



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

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 Gadhi, 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 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 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.



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
Norwegian 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.



