

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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Court delays decision on sentencing Trump to November 19

The judge in Donald Trump's New York criminal case has delayed to November 19 a decision on potentially throwing out the US president-elect's conviction, the court said on Tuesday. Trump was convicted of 34 felony counts in May after a jury found he had fraudulently manipulated business records to cover up an alleged sexual encounter with a porn star ahead of the 2016 election.



Government eyeing ex-CJP Faez Isa as the next chief election commissioner

Media has reported that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is seeking recommendations for the next CEC, with the list including the recently retired Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, among other similarly aligned retired officials and former judges. It is suggested that the ex-Chief Justice is the leading contender for this sought-after role, largely due to his strong rapport with both the influential military establishment and its chosen leaders. (Report on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 10, Wednesday, November 13, 2024

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 211 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Inauguration Session

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in family photo at the inaugural session COP-29 Climate Action Summit in Baku on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan for redefining climate finance to enable developing countries meet NDC goals: PM

Spokesman Report

BAKU: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged the world community for redefining the global climate finance to enable climate vulnerable developing countries to meet their NDC goals, half of which may take around US\$6.8 trillion by 2030.

The prime minister, addressing the high-level climate finance roundtable on the sidelines of COP29—international climate negotiations' multilateral forum held under the patronage of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)—, emphasized the urgent need to build momentum for reforming international financial architecture, "forging a path where no nation is left behind in the global

response to climate change."

PM Shehbaz while elaborating the purpose of the roundtable briefed the participants that it was intended to foster new thinking on an old problem that was becoming complicated on all the international climate forums without yielding substantial results.

"We stand at a crucial threshold where global climate finance framework must be redefined to effectively meet the needs of vulnerable nations. Despite years of promises and repeated commitments, the gaps are growing in quantum leaps leading to egregious barriers in achieving objectives of UNFCCC. We all agree that financing resilience as well as ambition is the most urgent need of the hour," the prime minister said.

He said that the developing

countries needed to deliver to their masses on nationally-determined contributions (NDCs) that was why it was imperative to spur both ideas and discourse to make international climate finance more responsive, equitable and sufficient enough to address solutions at various scale enhancing effectiveness of climate finance.

Prime Minister Shehbaz underscored that the donor countries should fulfill their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income as developing assistance and capitalize existing climate funds.

"One such commitment is the \$100 billion annual climate finance pledge made over a decade ago at COP-15 is now reported by OECD to reach only \$160 billion. Despite this number remaining a tiny propor-

tion of the defined need, a significant part over this financing is disbursed in the form of loans, further enhancing the debt burden on developing nations and potentially pushing towards mounting debt traps. 'I call it death traps,'" the prime minister said.

President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon said in order to address global threats and challenges, the world needed to take coordinated actions collectively, especially through financing climate initiatives. "Tajikistan is also among developing climate vulnerable countries bearing vagaries of climate disasters as over 4,000 climate and natural disasters hit the country in past decade incurring \$500 million losses and deaths of 400 people," he said.

President of Kyrgyzstan,

Sadyr Nurgojo uulu Japarov said Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan like many others were expressing their willingness to fulfill the agenda on the table.

"We are witnessing climate change that is posing fundamental threat to the sustainable development of regions, countries and the world as a whole," he said.

Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov extended his gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for extending the initiative of the roundtable and lauded the team efforts for making it a success.

In this context, Pakistan's leadership including as chair of G77 in 2022 was integral in the historic arrangement of establishing the loss and damage fund in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt," he said.

Inspector Moroccan Air Force called on Chief of The Naval Staff at Naval Headquarters



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Air Force, Major General Mohammed Gadih, called on the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naved Ashraf, at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. During the meeting; professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional maritime security, were discussed.

The Naval Chief expressed that Pakistan and Morocco enjoy cordial relations under-

pinned by mutual respect, growing economic ties, and cooperation at multilateral forums. Various avenues, including bilateral training and exchange of visits were also highlighted.

The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitment in support of collaborative maritime security. Both leaders agreed to further strengthen and diversify the scope of the existing bilateral defence relationship.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue meets French Ambassador

Commerce Desk

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

During the meeting which was also attended by Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik and Chairman FBR Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, issues of mutual interest, including bilateral cooperation and collaboration in trade, commerce and socio-economic sectors, were discussed.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb shared with the French Ambassador an update on the state of the economy and the significant improvement manifested in macroeconomic indicators during the last 14 months. He said the management of twin deficits, a stable currency, surging remittances and a steady rise in foreign reserves could provide Pakistan enough room to access the international capital market in coming months for enhanced institutional flows.

Mr. Nicholas Galey appreciated the government's reform agenda and the macroeconomic stability achieved on various economic fronts. He also appreciated the government's resolve to stay the course and ensure permanence to macroeconomic stability by meeting the structural benchmarks agreed with the IMF.

18 wedding guests killed as bus plunges into ravine in Gilgit Baltistan's Astore



Saif ur rehman

GILGIT: At least 18 wedding guests were killed and six injured when a Rawalpindi-bound bus fell into a ravine in Gilgit Baltistan's Astore on Tuesday, rescue officials said.

Bodies of 12 individuals, including four women, have been recovered from the river. A young girl believed to be the bride, was found injured and has been transferred to a hospital. Efforts are under way to locate 10 missing persons.

Footage from the area showed locals and rescue officials on the boat and riverbed on the search and rescue missions. The bus was carrying 25 individuals, according to initial reports.

In response to the incident, healthcare personnel at the nearest hospital and the Civil Hospital in Gilgit's Jaglot subdivision have been put on high alert.

Accidents are a common occurrence in GB and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, attributed to the challenging terrain, inadequate road conditions, overloaded vehicles, and limited traffic enforcement. The risk of accidents is heightened by narrow, winding roads, severe weather, and driver fatigue, making these regions particularly hazardous.

Sanaullah clarifies services chiefs' not given extension

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah has clarified that the tenures of army, air force and naval chiefs have been increased and they have not been given extension.

"This is not an extension; it is an increase in the tenure of their employment," he said while appearing on Spotlight with Munizae Jahangir through a video link. The news programme was aired on Aaj News on Tuesday.

Earlier this month, the coalition government bulldozed half a dozen pieces of legislation, through both houses of parliament, despite a protest by the opposition, led by PTI.

The government got all six bills — seeking to extend the tenure of the chiefs of the country's three armed forces and increase the number of judges in the superior courts — passed from the National Assembly within 24 minutes, and then from the Senate in just 16 minutes, without allowing any debate.

Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub claimed that the PML-N would be the victim of its action after the legislation.

Sanaullah was of the view that there could be discussions for or against it, but "you cannot call it an extension. It is an increase in the employment tenure."

To simplify the development in his logic, the premier's adviser said: "Three plus three equals six, but five seems more appropriate; it's a year less, not more."

PTI leaders released after brief detention in Rawalpindi for violating Section 144

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Several senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders were taken into custody on Tuesday outside the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi for violating Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. They were released shortly after receiving a warning from the police.

Section 144 allows district administrations to prohibit gatherings of four or more individuals in a designated area for a specified duration, typically implemented to prevent disturbances and maintain public order.

Punjab Police spokesperson Sajjadul Hassan confirmed that PTI workers were detained for breaching this regulation but were subsequently released after a warning. Law enforcement would be upheld in all circumstances, he added.

Earlier, the PTI condemned the arrest of several of its leaders



outside the jail, where they had gathered to meet their imprisoned leader, Imran Khan. The party labelled the incident as "absolutely shameful."

In a statement posted on X, the PTI expressed outrage, stating, "Omar Ayub Khan, Shibli Faraz, Asad Qaiser, Ahmed Bhachar, and Sahibzada Hamid Raza have been arrested for simply exercising their legal right to meet with Imran Khan."

They added that such actions should "alarm anyone" who values the rule of law, alleging the erosion of basic freedoms.

Among those detained were Punjab Assembly Opposition Leader Malik Ahmed Bhachar and Sunni Ittehad Council member Sahibzad Hamid Raza.

AJK President reiterates commitment to promote Kashmir cause at international level

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has reiterated his commitment to promote Kashmir cause at international level in addition to exposing India's imperialistic designs in the region. He expressed these views while addressing a dinner hosted in his honor by Syed Qamar Raza, Chairman of Overseas Pakistani Foundation (OPF) here on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, the President also lauded the overseas Kashmiris' significant contribution in highlighting the plight of Kashmiri people at global level. He said that it was due to the untiring efforts of the Kashmiri diaspora community that the Kashmir issue was resonating all over the world today. "Despite Indian attempts to keep Kashmir issue away



from international limelight, the diaspora community kept the issue alive at global level", he said, adding that besides promoting Kashmiris' just cause, the overseas Kashmiri community, especially those hailing from Mirpur, has played a key role in the prosperity of Pakistan by offering their

lands and properties for the construction of Mangala Dam, which not only generates cheap electricity but is also a major source of irrigation in Punjab. Recalling the various initiatives he had taken during his previous government, Barrister Chaudhry said, "I had established Industrial Zone in Azad Kash-

mir during my previous government which took the state towards self-sufficiency. The Industrial zones, he said, could not remain active due to some reasons but we shall reactivate these zones yet again so that the overseas Kashmiris could be able to invest their capital in the state. He said that the government would take all possible measures to solve the problems being faced by the overseas community here. The function was also addressed by the OPF chairman Syed Qamar Raza, Kashmir Peace Forum International UK convener Chaudhry Majid Ismail and Kashmir Peace Forum International UK President Barrister Karamat Hussain. The speakers hailed Barrister Chaudhry's commitment to Kashmir cause and his untiring efforts to highlight the issue of Kashmir at the global level."



MUZAFFARABAD: Newly appointed AJK Secretary Information Sardar Adnan Khurshid assumed the charge of his slot while Ansar Yaqoob relinquished his duties

PEIRA signs MoU with NCHD to implement EOTO in Islamabad schools

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: To top the celebration of the Polish-Pakistani friendship, Pak-Polish dosti, which has emerged from the passion for mountains, I would like to invite you to listen to beautiful, spiritual music played by talented women musicians from Hunza led by Ms. Meher Angez Hunza.

Music like mountains speak to us in a universal and deeply humanistic way. Both invoke mystery, spirituality and freedom. Allow us to transcend our physical boundaries and remind ourselves that after all we are one and the same human kind.

The event also included a musical performance that added enchanting melodies, captivating the guests and drawing applause from the attendees.

PEIRA has signed an MoU with the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), to implement the "Each One Teaches One" (EOTO) Initiative in private educational institutions across Islamabad. This MOU, signed by PEIRA's Chairperson, Dr. Sayeda Zia Batool, and NCHD's Director General, Mr. Ali Asghar, forms part of the Prime Minister's Roshan Pakistan - National Literacy Drive, aiming to eradicate illiteracy by actively involving PEIRA-registered schools. PEIRA is playing its role, under the leadership of the Federal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Professional Training Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, in promoting quality education and contributing to the vision of a literate and educated Pakistan.

Closure of education system due to smog, against the fundamental constitutional right



Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: Sakina Taj, President of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association, Women's Wing, District Rawalpindi, said that the closure of the education system across Punjab due to smog is against the fundamental constitutional right. Smog and pollution are responsible for corrupt institutions, smoky industries, fossil fuels, smoky transport. Government should impose a one-month ban on fumigation industry and Euro-to-oil.

Sakina Taj said that in terms of study, this time is very important for children. The holidays will affect the schedule of midterm exams in educational institutions and the academic session will be less than 100 days. Instead of closing schools, green schools, green energy should be promoted and the government should impose a one-month ban on fumigation industry and Euro-to-oil. Online education from home is only available to 5% of the elite class children when the education system is closed across the country. SOPs and guidelines have been issued to schools for smog prevention and control. She said that Instead of closing schools when the air quality index deteriorates to dangerous levels, the government is recommended to impose compulsory masks and limit working hours.

Workshop held on guidelines for the control of brucellosis in Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, BZU

Special Correspondent

MULTAN: A one-day workshop was held at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Multan, to draft policy guidelines for the control of brucellosis (abortion). This workshop was organized under a project of the Agricultural Linkages Program (Pakistan Agricultural Research Council), with Dr. Mian Muhammad Owais, Associate Professor of the Department of Pathobiology, serving as the principal investigator.

The Patron-in-Chief of the workshop was the Vice Chancellor of Bahauddin Zakariya University, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zubair Iqbal. The special guest was Dr. Azfar Zia, Secretary of Livestock South Punjab, from the Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Government of Punjab.

The event began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by Dr. Raza Hamid welcoming the guests. Dr. Mian Muhammad Owais then briefed the participants on the objectives of the workshop, explaining that it was conducted under a research project of the Agricultural Linkages Program. The aim was to formulate policy guidelines under the One Health Agenda to prevent abortion in livestock, thereby mitigating its economic impact. Following this, the special guest, Mr. Azfar Zia, addressed the participants, commending the ongoing research at the university and congratulating the organizers for highlighting the crucial issue of brucellosis.

Dr. Mian Muhammad Owais, Dr. Hamid Irshad, Dr. Abdul Subhan, and Dr. Aitzaz Ahsan presented their research findings to the participants. Subsequently, a draft policy guideline document was developed with joint input from all participants.

Multan Rang

ISLAMABAD: An artist at her stall during annual Lok Mela festival, at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Two Drops of the Polio Vaccine Can Prevent a LifeTime of Disability: Saleem Nasir

Shahzad Anwar

MULTAN: Certificates of appreciation were awarded by Zonal Coordinator Saleem Nasir on behalf of Rotary International to the Chief Health Officer, UNICEF, WHO, DHOs, and other Rotary International members in recognition of their excellent performance in the polio campaign led by the District Health Authority, Government of Punjab.



On this occasion, Zonal Coordinator Saleem Nasir stated that individuals who work with dedication and passion deserve recognition for their services.

Acknowledging and encouraging such individuals further fuels their commitment to work.

Speaking at the event, Muhammad Hanif, Polio Coordinator of Rotary Club International, said that two drops of the polio vaccine can prevent a lifetime of disability. Polio is an incurable disease that attacks the nervous system. Currently, 49 cases of polio have been reported, which is a serious concern.

The District Health Authority, Government of

Punjab, and Rotary International have made extensive efforts in this initiative. On this occasion, certificates of appreciation were awarded to Dr. Riaz Ahmed (CEO DHQ), Dr. Irshad Abbas (DHO), Dr. Yaseen Sabir (DHO), Muhammad Faheem Shahid (DOC), Muhammad Waqas (CCO), Dr. Abid Hussain (Area Coordinator, WHO), Dr. Muhammad Hamza Akram (IO, Multan), and Muhammad Hanif (Polio Coordinator, Rotary Club International).

Cancer awareness is a key to early detection of breast cancer at stage-1

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a dedicated effort to promote breast cancer awareness and the importance of early detection, the Rotary Club of Islamabad Metropolitan (RCIM) organized a breast cancer awareness seminar here in Islamabad in collaboration with Shifa International Hospital, Islamabad.

During her informative presentation, Dr. Saeceda Yasmin a renowned breast cancer specialist, consultant, general and breast surgeon highlighted the critical importance of early detection in the fight against breast cancer. She emphasized that regular screening through methods such as mammography and ultrasound is essential, especially for women over the age of 40.

In his welcome speech, President Rotary Club of Islamabad metropolitan Shabbir Malik emphasized the importance of awareness of breast



cancer to catch it at early stage. He also mentioned that it is not the issue of a woman only but it is a family matter and everyone in the family especially the head of family must be aware of this fatal disease. So awareness is the key factor to enhance the chances of

survival of a breast cancer patient. At the end president Shabbir Malik thanked the guest speaker, the way she conducted this awareness seminar for the audience especially for the female members of the club who participated in large numbers. President

also thanked the guests who joined the seminar from other rotary clubs. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks from Rear Admiral (Retd) Shahid Saeed, Secretary of RCIM, followed by a presentation of the RCIM flag to guest speakers and guests.



Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Tunisia Peshawar hosted luncheon



Naveed Ahmad Khan

At the beginning of winter, The Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Tunisia Peshawar Excellency Ammad Rasheed & Spouse hosted luncheon at his beautiful residence in Peshawar Cantt, Peshawar Cantt on Sunday

November 10th 2024.

On the occasion Ammad Rasheed & Spouse warmly welcome their distinguish guests. Luncheon attended by, Honorary Consul General of Japan Peshawar Mr. Nawabzada Fazal Karim. Consul General of U.S. Peshawar Mr. Shante Moore. President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Peshawar Mr. Fazal Moqem. President Women's Chamber of Commerce Peshawar Mrs. Rabia Basri. Chairman Textile Association KP Mr. Sikandar Kuli Khan Khattak. Vice President, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mr. Fahad Barlas & Spouse. Muhammad Abdullah Zahid Lateef Khan-Director ZLK Securities Pvt Ltd Islamabad. Muhammad Ishaq, Former President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry/ Moeed Industry Peshawar. Fuad Ishaq Former President Sarhad Chamber / Industrialist. Mr. Adnan Jalil, Former Minister KP. Mr. Ghulam Noorani, Director AGE Cables / Gandara Medical Institutes. Mr. Khalid Sultan Khawaja, Chairman-Tariq Sultan & Company. Mr. Monawar Khurshid & Spouse Chairman Sports World Pvt Ltd, Executive Member Sarhad Chamber. Mr. Mansoor Khawaja & Spouse Chairman-Group of Educational institutes Peshawar. Mr. Amir Bashir & Spouse, CEO-Moloko Perfumery Pvt Ltd. Mrs. HINA Sakib, Senior Vice President-Women's Chamber of Commerce & Industry Peshawar. Mr. Suad Khan CTO Police Peshawar. Dr. Tariq Jabbar Khan, Director-Northwest Hospital Peshawar. Mr. Adil Wadud CEO Wadud Home Peshawar. Brig Salim Ashraf (R), Former Station Commander of Peshawar & Jhelum. Mr. Irfan Saleem Awan, CFO / Acting CEO Bank of Khyber Peshawar. Mr. Muhammad Amir, Political specialist/ Advisor U.S. Consulate Peshawar. Mr. Malik Adeel Ashiq Awan, Chairman-Adeel & Shahbaz Steel Mill-Hattar. Mr. Noman Bashir Chief-TDAP Peshawar. Mr. Mauzam Bilal, CFO Turkish Airline Islamabad. Mr. Faraz Ahmed, Manager, Emirates Airline Peshawar. Mr. Shahid Khan, Economic Specialist/Advisor, U.S. Consulate Peshawar. Mr. Jawad Rasheed, CEO-Khalid Goods Transport Company Peshawar. Mr. Mian Jee Abdul Muzaffar, Zafar Pvt Ltd Peshawar. Mr. Nasir Salim Arab, Director Sports and Youth Affairs Khyber Medical University. Prof Dr. Muzaffer Sadiq, Senior Surgeon and Mr. Athar Ali Siddiqui, CEO-Ali Associate & Consultant Pvt Ltd. Guests enjoyed the traditional, Italian and continental cuisine and thank to H.E Ammad Rasheed & Spouse for excellent hospitality as always.



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Uzbekistan on the way to a sustainable future

Spokesman Report

On November 11-13, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev is taking part in the World Summit on Combating Climate Change at the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held in Baku.

Delegations from almost 200 countries at the level of heads of state, government and ministers, representatives of international organizations, NGOs, expert, scientific and social circles are expected to participate in the conference. The event is part of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-29), adopted in 1992 and covering almost all countries of the world. The Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are the documents adopted on the basis of and as a follow-up to this Convention.

Uzbekistan joined the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change on June 20, 1993, ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 1999 and the Paris Agreement in 2017, assuming a number of commitments, including the main quantitative commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP by 35% of the 2010 level by 2030.

As a party to the UN Framework Convention, Uzbekistan prepares and submits to the Convention Secretariat

regular climate reporting—national communications, biennial reports, and adaptation plans, develops and updates nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

Speaking at the High Level Segment of COP-28 in Dubai on 1 December 2023, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev presented the country's position on climate change, information on measures on decarbonization, adaptation to climate change, cooperation on ecosystem conservation and restoration of the Aral Sea ecosystem.

It is worth noting that Uzbekistan actively participates in international environmental initiatives aimed at combating climate change and protecting Central Asian ecosystems. One of the key tasks is the restoration of the Aral Sea, the ecosystem of which has been significantly damaged. Uzbekistan initiated the establishment of the UN-sponsored Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region, which aims to transform this region into a climate-resilient zone.

Uzbekistan seeks to reduce CO₂ emissions, develops renewable energy and cooperates with UNESCO's Green Education Program to promote environmental education.

At COP-28 and other meetings, the

country presented the "One Region, One Voice" strategy, bringing together countries in the region to jointly address environmental challenges and create common standards for conservation.

In addition, Uzbekistan has committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly through the development of "green" energy, reducing emissions and improving water management. This includes projects to develop solar and wind energy to reduce dependence on hydrocarbons.

In 2022, the office of the Global Growth Institute (GGGI), the first representative office of this organization in the CIS and Central Asia, opened in Tashkent. GGGI is an international organization founded to support countries in the transition to sustainable economic growth through the development of "green" economy and climate initiatives.

The main goal of the institute's work in Uzbekistan is to promote sustainable development and environmental rehabilitation of the region, especially in the context of climate change. One of the significant projects was the green rehabilitation of Aral Sea region, funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). This project is aimed at overcoming the consequences of the

environmental crisis associated with the shoaling of the Aral Sea and improving living conditions in Karakalpakstan through "green" technologies and sustainable farming practices.

The climate agenda is also being actively promoted within other international formats. In particular, within the framework of the SCO, our head of state stressed the need to strengthen coordination and practical cooperation in decarbonization and introduction of "clean" technologies, development of "smart" agriculture and water conservation.

At the summit of the Organization of Turkic States held in Bishkek on November 5-6, Uzbekistan's leader suggested accelerating the establishment of the Turkic Ecological Council at the ministerial level to find solutions to acute environmental problems related to climate change.

All these initiatives reflect Uzbekistan's aspiration to contribute to international efforts in the field of ecology and ensure a more sustainable future for our country, the region and the planet as a whole.

The participation of the President of Uzbekistan in the upcoming event in Baku will once again reaffirm our country's commitment to "green" growth and development, readiness to consolidate efforts to mitigate climate change and fulfill its commitments to achieve the goals of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.



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

There is no alternative to multilateral climate action

Mukhtar Babayev

Our world is at a critical juncture. The devastating effects of global warming are increasingly evident and the crisis is deepening. To mitigate it, we must urgently reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. Failing to act now will only increase the human and economic toll.

This month's COP29 climate change conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, presents a unique opportunity for effective collective action. Amid heightened geopolitical tensions and global uncertainty, COP29 will serve as a test of the multilateral system on which humanity's ability to respond to this existential threat depends.

The groundwork for coordinated action was laid in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 with the creation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which established the annual Conference of the Parties to promote consensus-based solutions. The philosophy was simple: given that climate change is a global issue, addressing it requires a collaborative approach.

The convention fosters cooperation between smaller countries and superpowers, enables civil society organizations to engage directly with governments and facilitates cross-border technology transfers. Perhaps most importantly, it provides a framework for collective action in which each country's efforts encourage others to step up their own.

While the 1997 Kyoto Protocol set binding emission-reduction targets for developed economies, it quickly became clear that more was needed. In response, developed countries pledged in 2009 to mobilize \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support developing countries' climate policies.

The 2015 Paris climate agreement marked a

turning point, setting the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and ensuring that the increase stays well below 2 C. To monitor progress, the agreement established a system of nationally determined contributions, through which each country outlines its emission-reduction plans. Periodic global audits assess whether countries are on track to fulfill their climate commitments.

Regrettably, the first global audit, released ahead of last year's COP28 in Dubai, showed that we are far from meeting these climate targets. It also offered a comprehensive roadmap, calling on all countries to commit to targets aligned with the 1.5 C goal and establishing clear steps and timelines — including transitioning away from fossil fuels — that could bring the Paris agreement's objectives within reach.

COP29 represents the next step for the multilateral approach, with leaders expected to agree on a significant boost to the \$100 billion climate finance target — the so-called New Collective Quantified Goal. Moreover, each country must submit its updated nationally determined contributions by February 2025.

Transparency is essential to this process. If the Paris agreement's targets are the destination, and the nationally determined contributions are the roadmap, the New Collective Quantified Goal provides the fuel needed to get there. Building trust in countries' commitment to bold climate action and willingness to provide the necessary financing is key.

As COP29 president, Azerbaijan is urging all countries to submit goals aligned with the 1.5 C target as soon as possible. We are also doing everything we can to secure a fair and ambitious new climate finance goal that addresses developing countries' needs and matches the scale and urgency of the crisis.

Falling short would force us to confront tough questions: Are we willing to accept the failure of the Paris Agreement? And what are the alternatives? One thing is clear: without a viable backup plan, we must do all we can to meet the 1.5 C goal. Sleepwalking into climate catastrophe is not an option.

To be sure, the multilateral system has its flaws. But it remains the best framework to tackle this daunting challenge. Over three decades, it has fostered lasting international cooperation, a shared understanding of the science and a strong consensus concerning global climate goals.

The alternative to multilateralism is a fragmented response, with governments pursuing their own agendas without coordination or cooperation. This approach would mean slower progress, higher costs and less equitable outcomes. Without a unifying goal, any sense of shared purpose would all but vanish.

Balochistan Youth - Erasing imprints of deep rooted scorn

Abdul Shakoor Khan

When violent protests erupted in some parts of Balochistan in 2006, many of the youth people used to perceive that government policies in the province could prove to be counter-productive, fuelling the wrath of misguided youngsters.

Unfortunately, they were kept aloof of mainstream and often swayed by perennial vested rhetoric of traditional politicians about willfully depriving them of their rights, a perception that deeply entrenched into their minds and gradually turned into hatred.

Aslam Baloch, a passionate student of Balochistan University's Mass Communication department before getting the government job, had some views about the government policies and showed no remorse on damages caused by angry youth during violent demonstration in 2006, after the death of late Nawab Akbar Bugti.

Cognizant of the situation, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti led provincial government is striving hard to engage youth in different social and economic activities and save them from falling prey to miscreants influence.

For the first time in province's history, Youth Policy 2024 is being implemented with opportunities for youth in education, sports and employment that reflects the government's intention to foster a constructive environment for youth.

The Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program had also been launched in Balochistan to provide youth educational scholarships from primary to higher levels. Besides, the PhD students would be given full scholarships to study at top 200 universities worldwide. In a landmark development, the Oxford University has also agreed to provide scholarships to Balochistan students.

Sports is also no more a neglected area, after immense appreciation of Balochistan based inter-

national athletes Shahzaib Rind, Mohammad Wasim and others who were awarded handsome prize money. President Asif Ali Zardari also gave away cash prize of Rs 100 million to Shahzaib Rind to encourage Balochistan youth.

Balochistan Minister for Planning and Development, Zahoor Buledi said the government by implementing its agenda, is providing resources to harness youth potential. "Efforts are on to compile data and devise youth friendly policies, bringing them to mainstream."

Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind has also mentioned to various programs to empower jobless youth including small loans valuing Rs two billion for graduated individuals on easy installments to establish livestock farms and businesses in agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors. "Launch of the Chief Minister Youth Skills Development Program is another initiative to train 30,000 young individuals in various skills," he said. "The government has so far provided scholarships to 75,000 students under its pre-education policy and increased allocation for Balochistan Education Endowment Fund by Rs two billion in 2024-25 budget besides Rs two billion for out of school children."

President Quetta Press Club, Abdul Khaliq Rind also pleaded to provide youth quality education as well as economic opportunities to engage them in constructive activities. "Our politicians must have to change their strategies and invest in youth to save our future generations." Recalling record sale of some 4.7 million books at festivals in Gwadar and Panjgur districts, Abdul Khaliq said, the government should also focus bibliophiles in Balochistan. "Organizing Pakistan Literature Festival was a good omen and we should continue with such activities."

He praised Balochistan government for paying attention to young people with hopes that these initiatives would bear fruit and Balochistan youth would transform themselves into a constructive society and play their role in building a strong, prosperous and peaceful Pakistan.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
93,224.56	93,648.32
Day's High	Day's Low
93,871.61	92,893.11
Index Value	Change
20,872,940,435	-423.76
Percentage	Time
-0.45%	12 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,025.77	-99.42
Percentage	Time
-1.22%	12 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
44,036.27	-256.86
Percentage	Time
-0.58%	12 Nov, 12:39 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,376.09	-157.23
Percentage	Time
-0.40%	12 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

President NBP highlights path forward for Pakistan's financial sector

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President of NBP, emphasized the crucial role of the financial sector in driving Pakistan's economic growth in his recent session at The Future Summit. He highlighted that the financial sector must be viewed as more than just basic banking access, as it forms the foundation for economic resilience and empowerment. He mentioned that integrating everyone into the

economic fabric can ensure equitable participation for prosperity.

Despite initiatives like branchless banking improving account ownership rates, nearly half of Pakistan's population remains unbanked. Mr. Hasnie noted the need for targeted interventions and tailored financial solutions to address these challenges. Empowering citizens through financial inclusion or access to finance transforms them into active economic contributors, strengthening local economies



and fueling sustainable growth. He also emphasized the importance of digital technology, such as mobile banking and e-wallets, in revolutionizing financial access. Furthermore, sharing his view on the subject, he stated that NBP is

facilitating access to finance in the agriculture sector across Pakistan. He called for collaborative partnerships between banks, government agencies, and fintech startups to scale innovative solutions and ensure a long-term impact.

Visit

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid in a group photo with Ms. Waheeda Mahesar Executive Director SZABIST-ZABTech visits Benazir Income Support Programme HQs on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Standard Chartered Bank delivers bespoke solution to support IATA EASY PAY

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) Pakistan recently implemented an improved IATA EASY PAY solution tailor made for the Pakistan market to streamline BSP ticketing and payment processes for IATA Agents in Pakistan. This closed-loop solution enables IATA Agents to pre-fund their IATA EASY PAY accounts which will be used to issue airline tickets and additional air travel-related services.

SCB's open APIs and virtual account / ledger capabilities drive end-to-end efficiency and transparency from Agent onboarding to Airline settlements. It reduces credit risk and offers an additional payment channel for IATA Agents. This will also significantly boost the airlines' liquidity due to faster settlement.

Shiraz Hyder, Head of Transaction Banking, Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan stated, "This bespoke IATA EASY PAY solution underscores our commitment to deliv-



ering innovative and efficient digital financial solutions tailored to the unique needs of our clients. Standard Chartered is focused on

providing seamless support to drive operational efficiency so that the air travel industry can deliver on its core business with ease."

FFC Honored with Gold Awards at SAFA Best Presented Annual Report Awards 2023

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) continues to lead in financial reporting and corporate governance standards across South Asia, getting recognition in the prestigious SAFA Best Presented Annual (BPA) Report Awards 2023. FFC received top accolades in multiple categories, further cementing its position as a leader in transparency, corporate governance, and industry best practices.

FFC was awarded the Gold Category award for excel-

lence in the Manufacturing Sector. This joint Gold Award recognizes FFC's dedication to producing high-quality, comprehensive annual reports that showcase financial accuracy, stakeholder engagement, and responsible corporate practices. This accolade was received by the Chief Financial Officer of FFC, honoring the team's commitment to maintaining exemplary standards in financial reporting.

Additionally, FFC was honored with a joint Merit/Gold SAARC Anniversary Award for Corporate Govern-

ance, acknowledging the company's robust governance frameworks and commitment to ethical business operations. Syed Mustafa Haider accepted this award on behalf of FFC, underscoring the organization's proactive approach to corporate governance across the region.

These awards, hosted by the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), recognize excellence in financial reporting, corporate governance, and transparency among South Asian companies, setting high standards across the industry.



GFS Builders, Developers inaugurated new Orangi Town Residency

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: GFS Builders and Developers organized a Haleem feast in honor of the families who booked units in the Orangi Town Residency project at Chawla Market. A large number of booking families attended the event.

On this occasion, the new Chawla Market project of GFS Builders and Developers, Orangi Town Residency, was inaugurated. HOD Syed Muhammad Anil and Sales Manager Jamal Sheikh mentioned that Bilal Heights is a

significant project by GFS Builders, successfully progressing in Karachi.

This project offers plots of various sizes, both residential and commercial, located in the prime area of Orangi Town, Karachi. GFS Builders has provided all essential facilities for clients, including schools, markets, parks, healthcare services, a gym, mosques, and a CCTV security system, creating an appealing location for living and business.

International workshop on Agri-mechanization models to enhance agricultural productivity

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: National Productivity Organization (NPO), Pakistan in collaboration with Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Tokyo, Japan is organizing an international workshop on benchmarking of agri-mechanization models to enhance agricultural productivity from 11-14 November, 2024. The opening ceremony was held in Lahore, at a local hotel. The said workshop will be attended by 16 overseas participants from 09 APO member countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Mongolia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Pakistan), 10 local participants and sessions will be delivered by the international resource speakers from Japan and Pakistan.

Mr Zahid Mir, Additional Director General, Agricultural engineering, Lahore as Chief guest in his opening remarks on four Day Inter-

national workshop appreciated the APO's role in the development of Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Keiichi Sugita, program officer Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo, Japan expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for their sincere efforts to continue Productivity Movement.

CEO NPO Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry thanked the chief guest and APO Program officer for their presence and time. He welcomed all the participants, resource persons. He said that Vision of MoI&P is to "To Achieve Efficient, Sustainable and Inclusive Industrial Development."



SECP Successfully Concludes Day Two of the Pakistan Start-up Summit in Karachi

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Pakistan Start-up Summit concluded today in Karachi. The second day of the Summit continued to generate immense enthusiasm and engagement. Policymakers, start-up founders, international speakers, and other key stakeholders actively participated in insightful discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions. The event further solidified its position as a pivotal platform for fostering innovation and economic growth in Pakistan. The day commenced with a welcome address by SECP Executive Director Ms. Khalida Habib, who reflected on the previous day's journey to explore opportunities and challenges for Pakistani start-ups. Ms. Habib emphasized SECP's dedication to fostering a sustainable and resilient ecosystem through technology, policy, and partnerships, encouraging participants to engage fully in discussions around digital finance, regulatory sandbox initiatives, and data-driven innovation.

In his keynote address, SECP Commissioner Mr. Abdul Rehman Warraich highlighted SECP's ongoing commitment to creating a regulatory environment that encourages entrepreneurial growth. He introduced the recent establishment of SECP's Innovation Office, a ground-breaking initiative designed to provide start-ups with regulatory guidance, mentorship, and insights, thereby lowering barriers and enabling sustainable growth.

Ms. Musarat Jabeen, SECP Executive Director, also delivered an impactful presentation preceding the official launch of the SECP Innovation Office.

In closing, SECP Commissioner Mr. Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi reflected on the summit's achievements, emphasizing key themes such as the need for diverse and sustainable funding, the role of digital innovation, and long-term regulatory support for start-ups.

A celebration of **FRIENDSHIP** and bilateral ties

Poland's 106th Independence Day anniversary and Armed Forces Day



Naveed Ahmad Khan

The vibrant celebration of Poland's 106th Independence Day and Armed Forces Day echoed through the diplomatic corridors of Islamabad.

The commemorative event, hosted by the Polish embassy, saw an illustrious gathering, including Pakistan's Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain along with civil and military dignitaries, diplomats, and media representatives.

Poland's Independence Day holiday (November 11) celebrates the restoration of its national sovereignty in 1918, at the end of the First World War.

In his welcome address, the Polish Ambassador extended gratitude to the distinguished guests for joining in the celebration, honoring Poland's journey toward independence and the establishment of its armed forces. He noted that these national events mark a proud history for Poland, symbolizing resilience and the triumph of sovereignty after decades of foreign rule and partitions.

The occasion served as a reminder of Poland's commitment to international cooperation and friendship, reinforcing ties between Poland and Pakistan, as well as the broader diplomatic community.

In Poland's history, independence and freedom have always been defined by their precarious nature: never-given nor to be taken for granted. They had to be fought for and defended.

Today is no different. The Russian aggression against Ukraine has awakened old demons, who can only be contained by Ukraine's victory. The aggressor must be repelled not rewarded. This is key to a just and lasting peace not only in Europe but also in other corners of the world. For that to happen, we will continue to stand with Ukraine and help the Ukrainian people to defend themselves.

We will continue to urge for full protection of the civilian population in Gaza and Lebanon and full application of the humanitarian law in that conflict. Poland sent humanitarian aid to those affected. Tragically, one of Polish aid workers was killed while delivering assistance to the Palestinians. Moreover, a just and lasting peace in Middle East can only be ensured when the Palestinian people realize their right to live in their own state, side by side with Israel. Such also is a lesson from the history of my country.

Ladies and gentlemen,



We have listened to three anthems today. In addition to the Polish and Pakistani anthems, we also played a excerpt from Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy', which is the European Union's anthem. Since Poland is going to assume the presidency in the European Union from January 1st, 2025, it gives us a special reason to highlight Europe's unity during our national celebration.

Dear Friends,

Poland and Pakistan continue to work for the development of our bilateral relation. The trade between our countries gradually approaches 1 billion USD. Pakistan benefits from the trade preferences under the GSP plus scheme, which makes the single European market its greatest export destination. Polish investors in the gas sector have proven to be successful and resilient. Orlen-Polish Oil and Gas Company carries on gas exploration projects in Sindh and Exalo Drilling – which is also our sponsor today – provides valuable services for the Pakistani industry.

Growth potential in trade and investment means very little, if we are not able to tap into it. That is why our Embassy organized a first in many years trade mission to Pakistan this year. Under the program GreenEvo, we brought in a number of young and promising entrepreneurs, who promoted green and smart technological solutions to the challenges resulting from the climate change. I am happy to note that some conversations which began during this mission are continued.

I would like to congratulate Pakistan for assuming a membership in the Security Council. Only few years ago, when Poland sat on the Security Council, we developed a very productive cooperation with Pakistan. For example, our both countries worked closely to establish the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.

We look forward to working with Pakistan to strengthen the international order enshrined in the UN Charter. In today's fraught international environment, we need reconfirmation of universal norms such as respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, right of the nations for self-determination and the respect of human rights as cornerstones of our common future.

Dear Friends,

Polish – Pakistani relations are 62 years old, but our common history is much older. This year marks 100 anniversary of publishing a book by a Polish explorer, Bronislaw Gr. bczewski, titled "Through the Pamirs and Hindu Kush to the sources of Indus". This account tells a story of his 1888 expedition to Baltit, which is the first documented passage from Central Asia to Hunza, that time to India, and today to Pakistan.

Since then, the Northern areas have kept fascinating many Polishes explores and mountaineers. They imprinted a lasting mark on Polish imagination, sports and culture. We grew up in Poland learning about achievements of our climbers. Some of them are

depicted in the exhibition presented here this evening. For example, Wanda Rutkiewicz was the first woman who claimed K2. Jerzy Kukuczka was only the second climber in the world who scaled all eight-thousanders, including magnificent Pakistani summits. And this year, a team of Polish gliders – led by world champion Sebastian Kawa – was first to fly over K2 and surrounding mountains. You are going to see incredible footage taken during these flights.

These recent achievements followed into footsteps of Polish pilots, who contributed to the creation of the Pakistani Air Forces shortly after Pakistan was born. Interestingly, the wife of the leader of that group – Air Commodore Wladyslaw Turowicz – Zofia Turowicz was a glider instructor herself and trained future Pakistani pilots. These extraordinary people were not only Polish but Pakistani heroes and deserve to be remembered and recognized as such. Therefore, we continue to hope that a final decision about giving one of the streets in Islamabad their name will be taken soon.

This Polish passion for mountains, for the Pakistani mountains, created an enduring nexus between Polish and Pakistani people. Polish climbers could not have achieved their successes without wisdom, experience and help of their Pakistani friends.

I am honored and happy that there are great Pakistani climbers among us this evening.

Let me recognize Mr. Nazir Sabir, anative of Hunza, renowned mountaineer, who became first Pakistani to have climbed Mount Everest in addition to great summits of Pakistan. Mr. Nazir Sabir cooperated with many Polish expeditions and is a honorary member of the Polish Mountaineering Club. We are also blessed by the presence of Mr. Sirbaz Khan, the first Pakistani who summited all 14 eight-thousender peaks in the world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To top the celebration of the Polish-Pakistani friendship, Pak-Polish dosti, which has emerged from the passion for mountains, I would like to invite you to listen to beautiful, spiritual music played by talented women musicians from Hunza led by Ms. Meher Angez Hunzai.

Music like mountains speak to us in a universal and deeply humanistic way. Both invoke mystery, spirituality and freedom. Allow us to transcend our physical boundaries and remind that after all we are one and the same human kind.

The event was also included a musical performance that added enchanting melodies, captivating the guests and drawing applause from the attendees.

IMSG I-VIII Kot Hathial

Arts and Science exhibition held to combat climate change

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: To raise awareness among students about the pressing issue of climate change, IMSG I-VIII Kot Hathial organized a vibrant Arts and Science Exhibition here on Monday. The event encouraged students to explore solutions to contemporary issues, including climate change, while drawing insights from the teachings of the Holy Quran.

The science exhibition was graced by distinguished guests, including Dr. Ehsan Mehmood, AEO Bhara Kahu; Principals Mrs. Naureen Sarwar, Mrs. Nausheen, and Mrs. Tahira Nasreen; Mr. Nadeem Ahmad, Consultant at NIETE and Former Director FDE; Ms. Ayesha Khan, People and Culture Executive at NIETE; and SMC members Mr. Naveed Ahmed Khan, Mr. Anees Abassi, and Mr. Allah Dad.

The event showcased students' creativity through handmade jewelry and eco-friendly projects. Dr. Ehsan Mehmood commended the students' innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, while Ms. Taseer Rehman, Principal IMSG I-VIII Kot Hathial, acknowledged the dedication of the staff and teachers in making the event a success.



Pakistan asks ICC to explain India Champions Trophy refusal

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Tuesday it has asked the sport's governing body to explain India's refusal to send a team to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy next year.

The International Cricket Council informed the PCB last week that India would not tour Pakistan for the eight-team tournament, leaving the fate of the event hanging in the balance.

Pakistan had previously rejected the option of a hybrid arrangement that would allow India to play their matches at neutral venues, for example in the United Arab Emirates.

"The PCB has responded to last week's ICC letter seeking clarifications for the Indian Board's decision not to travel to Pakistan for next year's Champions Trophy," Sami-Ul-Hasan told AFP.

Deteriorating political ties have meant the bitter rivals have not played a bilateral



cricket series for over a decade – squaring off only in ICC multi-nation events.

The nuclear-armed neighbours have fought three wars since being carved out of the subcontinent's partition in 1947 and that rivalry is often reflected on the cricket field.

Any cricket match between

the two is among the most watched events on the global sporting calendar.

Pakistani media reported on Tuesday that the PCB would be unwilling to accept security reasons for India's refusal to visit.

New Zealand have toured Pakistan three times in the

past two years, with England visiting twice and Australia once in the same period.

Pakistan also visited India for last year's ODI World Cup and the PCB had expected the gesture to be reciprocated for the Champions Trophy.

The Champions Trophy is slated to be played across three

venues – Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi – from February 19 to March 9 next year.

But a final schedule due to be announced this week has been postponed over the stand-off – which PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi termed disappointing.

"Almost every country wants the tournament to be played in Pakistan and it will be disappointing if they don't come," Naqvi, who is also the interior minister, said last week.

"I don't think anyone should make this a political matter. We'll give every team as many facilities as we can."

Naqvi said Pakistan would consider pulling out of events in India as a response.

"Pakistan has shown great gestures to India in the past, and we'd like to say clearly India shouldn't expect such friendly gestures from us every time."

India is due to host the women's ODI World Cup and Asia Cup next year and will co-host the Twenty20 World Cup with Sri Lanka in 2026.

Holding Blind T20 WC in Pakistan a welcome sign: DG Sports



Tahir Amin Malik.

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry has said that holding Blind T20 Cricket World Cup in Pakistan is a welcome sign and major development. He said this while presiding over an important meeting at National Hockey Stadium on Tuesday.

Different significant features and preparations of Blind T20 Cricket World Cup were discussed in detail during the meeting. The smog situation in the province also came under discussion in the meeting.

Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) Chairman Syed Sultan Shah, Secretary Ateeq Zia, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed and other officials participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the T20 Blind Cricket World Cup is being held in Pakistan from November 23 in which as many as seven international teams will participate. He said that best arrangements are being made for the successful holding of T20 Blind Cricket World Cup.

PBCC Chairman Syed Sultan Shah on this occasion said that the matches of T20 Blind Cricket World Cup will kick off in Lahore while the last match of mega event will be organised in Multan. He also thanked all institutions including Punjab Sports Department for extending their cooperation in organizing the mega event an appropriate manner.

President Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah 5-A-Side Hockey Tournament 2024–Day 1 Results

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Excitement and thrilling matches marked the first day of the President Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah 5-A-Side Hockey Tournament at the Olympian Hanif Khan Hockey Stadium. The skills and passion displayed by players from various hockey clubs made the day memorable.

Match 1: Youth HC Orange clinched a close victory over Hanif Khan with a score of 4-3, kicking off the day with high energy. Shahbaz Haider and Ali Iqbal each scored 1 goal for Youth HC Orange, while Arbaz netted 2 goals. For Hanif Khan, Babar Saadat scored 2 goals, and Huzaifa scored 1.

Match 2: Dastagir HC put on an impressive performance, defeating PTCL HC 8-3. Saad starred for Dastagir, scoring an incredible 6 goals, with Rehman contributing 2 goals. PTCL's Farooq scored 2 goals, and Haris added 1.

Match 3: Youth HC Blue defeated Gulberg HC 5-2. Riyan displayed outstanding performance with 4 goals, and Arsalan added 1 goal. For Gulberg, Daniyal scored 2 goals.

Match 4: In a one-sided match, Pak Flag HC defeated Jafferri JJ HC with a significant margin of 10-1. Owais of Pak



Flag HC scored an incredible 6 goals, Siddiq added 3, and Umar scored 1 goal. For Jafferri JJ HC, Alia scored 1 goal.

Match 5: Al Sagheer HC triumphed over Baldia with a score of 10-0, setting the largest goal difference of the day. Bilal scored 5 goals, while Shahzaib, Mohsin,

Ali Abbas, and Ahmed each added 1 goal.

Match 6: Rabani HC beat Central Fitness HC 4-1, with Umair scoring 3 goals and Dani adding 1. For Central Fitness HC, Abdullah scored 2 goals and Owais added 1.

Match 7: Adnan Ladu scored 2 goals,

teaming up with Nauman to lead Rabani HC to victory, while Junaid scored 1 goal for Central Fitness HC.

The tournament continues with more exciting matches, providing hockey fans the opportunity to witness top regional players in action.

Farhan Khan, Akbar Babar Shine with the ball in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

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

The highlights of the days play was deadly bowling by right arm off spinner Farhan Khan captured 6 wickets for 6 runs Akbar Babar slow left arm spinner got 5 wickets for 6 runs.

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

Scores in Brief: Muhammad Hussain Cricket Club Colts beat Rizvia Sports by



200 runs at Student Ground. Muhammad Hussain CC Colts 289 all out in 39.1 overs. Inayat Ali 76 11x4, Rashid Ashraf 58 6x4 1x6, Ali Sher 38,

Muhammad Yaseen 19, Ijaz Ahmed 19. Muhammad Hamza (ob) 3/66, Waseem Abbas 2/43, Faizal Fayyaz 2/56. Rizvia Sports 89 all out in

19 overs. Muhammad Arif 19. Farman Khan (rob) 6/6, Bin Yameen 2/21.

In the 2nd Match SMS Gymkhana beat Nayab Cricket Club by 9 Wickets at Eid Gah Ground Nazimabad Nayab CC 34 all out in 12.2 overs. Nadeem 13. Akbar Babar (sla) 5/6, Saad Alam 2/12

SMS Gymkhana 38/1 in 5.3 overs. Kashif Akhtar 25.

In the 3rd Match Gulzar Cricket Club beat Baldia Gymkhana by 3 Wickets at Afa Ground. Baldia Gymkhana 182 all out in 30 overs. Hassan 66 9x4 3x6, Yar Muhammad 20, Mehboob Rahimo 18. Muhammad Sami (ob) 4/34,

Abdullah 2/28, Bilal Mirza 2/48.

Gulzar CC 187/7 in 34.3 overs. Syed Saad Akhtar 88 7x4 3x6, Idrees Mirza 27, Muhammad Sami 21 not out. Muhammad Shakir 3/46

In the fourth Match Montgomery Gymkhana beat Al-Hamra Cricket Club by 8 wickets at Abbasi Gymkhana. Al-Hamra CC 125 all out in 36.1 overs. Amanullah 25. Syed Ali Meher (ob) 3/10 Sajjad Rasheed 2/17, Mehmood Jamsheed 2/18.

Montgomery Gymkhana 126/2 in 20 overs. Sajjad Rasheed 53 9x4, Aqib Anwar 51 10x4 both not out.

Pakistan Under 19 Cricket Team Look Ahead to Tri-Series Challenge: PCB Official

Imran Usmani

DUBAI: Pakistan U19 are all set to take on Afghanistan and hosts UAE in the U19 tri-series commencing from 13 November at the ICC Academy in Dubai. The 50-over tournament will be played on a double-league basis and the final will be staged on 26 November.

Saad Baig-led side, since their arrival in Dubai on Saturday afternoon, have gone through three practice sessions in order to acclimatise with the local conditions. At the conclusion of the tri-series, Pakistan will feature in an eight-team ACCU19 Asia Cup, which will take place from 29 November to 8 December in Dubai and Sharjah.

Among the 15-member squad, three players – Saad Baig, Shahzaib Khan and Tayyab Arif had the experience of playing at the ICC Academy, as they were part of

the squad which featured in ACCU19 Asia Cup held last year at the same venue.

Saad Baig talking to PCB Digital on the eve of the tournament, said the preparation for the tournament has been good, the players have had good training sessions here and now we are looking forward to tomorrow's game and the rest of the tournament.

Both Afghanistan and UAE are strong sides and playing against them will provide us a great opportunity to get our combination right before going into the all-important ACCU19 Asia Cup taking place later this month."

Pakistan U19 squad for tri-series: Saad Baig (captain, wicket-keeper)



(Karachi), Abdul Subhan (Abbottabad), Ali Raza (Sialkot), Faham-ul-Haq (Lahore), Farhan Yousuf (Lahore), Haroon Arshad (Karachi), Hassan Khan (Rawalpindi), Mohammad Ahmed

(Lahore), Mohammad Huzaifa (Bahawalpur), Mohammad Riazullah (Abbottabad), Naveed Ahmed Khan (Karachi), Shahzaib Khan (Abbottabad), Tayyab Arif (Sialkot), Umar Zaib (Abbottabad) and Usman Khan (FATA)

Non-travelling reserves: Ahmed Hussain (Peshawar), Rizwanullah (Karachi) and Yahya bin Abdul Rehman (Lahore)

Pakistan U19's fixtures (all matches to be played at ICC Academy, Dubai and start at 10.30am PKT)

Pakistan spinner Noman Ali wins ICC Men's Player of the Month



KARACHI: Pakistan spinner Noman Ali has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for October 2024, edging out South African pacer Kagiso Rabada and New Zealand spinner Mitchell Santner to claim the honour.

The 37-year-old left-arm orthodox bowler played an important role in Pakistan's thrilling 2-1 Test series over England on home soil.

Noman's outstanding performances across the series saw him take 20 wickets at an impressive average of 13.85, helping Pakistan secure their first Test series win at home since 2021.

"It is a great honour to be named the ICC Men's Player of the Month," Noman said in a statement.

"I am deeply grateful to my teammates who supported me throughout this historic home Test series victory against England. Such wins are always special for the team and the country."

Noman's heroics were highlighted by two remarkable Test performances in October.

He ended up with match figures of 11/147 and 9/130 as Pakistan bounced back from defeat in the first Test to end their three-year drought for a Test series win at home.

In the second Test, with Pakistan defending a target of 297, he claimed his career-best figures of 8/46, dismantling England's batting lineup and securing Pakistan's victory.

ECC Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) at the Finance Division on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Chairs the Meeting of ECC

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet held at Finance Division, today.

The meeting was attended by Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Industries and Production; Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Power; Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Commerce; Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue;

the Governor, State Bank of Pakistan; the Chairman FBR, Federal Secretaries, and senior officers from concerned ministries and departments.

The ECC considered and approved a summary submitted by the Ministry of Communications (Postal Services Wing) for a Technical Supplementary Grant (TSG) amounting to Rs. 16,995 billion for clearing of verified pending liabilities of companies/agency partners of Pakistan Post Office Department.

The ECC also considered and approved a summary submitted by the Election Commission of Pakistan for

a TSG of Rs. 1,317 billion in connection with Local Government (bye-elections) in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan and Local Government elections in Islamabad (ICT) & Punjab province during FY 2024-25.

The ECC also took up five separate summaries submitted by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) as part of the FBR Transformation Plan earlier approved by the Prime Minister. The subject matters covered under the summaries included the following five key areas.

1. Enhancing FBR's Operational Expertise and

Organizational Capacities.

2. Performance Management Regime for FBR Officers.

3. Capacity Building Program for FBR Officers.

4. Anti-Smuggling Measures under FBR Transformation Plan.

5. Mobility and Transit Accommodation Arrangements for FBR Officers.

The ECC had a detailed discussion on all five proposals submitted by the FBR and accorded them a principled approval with the proviso that a third-party impact evaluation of the processes and KPIs proposed under the proposals would

be conducted before the next financial budget, while a similar impact evaluation of the outcomes in line with the KPIs to be drawn up under the proposals, would be carried out at the end of calendar year 2025 to see the merit of the entire exercise and its impact on the overall goal of enhanced revenue generation and resource mobilization. The ECC also decided that the Revenue Division and Finance Division would work out the mechanics, including allocation and release of budgets, through joint consultation.

PM's climate aide urges South Asian countries to unite for regional climate action

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said that the challenges faced by the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region are transboundary in nature, which adversely affect infrastructure, economies and ecosystems across the national borders of the all-regional countries including Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, India and Bangladesh, according to a press release issued from the climate change and environmental coordination ministry.

Addressing a ministerial

meeting of the HKH countries titled 'High-Level Meeting of Heads of States from the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Region, COP29', the PM's climate aide said.

"Boosting collaboration is inevitable to deal with the common but adverse impacts of climate change on biodiversity, mountain communities and their livelihoods," she highlighted at the event.

She said further that the HKH region, often referred to as the 'Water Tower of Asia' is home to over 1.3 billion people, supporting the livelihoods, water and biodiversity needs of nearly a quarter



of humanity. However, these once-stable ecosystems are now under severe strain from

Ministers from Bhutan, India, Nepal also supported the Pakistani PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam's call for unified response to common regional climate risks, particularly those hitting hard the vulnerable mountain communities, their livelihoods and ecosystems.

She thanked the ministers from the regional South Asian countries for agreeing to boost collaboration for tackling common environmental challenges and climate risks for the sake of protecting lives and livelihoods of the millions of vulnerable communities and infrastructures.

Ministry of IT, WB Group jointly organise workshop to advance Pakistan's Digital Nation Vision

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of IT and Telecom (MoITT), in collaboration with the World Bank Group, organized a two-day workshop (Nov 11-12) aimed at advancing Pakistan's Digital Nation Vision through the development of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

This workshop is a significant step towards shaping the future of Pakistan's digital landscape. It aimed to accelerate Pakistan's transformation into a Digital Nation by building a robust, inclusive, and secure digital ecosystem, using DPI to enhance governance, service delivery, and economic development.

The workshop was attended by stakeholders across the government

including SBP, SIFC, FBR, PSW, and a host of other key stakeholders both from the public and private sector to focus on understanding DPI components such as Digital ID, Data Exchange Layer, and Payments, to ideate on citizen-centric use cases to be prioritized.

The workshop had detailed deliberations on the Digital Economy Enhance-

ment Project (DEEP), a significant initiative funded by the World Bank Group and being executed by MoITT in collaboration with NADRA, BoI, NITB, Ignite, PITB and other provincial IT Boards. DEEP aims to enhance the Government's capacity for digitally enabled public service delivery for citizens and businesses and will be a key component of Pakistan's DPI.

New Gwadar airport a symbol of friendship between Pakistan and China

Spokesman Report

BELJING: New Gwadar International Airport, a flagship venture under the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, or CPEC, will transform connectivity and open a new chapter of development for the South Asian nation, observers said.

A symbol of solid friendship between China and Pakistan and their commitment to building a better future together, the newly built airport, located in the port city of Gwadar in Pakistan's south-

western Balochistan province, has recently been handed over to Pakistani authorities to commence operations, China Daily reported.

The China-aided airport was inaugurated virtually by Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Oct 14, during Li's trip to Pakistan.

It has been welcomed by experts and people from all walks of life in Pakistan.

As the airport will open its doors, it promises to transform Gwadar into a major hub of regional connectivity

and economic growth, unlocking new opportunities for development.

The construction of the airport, starting in October 2019, was one of the flagship projects of the CPEC. Upon completion, it has become a modern landmark in Gwadar, which will lay a better foundation for the future development of the port city.

According to China Railway Beijing Engineering Bureau, which was involved in the project, the airport can accommodate the largest civilian aircraft, including the Boeing 747-8. The

runway spans 3,658 meters in length and 45 meters in width, making it one of the few 4F-grade airports in Pakistan equipped to handle the largest jets.

"This is a huge airport in Pakistan, equipped with state-of-the-art technology and an architectural marvel," Airport Manager Khalid Kakar told Xinhua.

Citing the limited operational capacity of the old airport, the manager said this newly constructed one will encourage airlines with modern fleets to begin services to and from Gwadar.

PM interacts with world leaders at COP29 summit; bilateral ties, climate change discussed



Spokesman Report

BAKU: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday interacted with the global leaders as they gathered here to participate in the opening plenary "World Leaders' Climate Action Summit" of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29).

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warmly received the prime minister as he arrived at the summit venue, according to a PM Office press release.

As the participating leaders gathered for a family photo, Prime Minister Shehbaz held an informal interaction with them and exchanged pleasantries besides discussing matters of mutual interest.

He interacted with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and discussed matters of mutual interest including bilateral cooperation in the climate change field.

During interaction with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and

Turkish First Lady Emine Erdogan, the two sides discussed ways to cooperate in highlighting the issues of climate change and environmental pollution at the international level.

In their informal interaction, PM Shehbaz and UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer exchanged views on the promotion of Pak-UK relationship.

He also met Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon and discussed protection of glaciers and water resources in Pakistan and Central Asia as well as the strengthening connectivity with both the countries.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also interacted with President of Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel and Chief Advisor of Bangladesh

Dr Muhammad Yunus discussed the issue of increasing temperature in South Asia, risks posed by rising sea level, and the conservation of forests, besides the bilateral ties.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam accompanied the prime minister.

Constitutional Bench to reconvene on November 13, 2024, to hear pending cases

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Committee constituted under Article 191A (4) of the Constitution was convened today on 12.11.2024 at Supreme Court, Islamabad under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan (Head of Constitutional Bench) to discuss matters related to the constitution of the Constitutional Bench. The meeting was attended by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar (attended telephonically from Karachi).

During the meeting, the Registrar's Office apprised the Committee of the pending cases that fall within

the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Bench. After thorough consideration, the Committee resolved that priority shall be accorded to the oldest cases.

In view of the unavailability of the Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Ayesha A. Malik on November 14 and 15, 2024, it was resolved that a Bench comprising all available Judges shall be constituted to proceed with cases on these dates. The Registrar's Office has been directed to list these cases accordingly for hearing before the Bench.

The Committee further resolved to reconvene on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 12:30 PM at Supreme Court, Islamabad, upon the arrival of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar in Islamabad for further deliberations.

Government eyeing ex-CJP Faez Isa as the next chief election commissioner

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Business Recorder has reported that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is seeking recommendations for the next CEC, with the list including the recently retired Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, among other similarly aligned retired officials and former judges.

It is suggested that the ex-Chief Justice is the leading contender for this sought-after role, largely due to his strong rapport with both the influential military establishment and its chosen leaders.

The end of January next year will mark the conclusion of the controversial tenure of the outgoing Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), who is widely seen as the primary architect of the February 8, 2024, general elections fiasco.

This troubling incident involved the covert manipulation of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s mandate to install what former Prime Minister



Imran Khan referred to as the political "pigmies" led by the Sharifs of Raiwind.

The anticipated appointment of Qazi Faez Isa is expected to provoke a strong reaction within the PTI, leading to protests against this contentious decision.

A senior PTI official, speaking anonymously, made it clear that any effort to appoint "a disgraced, biased, vengeful, and insignificant pigmy" like Qazi Faez Isa would face a fierce political backlash. The architects of this "ugly and reprehensible scheme" would be held accountable, as the party intends to seek retribution for what they consider an unforgivable act.