanity."

Zainab Amin Ansari, a seven years old girl, raped in her hometown Kasur, Punjab. Her body was found in the garbage near the city of Lahore on 9 January, 2018. Her rapist was a, 24 years old, Imran Ali. He was identified a serial killer and sentenced to death on October 2018. He was also involved in other rape cases that are not known. Zainab's case was a turning point in Pakistan, that call for justice and the better protection for the children.

In September 2022, there was a case reported on the Lahore Motorway, a woman was raped in front of her children. Her car was out of fuel, the attackers took advantage and assaulted her. It leads to a huge protest all across the country and raise the serious concerns about the safety of women.

In June 2022, another serious case of sexual violence happened in Karachi when a female university was raped by the rickshaw driver. She was going back from university to her home, she had taken the rickshaw. The driver along with another man brought her to a strange area and assaulted her.

This incident caused a lot of anger and protests in Karachi, with people demanding justice for the victim. It highlights the danger women face while using the public transport. The police arrested the suspects, but this case brought attention towards women security.



Zainab Nasir

"Rape at Punjab Group of Colleges: A Tragic Reminder of the Need for Change."

In October 2024, a disturbing incident took place at Punjab Group of Colleges in Pakistan, some of the students and anchors reported that there was rape case happened with the female student done

by the guard along with the van driver. After the police inquiries and school administration, government reported that no such case happened in the school, they all are just rumors to make the reputation of the school down. In addition to that, students raised their voice against this case and students from the other institute destroyed almost all the campuses of Punjab Group

of Colleges. Now the main chaos is that no one is staying on their personal statement and the dispute is where the truth exists? No one is yet able to find the real dynamics of the whole story.

Cases that are still unreported:

However, there are many cases in Pakistan that are still unreported because of the fear and shame. The victims usually remain silent for the sake of respect and society's pressure. Some families feel reluctant to come forward and discuss the issue that leads to many cases remain silent at the end. This silence continues the cycle of violence and shows the urgent need for the support and help victims seek justice.

My opinion against Rape Cases and Violence:

I believe that rape is a serious crime that affects not only the victims but also their families as a whole. This is an unacceptable thing that you will feel unsafe in your society or community where you are surviving. We need to create such culture in which the victim or weak persons feel free to ask for justice and human rights. The government and authorities must take strict actions to prevent sexual violence and deeply ensure the justice for the victims. We must need to play our role by spreading awareness and supporting survivors and ensure them that they are not alone. Everyone deserves an environment where they can live freely, free from fear of violence.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue meets Turkish Ambassador

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Mr. Irfan Neziroglu, Ambassador of Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, who called on the Finance Minister at Finance Division today.

During the meeting, various aspects of historical and longstanding brotherly ties between Pakistan and Türkiye, particularly the growing bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and defense, came under discussion.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb welcomed Mr. Irfan Neziroglu on his diplomatic assignment in Pakistan. He highlighted the historical and fraternal bonds and the great potential for enhancing the current volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Türkiye.

The Minister also recalled his meeting with Mr. Mehmet Şimşek, Türkiye's Treasury and Finance Minister, in Washington DC on the sidelines of the World Bank Group/IMF Annual Meetings 2024 in Washington DC last month.



He said Pakistan could learn from Türkiye's experience of power sector reforms and invited Turkish firms to enter into mutually beneficial joint ventures with Pakistani counterparts,

particularly in the field of information technology and agriculture.

Mr. Irfan Neziroglu expressed his appreciation for the economic reforms and the resultant macroeconomic

stability in Pakistan. He assured his full commitment and support for further strengthening the ties between both the nations' relations.

Mushaal lauds Iran for staunch support of Kashmir, Palestine just cause



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of jailed Kashmiri leader Hurriyat Leader Chairman Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front Mohammad Yasin Malik, lauded the Iranian government and people for their unwavering support to the Kashmiris and Palestinian just struggle.

During her meeting with his Excellency Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, Ambassador of Iran here on Monday, she highlighted the plight of Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik languishing in Tihar jail unlawfully.

Mushaal, who is also a Chairperson of the Peace and Culture Organisation, strongly denounced human rights abuses in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and Palestine.

She lashed out at the Israel and Indian fascist regimes who unleashed oppressive policies and reign of terror in Palestine and IOJK, stressing that both Nations were subjecting innocent and unarmed people to harsh conditions.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon hosted the meeting along with Members of Kashmiri Parliamentary Committee and members of the National Assembly Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary Ms. Wajiha Qamar and Mr Gillani.

Mushaal urged Muslim ummah to take a united stance pertaining to atrocities in Gaza and Kashmir, besides urging an economic boycott of both these brutal and fascist states.

Expressing a sigh of relief, Mushaal revealed that Mohammad Yasin Malik broke his hunger strike after Delhi high court directed the jail authorities to provide him with medical facilities until his afresh reports are submitted in the court.

On the occasion, Ambassador Dr. Moghaddam expressed gratitude to the Chairman of the Kashmir Committee, its members and Mrs Mushaal Hussein Mullick, reaffirming Iran's unwavering stance against aggression and the oppression of Muslims in Kashmir and Palestine. He emphasized that the cause of Kashmir has been close to the hearts of the Iranian people and similar human rights violations are taking place in Palestine and Kashmir. He criticised the United Nations' lack of action in stopping this aggression.

He condemned Israel's violations of basic human rights in Palestine and Lebanon and called for an economic boycott against Israel. Dr. Moghaddam expressed hope that the ongoing session of the OIC would issue a strong statement supporting the Palestinian cause.

Annual Tripartite Labor Conference demanded

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Majyd Aziz, Former President Employers Federation of Pakistan, while addressing the National Tripartite Labor Conference as keynote speaker on behalf of Pakistani Employers, stated that "It is a sad story that the National Tripartite Labor Conference is being held after a gap of fifteen years. This should be a regular annual feature so that the myriad issues of Workers and Employers are deliberated and concrete decisions are agreed upon and implemented."

Majyd Aziz further added that it is a good augury that the government has agreed to ratify the important ILO Conventions 155 and 187 on Occupational Safety and Health.

He advocated that the government should have a proactive stance of ratification of crucial ILO Conventions. He also urged that Convention 190 on Harassment and Violence at the Place of Work should also be ratified.

He informed that EFP is in the forefront in ensuring compliance of all ILO International Labor Standards, Best Business Practices, and Workers Rights. EFP spearheads Gender Equality, Gender Justice, National Business and Disability Network, etc. EFP is proud to be the pioneers in establishing WEBEOP, Skill Development Council, Economic Council, and National Skills Passport, etc.

Majyd Aziz further stated that EFP is fully committed to the process of Social Dialogue because this is the ideal ecosystem of bilateral relations. He added that because of WEBEOP, there has practically been no labor unrest or serious agitation. He informed that this also resulted in First Sindh Tripartite Labor Conference in December 2017.

On behalf of EFP, he assured that it would support and implement all realistic initiatives that lead to industrial peace and harmony, as well as the progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

TMUC hosts Pakistan's Largest Transnational Education Graduation Ceremony 2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Millennium Universal College TMUC Islamabad and Rawalpindi campuses held its prestigious annual Graduation Ceremony for students completing programmes from the London International Programmes (University of London - London School of Economics, Royal Holloway, and Laws), University of Hertfordshire, University for the Creative Arts, Higher National Diplomas, International MBA, and NCC UK, according to a press release.

The event, which took place at the Marriott Hotel Islamabad, celebrated the academic achievements of graduates from various disciplines, including the University of London's Honors Degrees in Law, Economics, Business, Management, Finance, and Social Sciences; University of Hertfordshire's degrees in Business Administration and Computing and Education; University for the Creative Arts programmes in Fashion, Film, and Digital Arts; as well as HNDs in Business, Computing, Fashion, and Media, along with International MBA and IFD-NCC qualifications.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of several distinguished figures, including Ambassador Masood Khan President of the TMUC Higher Education Group and Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq Founder and CEO of The Millennium Education Group, and high-ranking officials from the British Council Pakistan, University of London, University of Hertfordshire, and Pearson UK, many of whom had flown in from the UK for the occasion. Among the honored guests were Sayara Beg, University of Hertfordshire UK, Zaherah Saghir, University of Hertfordshire, UK, Barbara Henry, University of Hertfordshire, UK, Dr. Vito Veneziano, University of Hertfordshire, UK, Elizabeth Kirkbride, University of Hertfordshire, UK, Liyana Bhaludin, University of London, UK, Dr. Ran Bhamra,



University of London, UK, Saad Wasim, University of London, UK, Waqar Shah, Pearson UK, Amanda Ingram, British Council Pakistan and Barrister Osama Malik Chairman Legal Education Committee Pakistan Bar Council.

The ceremony was attended by over 1,200 graduates and their families, along with notable figures from the media, academia, and industry.

President TMUC and MiTE Ambassador Masood Khan, in his address, expressed his congratulations to TMUC for providing students with an exceptional educational opportunity through

its international programs. He also commended Dr. Faisal Mushtaq for the successful organization of the event and highlighted the significance of transnational education in preparing students for the global workforce.

In his speech, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, Founder and CEO of TMUC, congratulated the Class of 2024 and praised the hard work of the staff and faculty involved in delivering the university's diverse international programs. He also acknowledged the graduates' determination in achieving an internationally recognized qualification while studying

in Pakistan.

Amanda Ingram, Country Director Examinations for the British Council in Pakistan, also praised TMUC for its more than a decade dedication to delivering international education in Pakistan, noting that the institution had played a key role in shaping the educational landscape. In their addresses, distinguished academics, including Dr. Ran Bhamra from the renowned Royal Holloway University of London, Dr. Vito from the University of Hertfordshire, UK, and Elizabeth Kirkbride, also from the University of Hertfordshire, expressed their admiration for the graduates. They lauded the hard work and determination that had brought the students to this significant milestone.

The ceremony concluded with an awards presentation, where Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, President Masood Khan, International UK partners and TMUC Dean Ms. Amna Salik presented degrees to the graduating class. Outstanding students were also recognized for their academic and extracurricular achievements. The event wrapped up with a celebratory cake-cutting ceremony, marking the significant milestone for the Class of 2024.

ISSI Hosts Seminar on 'Understanding Complexities of Jammu and Kashmir Dispute'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), hosted a seminar titled "Understanding Complexities of Jammu and Kashmir Dispute," highlighting key perspectives on the legal, historical, and humanitarian aspects of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The seminar was attended by academicians, practitioners, researchers and students. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, in his keynote address, emphasized Pakistan's steadfast solidarity with the people of Kashmir and reaffirmed the nation's commitment to a just and lasting solution.

In his remarks, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood reiterated that Kashmir remains an unfinished part of the partition, a legally and morally valid cause recognized by the international community. He outlined three essential factors to guide Pakistan's approach: a realistic

assessment of objective conditions, Pakistan's firm national resolve, and enhanced outreach to the international community. He further noted that Kashmir is the oldest unresolved dispute on the UN Security Council agenda, underpinned by numerous resolutions that call for self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir through a free and impartial plebiscite.

He proposed a multifaceted strategy for Pakistan that includes internal consolidation, a whole-of-the-nation approach, strategic patience, and proactive diplomacy. Ambassador Mahmood underscored that Pakistan's anticipated role as a non-permanent UN Security Council member will allow it to further advocate for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He particularly emphasized the role of civil society, academia, and the youth in promoting this just cause.

Dr. Khuram Abbas, Director of ISC, presented a critical analysis of India's historical claims to Kashmir. He challenged the legitimacy of India's accession



narrative, citing discrepancies and gaps in records, including the views of historians like Alastair Lamb and British records.

Ms. Naila Kiyani spoke on the severe repression faced by Kashmiris under new laws that strip their rights and special

status. She described the widespread human rights abuses, including mass detentions, forced resettlements, and freedom of speech restrictions under laws like UAPA, PSA, and AFSPA.

Mr. Shiraz Hassan, Lecturer at

NUML, presented an analysis of the Modi government's strategy, characterizing it as an attempt to suppress Kashmiri voices under the guise of economic development.

Ms. Tabinda Asghar, Lecturer at

NUML, focused on the UN's role in the Kashmir issue, questioning the organization's effectiveness in addressing human rights violations. She pointed to the precedent set by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Namibia case, where the right to self-determination was upheld.

Dr. Sajid Iqbal Khattak, Assistant Professor at NUML, highlighted possible future scenarios for the Kashmir dispute. He noted that India might seek to claim Azad Jammu and Kashmir based on developmental disparities, while also suggesting that Pakistan's nuclear deterrence and diplomatic initiatives have helped preserve the issue's relevance.

Following an extensive Q/A session, the seminar concluded with remarks from Dr. Sarwat Rauf, HoD of the Department of International Relations, and Chairman of the ISSI Board of Governors, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, who reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir until a just solution is achieved.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
93,648.32	93,291.68
Day's High	Day's Low
94,020.02	93,318.91
Index Value	Change
28,308,388,219	+356.64
Percentage	Time
+0.38%	11 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,125.19	+52.80
Percentage	Time
+0.65%	11 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
44,338.99	+350.00
Percentage	Time
+0.79%	11 Nov, 12:09 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,533.32	+32.95
Percentage	Time
+0.083%	11 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.64	184.89
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	199.70	202.10
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	295.40	298.15
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	894.99	904.49
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	315.30	318.10
Thai Bhat	7.93	8.08
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	355.80	359.3
US Dollar	277.40	278.90

SECP Inaugurates Pakistan's First-Ever Start-up Summit in Karachi

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) successfully inaugurated its first-ever Pakistan Start-up Summit at the Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi. The first day of the event received overwhelming participation from policymakers, start-up founders, international speakers, and stakeholders who shared insights on fostering a robust and resilient start-up ecosystem in Pakistan.

The summit featured a video address from Pakistan's Honorable Finance Minister, emphasizing the government's commitment to fostering innovation as a crucial driver of economic growth. He praised SECP's proactive regulatory measures, including the Regulatory Sandbox and simplified incorporation processes, which enhance financial inclusion and support start-ups growth across fintech, digital finance, and other high-impact sectors.

SECP Commissioner Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in building an inclusive ecosystem for entrepreneurs. Mr. Lodhi also highlighted SECP's commitment to creating a space for strategic discussions that would strengthen the foundation for innovation in Pakistan.



In his keynote, SECP Chairman addressed the unique crossroads faced by Pakistan's start-up ecosystem, acknowledging both challenges and unprecedented opportunities. "Our goal at SECP is not merely to adapt to change but to drive it," he stated, "to build systems that empower our innovators, ensuring a stable yet dynamic environment for growth." The Chairman highlighted key SECP initiatives such as the Regulatory Sandbox and LEAP, which aim to transform Pakistan into a regional innovation hub by unlocking potential in sectors like fintech and embedded finance.

The Deputy High Commissioner of the UK, Ms. Sara Mooney, also graced the event on its opening day, adding to the summit's international reach.

The first day concluded with closing remarks by Syed Asad Ali Shah, Chairman of Befiler, who applauded SECP's efforts in driving Pakistan's start-up ecosystem forward.

SECP's Pakistan Start-up Summit represents a major milestone in building an inclusive and sustainable ecosystem for innovation, positioning Pakistan as a competitive player in the global start-up landscape. The summit has laid the groundwork for ongoing collaboration and set a dynamic stage for the future of entrepreneurship in Pakistan.

Handmade carpet

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Pakistan, Col. (Retd) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah Bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad visiting a carpet weaving during the annual Lok Mela festival, at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Bank Alfalah unveils New AlfaMall with Fashion Category and Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL)

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Bank Alfalah, announced the relaunch of AlfaMall, the bank's premier e-commerce platform and the country's largest formal Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) marketplace, now featuring an exclusive BNPL option in the fashion category. Marking the occasion, an exclusive exhibit featuring renowned designers was held at the historic Mohatta Palace, unveiling the new AlfaMall website with a celebration of style, financial empowerment, and digital innovation.

The event was hosted by Bank Alfalah's Senior Management and was graced by the presence of Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the BISP, Consul Generals from the UAE, US and UK Embassy,

CEOs from leading companies, top-tier celebrities and influencers

AlfaMall's BNPL service offers a seamless, accessible shopping experience, allowing users to make purchases without a down payment and with zero markups on instalments. With flexible payment plans spanning 3, 6, 9, or 12 months, users can shop using any bank's credit card in Pakistan, making it one of the most accessible BNPL platforms available in the country.

The AlfaMall relaunch also introduces the highly anticipated 11:11 shopping festival, an exclusive opportunity for shoppers across Pakistan to buy top categories like mobile devices, electronics, home appliances and motorbikes.

Sehat Kahani and Jubilee Life Insurance signed an agreement to extend OPD services

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's leading private-sector life insurance company, has expanded its partnership with Sehat Kahani, the nation's leading telemedicine platform, to introduce outpatient department (OPD) claims' management services. This enhancement significantly broadens the range of benefits available to Jubilee Life Insurance policyholders, who can now enjoy streamlined access to OPD Management services alongside their existing hospitalization coverage.

At a signing ceremony held in Karachi, Jubilee Life Insurance and Sehat Kahani reaffirmed their collaborative commitment to enhancing healthcare accessibility. Through this partnership, Jubilee Life Insurance policyholders will benefit from a comprehensive, one-window solution that includes consultations, claims processing, cashless pharmacy, and laboratory services, along with 24/7 access to doctors within 60 seconds.



Speaking at the signing ceremony Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram, Co-founder & CEO of Sehat Kahani, stated, "This expansion of our collaboration with Jubilee Life Insurance into outpatient services builds on our successful inpatient collaboration."

Further Dr. Iffat Zafar Aga, Co-founder & COO of Sehat Kahani, added, "This

collaboration signifies our commitment to enhancing healthcare delivery in Pakistan."

Also, Mr. Javed Ahmed, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Jubilee Life Insurance Company Limited, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, saying, "Our collaboration with Sehat Kahani has already resulted in over 200,000 successful consultations."

PRGMEA for refunds in 72 hours to ease cash flow, spur export

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The value-added export-oriented textile industry is facing an extreme financial crunch as its major portion of liquidity remains stuck due to delay in release of sales tax refunds for the last four months by the Federal Board of Revenue and just a meager amount has been released last week.

These concerns were raised by the executive committee members of the Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association with its Zonal Chairman Dr. Ayyaz Uddin in the chair.

The meeting was called to ponder on the financial crisis faced by the garment exporters due to long delay in ST refunds.

The participants of the meeting said that the FBR



did not release any funds in October and has now committed to release funds for RPO's, issued until Sept 30. Thus only funds for the month of July will be released, as almost all of the RPO's for August were issued up to 10th October.

"We request the FBR to extend RPO dates to the 10th of every month" demanded the PRGMEA chairman. He said that the exporters are solely dependent on timely-refunds to manage their cash flow effectively.

Zong hits 7 billion monthly recharge milestone through alternate channels

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong proudly celebrates a significant milestone in its journey of digital innovation as the company achieves a remarkable 7 billion recharge from its Alternate Channels. This achievement is a testament to the continued dedication, strategic vision, and growth of Zong's digital initiatives over the years.

Alternate Channels are secondary & tertiary recharge

platforms like Banking apps, FinTech apps and websites etc. Team Zong celebrated this milestone at Zong HQ, inaugurated by Mr. Wasi Ansari, Director Sales & Distribution. Zong's C level Leadership, Directors, and HOD were presented insights on the journey of the Alternate Channel transformation, which was launched in the year 2017.

During his address, Mr. Ansari highlighted the vision

of Zong 4G to become a leader in digital innovation. "Over the past seven years, the Alternate Channel has grown exponentially, now holding a 40% volume share in total recharge volume and delivering a YTD growth of 29.81% this year. The 7 billion volume achievement is a proud moment for the company, reflecting its strong commitment to innovation, partner engagement, and expansion in the digital landscape." He reported.



ICCI President Nasir Qureshi advocates for long-term economic strategy for sustainable growth

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has called on the government to adopt a comprehensive, long-term economic strategy to address Pakistan's pressing economic challenges and lay the groundwork for sustainable growth and prosperity.



In a statement on Monday, Qureshi emphasized the importance of political stability, urging leaders to set aside their differences and collaborate on a unified national strategy. Highlighting the severe impact of terrorism on the nation's progress, he underscored the need to reassess foreign relations and prioritize trade expansion, particularly with neighboring countries.

Qureshi pointed out several bureaucratic challenges hindering business growth, including the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) reintroduction of the affidavit requirement with Sales Tax Returns and the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) unprecedented taxes, which burden the business community. Additionally, he noted that security issues persist as a significant concern, creating a challenging environment for businesses.

Qureshi urged the government to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), citing their potential to generate employment, drive economic growth, and reduce poverty. Despite their essential role in the economy, he noted that SMEs face significant inefficiencies that hinder their full potential. Creating a supportive environment for SMEs, he argued, would unlock substantial economic opportunities.

The ICCI remains committed to working with all stakeholders to create a conducive business environment, address prevailing challenges, and help propel Pakistan's economic growth, Qureshi concluded.

Rashid Latif praises Pakistan's Cricket team

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Test cricketer Rashid Latif has commended Pakistan team's remarkable 2-1 ODI series victory over Australia, marking the first such triumph in 22 years.

The historic victory was sealed in Perth, where Pakistan's bowlers restricted Australia to just 140 runs in the decisive third ODI. Pakistan then chased down the target of 141 in just 27 overs, losing only 2 wickets, thus clinching the series with a 2-1 win.

After completion of the fifty-over series, the Men in Green will face off against Australia in a three-match T20I series starting November 14.

Latif credited several key factors for Pakistan's success, emphasizing the importance of good leadership.

The former captain explained that a strong captain plays a pivotal role in uniting the team, both on and off the field.

"When you have a good captain, the team performs on the ground. We can see this happening in this series," he remarked, praising the leadership on display," he said in an interview with a local news channel as quoted by cricket-pakistan.com.pk.

The former wicketkeeper-batter noted



that the victory was not just about leadership but also about effective player selection and the ability to adapt to pitch conditions.

"In this win, captaincy, player selection, and pitch conditions all played a significant

role," he said.

Latif also lauded the outstanding performances from both the Pakistani bowlers and batters.

"The bowlers performed beyond expectations, dismissing Australian players

who are familiar with their home pitches. And the batting, which chased down 141 with ease, was equally impressive. This win against Australia in Australia is highly encouraging for Pakistan cricket," he said.

Pak stars ready to shine in inaugural Lanka T10 Super League

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural edition of the Lanka T10 Super League is all set to kick start in December in Kandy.

The fast-paced form of cricket will witness six franchises, Colombo Jaguars, Galle Marvels, Hambantota Bangla Tigers, Jaffna Titans, Kandy Bolts and Nuwara Eliya Kings battling it out against each other for the ultimate glory, said a press release.

The teams have included some of the finest talents from all around the globe in their roster during the Lanka T10 Super League Draft that was held on 10th November, 2024 in Colombo and in the pre-signings.

Jaffna Titans have put their weight behind some old school boys. Pakistan's left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir and all-rounder David Wiese were picked up by the Titans during the Player Draft. Amir is someone who can prove lethal with the left-arm pace bowling while Wiese will play a key role both with the bat and ball.

Colombo Jaguars who had their icon player, former Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews present at the draft, have roped in left-arm pacer Tymal Mills and the very talented Aamer Jamal.

The Galle Marvels have a blend of



experienced campaigners and some young blood. With Maheesh Theekshana as the Icon player and Shakib Al Hasan being their in the squad in the Platinum category, the addition of someone like Jeffrey

Vandersay just adds more fuel to their bowling department.

Hambantota Bangla Tigers have some of the most prominent names in the unit

who have played a lot of shorter format of the game all around the globe.

The franchise has included the likes of Dushmantha Chameera, Richard Gleeson, Mohammad Shahzad and Soumya Sarkar alongside Dasun Shanaka, Kusal Perera and Hazratullah Zazai.

Kandy Bolts have added two of the most talented openers in the unit

Bolts have Pathum Nissanka and Saim Ayub in the side and both have the potential to provide brisk starts to the team.

The Bolts have also acquired the services of Shahnawaz Dahani, who is known for his express pace.

Nuwara Eliya Kings have stacked up a steady squad with Lahiru Madushanka, Kasun Rajitha, Avishka Fernando and Saurabh Tiwary being there in the side.

Pakistan to participate Special Olympics World Winter Games

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan, Ronak Iqbal Lakhani, has announced that Pakistan's special athletes will compete in snowshoeing and cross-country skiing events at the Special Olympics World Winter Games, scheduled to be held in Torino, Italy, in March 2025.

The Winter Games, commencing on March 8, will host over 1,500 athletes from 103 countries.

In preparation for the event, a 10-day training camp for Special Olympics Paki-



stan athletes was organized in Karachi, with 20 selected athletes from different cities across Pakistan, said a press release.

These athletes received training from qualified SOP coaches on Clifton Beach and in a gym, with snowshoes and skis

specially imported for this purpose. Indoor sessions covered technical aspects of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Lakhani, accompanied by Media Advisor Asif Azeem, visited the athletes at the training camp.

Ronak Lakhani emphasized the importance of acclimating the athletes to winter conditions, announcing that the second phase of training will take place in December at a cold location in Khanaspur or Naltar. She encouraged the athletes to continue their hard work, aiming to bring honor to Pakistan through their performances at the Winter Games.

'Pakistan should adopt Sri Lanka's 1996 World Cup stance in Champions Trophy'

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Former cricketer Basit Ali discussed India's participation in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 and suggested that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) should adopt a stance similar to that of Sri Lanka during the World Cup 1996.

The ninth edition of the Champions Trophy is scheduled to take place in Pakistan in the February-March window in 2025, however, India's participation in the tournament is uncertain.

Previously, reports emerged in Indian media, citing a source from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), that the Team India will not be visiting Pakistan for the Champions Trophy citing security concerns.

Additionally, on Sunday, sources confirmed that the International Cricket Council (ICC) informed the PCB that the Indian government is not permitting their cricket team to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy.



The news of India's refusal was not well received by many former cricketers in Pakistan, including Basit Ali. In a video on his official YouTube channel, the former batter advised the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to learn from the example set by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

For the unversed, World Cup 1996 was jointly hosted by Pakistan, India



and Sri Lanka, who went on to win the tournament.

However, the tournament faced a controversy similar to that of Champions Trophy 2025 as Australia and the West Indies refused to travel to Sri Lanka, citing security concerns.

Sri Lanka ensured full-proof security to the teams but Australia and the

West Indies remained adamant in their stance.

As a result of a strong stance from both sides, the International Cricket Council (ICC) awarded games against Australia and the West Indies to Sri Lanka on forfeit. Sri Lanka earned valuable four points and qualified for the quarter-finals before playing a game.

Basit Ali urged the PCB to take a similar stance and should not play against India at a neutral venue. He also suggested that in case of ICC shifting the tournament completely, Pakistan should boycott.

"PCB should demand points if India refuses to play in Pakistan in case of a hybrid model, similar to the 1996 World Cup situation," the former batter stated. "Pakistan should be awarded two points if India doesn't come here to play."

"Pakistan, being the host, should play all their matches on home soil [in case of a hybrid model]. And if the host location changes, Pakistan should refuse to participate."

Pakistan baseball team win United Arab Classic Baseball title



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan national baseball team emerged undefeated champions at the Arab Classic Dubai 2024.

According to information made available here by Pakistan Federation Baseball (PFB), the team went unbeaten on their way to the final, showcasing unparalleled prowess against all oppositions. Competing against eight other teams, Pakistan asserted their dominance from the outset, securing an impressive series of victories that culminated in a commanding win over the UAE in the final match.

Throughout the tournament, Pakistan's journey was nothing short of spectacular. Starting with a 10-0 shutout against Bangladesh, the team kept up the momentum, defeating the UAE 10-3 and overpowering India with a sweeping 12-0. In the quarter-finals, they faced Afghanistan, scoring a remarkable 17-3 victory.

In the semifinals, they held strong against Sri Lanka, winning 3-0. In the final, Pakistan proved unstoppable, clinching the championship title with a decisive 12-1 win over the UAE.

This victory cements Pakistan's standing as a force in international baseball and adds to the nation's growing legacy in the sport.

The PFB officials expressed profound pride in the team's stellar performance, calling this victory a significant milestone for the sport in Pakistan.

U19 players to undergo skills, fitness camp at Karachi



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has invited 32 U19 Women's cricketers to a 19-day skills and fitness camp at the Hanif Mohammad High-Performance Centre in Karachi. Pakistan's cuisine

The Women's National Selection Committee has shortlisted the players from the five-team National U19 Women's T20 Tournament, which involved 75 players and comprised of 21 matches, held from October 14 to November 3 at the LCCA Ground in Lahore, said a press release.

The selected players will undergo fielding drills, net sessions, skills development, fitness and conditioning sessions along with practice matches during these 19 days.

The camp will help assemble the player pool for upcoming two high-profile tournaments, ACC Women's U19 Asia Cup and ICC Women's U19 World Cup scheduled to take place in Malaysia in December 2024 and January 2025, respectively.

Among the 32 players, Areesha Ansari, Komal Khan, Laiba Nasir, Maham Anees, Memoona Khalid, Ravail Farhan, Samiya Afsar and Zoofishan Ayyaz were part of the Pakistan U19 squad that took part in the Women's U19 Tri-National Tournament in Bangladesh earlier this year.

Hanif Malik (Assistant coach - National Women Team) will work as camp commandant, while he will be assisted by Jaweria Rauf (former Pakistan player/regional coach), Imran Khalil (strength & conditioning coach), Rabia Siddiq (Physiotherapist - National Women Team), Usman Shahid (analyst) and Aisha Jalil (Manager - Development & Pathway) will be the support staff available to players.

Players selected for skills & fitness camp: Aleesa Mukhtiar (Multan), Amania Abid (Faisalabad), Areesha Ansari (Lahore), Aqsa Bibi (Multan), Ayesha Imran Riaz (Lahore), Barira Saif (Rawalpindi), Esha Tir Razia (Bahawalpur), Fatima Khan (Lahore), Fizza Fayyaz (Lahore), Hadia Mina (Haveli Lakha), Haniyah Ahmer (Karachi), Komal Khan (Lahore), Laiba Nasir (Lahore), Maham Anees (Islamabad), Mahnoor Rani (Abbottabad), Mahnoor Zaib (Mardan), Malaika Suhani (Lahore), Meerab Sheikh (Islamabad), Memoona Khalid (Faisalabad), Minahil Javaid (Lahore), Manahil Rafique (Faisalabad), Nasreen Ashraf (Mutan), Quratulain (Lahore), Ravail Farhan (Lahore), Rozina Akram (Islamabad), Samiya Afsar (Lahore), Sana Talib (Bahawalpur), Shaher Bano (Multan), Syeda Batool Fatima (Karachi), Tayyaba Imdad (Abbottabad), Wasifa Hussain (Karachi) and Zoofishan Ayyaz (Wah Cantt).

Pakistan Scrabble team denied visas

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Indian High Commission has refused to issue visas to most of Pakistani players, preventing the defending champions from participating in the Asia Cup Youth Scrabble Championship and Delhi Cup.

Despite submitting applications two months in advance, the Indian High Commission has delayed processing, issuing some visas too late for players to attend, Pakistan Scrabble Association (PSA) Director Tariq Perez told APP. He said half the team was denied visas without explanation, including players who had previously participated and won in India in 2022.

As reigning World Youth Champions and defending Asian Youth titleholders, Pakistan's absence is a significant blow, he said. Pervaz said the team had traveled to Lahore in anticipation of receiving visas but will now return to Karachi disappointed.

The championship organizers, who had obtained necessary clearances, were cooperative and assured Pakistani players of visas. However, the Indian High Commission's actions caught them off guard. Pakistan Scrabble Association expressed disappointment, citing India's failure to uphold sporting spirit.

The Pakistan team will now focus on upcoming international competitions, hoping for a more favorable outcome, he said.

Group Photo

RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group/commemorative photo of Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit 2024 on Monday.



Photo: PID

Israel must not attack Iran, says Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

Spokesman Report

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler on Monday called on Israel to respect Iran's sovereignty and refrain from attacking Iranian soil, highlighting warming ties between the Middle East rivals.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told a summit of Arab and Muslim leaders that the international community should oblige Israel "to respect the sovereignty of the sisterly Islamic Republic of Iran and not to violate its lands".

Saudi Arabia and Iran have often found themselves on opposing sides of regional conflicts including Syria's.

In 2015, Saudi Arabia mobilised a military coalition to support Yemen's internationally recognised government after Iran-backed Houthi rebels seized the capital Sanaa and advanced towards the main southern city of Aden.

The following year, Riyadh and Tehran severed ties following attacks on Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran



during protests over Riyadh's execution of cleric Nimr al-Nimr.

In March 2023, however,

they announced a rapprochement deal brokered by China.

Though issues remain in the complex relationship, the rapprochement amounts to a signature diplomatic achievement for Prince Mohammed, who has taken a more conciliatory approach to regional diplomacy in recent years.

Saudi Arabia and Iran have maintained high-level contact as part of efforts to contain the war that broke out in Gaza following Hamas's unprecedented attack on southern Israel on October 7 last year.

Gen Li Qiaoming, Commander PLA Army meeting between Lt Gen Avais Dastgir

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A meeting between Gen Li Qiaoming, Commander PLA Army and Lt Gen Muhammad Avais Dastgir, CGS Pakistan Army was held at PLA Army Headquarters, Beijing on 11 November 2024.

Discussion was focused at evolving global and regional situation and follow up on measures for enhancing bilateral military to military cooperation. During the meeting, CGS offered heartfelt condolences on loss of Chinese lives in recent terrorist attack in Karachi and affirmed Paki-

stan's unwavering commitment to ensure enhanced security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

The dignitary from China acknowledged Pakistan Army's efforts and measures for improving the security of Chinese and assured wholehearted support to Pakistan.



Both sides agreed to further enhance mutual cooperation to counter common enemies working against the peace and development of the region. Other areas of defence cooperation were also deliberated and both sides reviewed progress

of collaboration in areas of military education, training, equipment and technology.

Both sides agreed to further institutionalise mechanisms for mutual sharing of experiences, and enhancing regular interactions.

FPCCI's Atif Ikram Sheikh elected Vice President of CACCI



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh elected Vice President of Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI).

The appointment of Atif Ikram Shaikh as Vice President CACCI took place on the occasion of CACCI's 38th Annual Meeting held in Singapore.

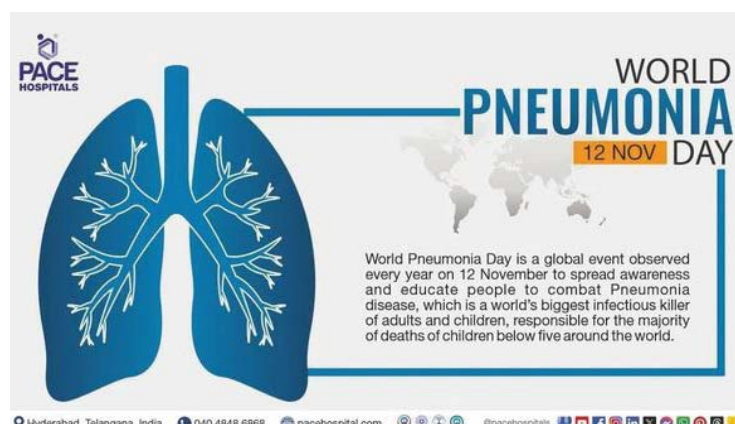
Forum thanks President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram for appointment as Vice President CACCI

ChildLife Foundation's urgent call on World Pneumonia Day amid climate change and smog crisis

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On World Pneumonia Day, ChildLife Foundation draws attention to the growing impact of climate change and environmental crises, such as the current smog emergency, on child health in Pakistan. Climate change is exacerbating air pollution and causing severe respiratory issues, making children even more vulnerable to diseases like pneumonia, a leading cause of preventable child deaths.

Pneumonia, which claims the lives of over 800,000 children globally each year, is being worsened by the deteriorating air quality caused by smog. The effects of climate change have made conditions like pneumonia harder to control, especially in urban areas with extreme pollution levels. ChildLife Foundation working under public-private partnership with the government has been actively addressing this health



crisis, treating 2 million children annually through its 13 pediatric Emergency Rooms (ERs) and 300+ Telemedicine Satellite Centers, providing round-the-clock, free, and life-saving emergency care.

Dr. Irfan Habib, Medical Director at ChildLife Foundation, stated, "The

impact of climate change on children's health is undeniable. With the worsening smog, we are seeing an alarming rise in respiratory issues among young patients. It is our duty to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has access to the highest quality care."

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President Zardari thanks President Xi for goodwill message, plans visit to China soon



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday extended gratitude to the Chinese President Xi Jinping for the goodwill message, adding that he would visit China in near future on a suitable date.

In his letter dated November 3, President Xi expressed concern over the President of Pakistan's injury and conveyed his best wishes for a speedy recovery, according to a press release issued by the President House Press Wing. President Xi, in his letter reaffirmed the deep friendship between Pakistan and China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also extended a warm invitation for President Zardari to visit China. President

Zardari stated that he was deeply moved by the messages inquiring his health by the leadership and people of China. "I will visit China in the near future at an appropriate time," the president said.

He said this visit will further strengthen the long-standing and ironclad bonds between the two countries. Both leaders highlighted the importance of the "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" between the two countries. President Xi emphasized the commitment to building a China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. President Zardari thanked President Xi Jinping for his insight, leadership, and cooperation in advancing Pakistan-China relations.

PM meets Saudi Investment Minister

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday held a meeting with the Saudi Investment Minister Engr. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Advisor Royal Court Mohammed Al-Tuwaijri on the sidelines of the Arab Islamic Summit.

The meeting was held to follow-up on the recent engagements for economic cooperation

between the two countries, a press release issued by the PM Office Press Win said.

In the meeting, the prime minister appreciated the progress on major projects under discussion and acknowledged the efforts of the technical teams for their close cooperation to further strengthen economic partnership in diverse fields.

The prime minister is on a visit to Saudi Arabia to participate in the Arab Islamic Summit in Riyadh.

High birth rate, migration affect Sindh's limited resources: CM Sindh

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the 2023 digital census indicates a national population surge, with an annual growth rate of 2.55 per cent, which brings Pakistan's population to 241 million, and Sindh's population has surpassed 55 million.

"The two key drivers of this population growth are high birth rates and significant migration from within Pakistan and abroad which places intense pressure on the province's limited resources, affecting job availability, healthcare, education, housing, and food supply," he said.

This he said while presiding over

a meeting of the Taskforce on Population Growth to follow up on key action taken on decisions previously set forth by Pakistan's Council of Common Interests and the Supreme Court.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon, Dr Azra, Nasir Shah, Sardar Shah, Shahina Sher Ali, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D, provincial secretaries, Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Country Representative of UNFPA, representatives from USAID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Technical Advisor Population dept Talib Lashari, and other participants attended the meeting.