



**Khawaja Asif faces harassment, knife attack threat in London**

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif was subjected to disturbing heckling and threatened with a knife attack at the London ground station by an unknown person. In a video that went viral on social media, Khawaja Asif can be seen facing unsettling heckling outside London ground station.



**Breakthrough in IMF talks: Mini-budget avoided**

There will be no general sales tax imposed on petroleum products. A significant breakthrough has reportedly been achieved in negotiations between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). A mini-budget has been avoided, and the current revenue target of Rs12.97 trillion remains unchanged. According to sources within the FBR, the IMF has expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's tax collection efforts.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Called on**

ISLAMABAD: Major General Mohammad Gadih, Inspector Royal Moroccan Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters on Wednesday.



**Major General Mohammed Gadih call on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber**

**City Desk**  
RAWALPINDI: Major General Mohammed Gadih, Inspector Royal Moroccan Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. The meeting covered a wide array of matters related to military cooperation, joint training and collaboration in the industrial domain. On his arrival, a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented Guard of Honour to Major General Mohammed Gadih. During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff conveyed his warm wishes to Inspector Royal Moroccan Air Force on his maiden visit to Pakistan. The Air Chief highlighted that both brotherly countries enjoy long-standing historical ties and reiterated his resolve to strengthening military partnership through full collaboration in joint training initiatives in the entire spectrum of air power application, which will include basic and tactical level training for Moroccan Air Force personnel. Both the dignitaries expressed a deep desire to consolidate the existing ties focusing on collaborative training programs, joint military exercises and industrial cooperation. Major General Mohammed Gadih lauded the technological advancement of Pakistan Air Force and expressed the desire of Moroccan Air Force to learn from aerospace industrial strides of Pakistan Air Force in order to enhance its operational capabilities. He conveyed his admiration for the state-of-the-art technological ecosystem witnessed during his visit to National Aerospace Science & Technology Park and shared his deep interest in exploring avenues of collaboration in the industrial domain. The dignitary also visited various installations and technological infrastructure established at Air Headquarters, Islamabad including National ISR & Integrated Air Operations Centre and PAF Cyber Command.

**At COP29, Pakistan calls for grant-based climate finance; fulfillment of earlier pledges**

**Spokesman Report**

BAKU: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday sensitizing the global community on the risks posed by climate change and the vulnerabilities of developing countries, called for grant-based climate finance that should not add to the debt burden of the developing nations. The prime minister, addressing the High-Level Segment of the "World Leaders' Climate Action Summit" of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) here, called for fulfilling the pledges of COP27 and COP28 as well as those made in Paris 10 years ago. "I strongly feel, that climate finance must be grant-based and not add to the debt burden of



vulnerable developing countries. Here is the opportunity that the COP29 should make an understanding loud and clear that we will have to fulfill those financial pledges of COP27 and COP28... Ten years ago in Paris, we had failed to stop the rise in emissions

counter-measures were not taken to create a conducive environment to avert calamities like the one faced by Pakistan in the form of 2022 floods which left millions of the people homeless, millions of house and acre of land submerged, standing crops destroyed, and almost 1700 people dead. Besides, the country also faced an economic loss worth around \$30 billion, he added. Highlighting the devastation faced by the people of Pakistan caused by the climate change-induced floods in 2022, Prime Minister Shehbaz recalled his interaction with a boy Ikramullah in the flood-hit Balochistan who had lost everything to the calamity including his home, school, and entire village. "My memories are still fresh. I was meeting with people in

Balochistan who were affected by the flood. I met a boy by the name of Ikramullah whose entire village was razed on the face of the earth, his home completely demolished and his school submerged," the prime minister said. He said as the government had arranged the said boy's education in another part of the country, he was now becoming a very productive hand of Pakistan. However, even all-out efforts could not subdue the sufferings of all flood-hit children in Pakistan or any other part of the world, he added. To meet the needs of the population hit by the impacts of climate change and avert such devastations in the future, Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated his call for the fulfillment of the pledges made in previous COP summits.

**Four terrorists killed in Balochistan after intelligence based operation**



**City Desk**  
RAWALPINDI: On night 12/13 November 2024, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Balgatar of Kech District on reported presence of terrorists. During conduct of the operation, after an intense fire exchange between own troops and the terrorists, four terrorists including a High Value Target, Terrorist ring leader Sana @ Baru were killed. He was focal recruitment agent, especially suicide bombers, for so called Majeed Brigade in District Kech and was highly wanted by the Law Enforcement Agencies. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed Terrorists. Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. Security Forces of Pakistan, in step with Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

**PTI protest: Omar Ayub reveals list of demands**

**News Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan has demanded the restoration of the rule of law in Pakistan. Speaking to a private television channel, he called for the release of all PTI members, including Imran Khan, who he claims are unjustly imprisoned. He also reiterated the party's demand for fresh elections. Ayub stated that the PTI does not seek concessions or relief, asserting that such relief will automatically follow once conditions are met. He described all cases against Imran Khan as fabricated, expressing concern over his lack of access to the former Prime Minister for two months. He mentioned learning about a "final call" from Khan through the media and indicated that the party will consult on the matter and act accordingly. Ayub revealed that he spends 95% of his time attending court hearings for over 100 cases, facing arrest warrants if he fails to appear. He accused intelligence agencies of attempting to create a faction within the PTI by pressuring party members. Regarding the 26th Constitutional Amendment, Ayub stated that show-cause notices have been issued to PTI members who lost contact during that period, assuring that those who are innocent will be cleared. He criticized a parliamentary committee for deviating from its mandate. Ayub confirmed that Mahmood Achakzai has been authorized to hold negotiations with the PML-N and other political parties.

**DPM/ FM Dar says int'l financial structure skewed against climate responsive investment**

**Spokesman Desk**  
BAKU: Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said that the existing international financial architecture was skewed against climate responsive investment in developing countries. A total of 80% of climate finance remains within developed economies. The cost of finance was also 70 to 80% higher in emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs), compared to developed countries, the DPM/FM said in a statement at an event "Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific" at the sidelines of COP 29. He said the climate finance was concentrated in mitigation, while adaptation and loss and damage remain underfunded. "Moreover, climate finance is primarily delivered in the form of debt which results in another climate finance barrier - currency risk - which is particularly concerning given foreign currency lending makes up 70 to 80% of low-income countries debt," he added. The deputy prime minister said Pakistan supported reform of the MDBs and the IMF for addressing these challenges being faced by the developing countries, and for scaling up currency risk hedging for low- and middle-income countries. Pakistan's cuisine It was critical that instruments such as local currency indexed bonds and currency swaps were encouraged; Debt Sustainability Assessment (DSA) methodology was enhanced to fully reflect climate risks; Climate Resilient Debt Clauses are normalized to include debt relief; and the IMF factors in modern risk management tools in its Debt Sustainability Analysis and Debt Limit, he added. Moreover, Dar stressed that they needed new financing for climate on highly concessional terms. The credit rating agencies should also refrain from exaggerated risk premiums that drive up the cost of capital in developing countries; arbitrary hurdle rates assigned to developing countries should be reviewed; the IMF should undertake universal climate risk surveillance through its Article IV processes to inject objectivity into risk assessment and pricing, he added.



**President, PM appreciate security forces for operation in Kech**

**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tribute to security forces for a successful intelligence-based operation against terrorists in District Kech, Balochistan. The president and prime minister lauded the bravery and professionalism of the security forces for killing four terrorists including a high value target in the operation. The president said that they would never allow terrorists to disrupt progress, prosperity and law and order of Balochistan province. The entire nation lauded the contributions of security forces for peace and stability in the province, he added. President Zardari reiterated the commitment to continue operations till eradication of menace of terrorism, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The prime minister said that those disrupting law and order would have to pay a very heavy price. He said that they would continue to foil the nefarious designs of terrorists as the entire nation was standing shoulder to shoulder with their security forces.



# CM, fed maritime minister vows to address fishermen issues, tackling sea pollution

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Federal Minister for Maritime Qaiser Shaikh, during their meeting, discussed addressing fishermen's issues, tackling sea pollution and plans to develop Ketu Bandar as a new port.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh and Chairman Port Qasim Rear Admiral Nasir Shah.

At the outset, the discussion between the two began with the issue of fishing trawlers, which are depleting fish resources by destroying fish seedlings. The Chief Minister noted that his government has banned sensitive fishing nets, known as Bulloo and Gujjo. However, the matter of determining which government-issued licenses to trawlers remains unresolved.

To tackle the trawlers' issue, the Chief Minister and the federal minister agreed to form a joint committee comprising members from the Maritime Ministry, as well as the govern-



ments of Sindh and Balochistan.

They also discussed the problem of untreated wastewater being discharged into the sea, which contributes to sea pollution. In response, the CM said that his government has initiated the West Karachi Water Recycling Project.

The cope of the project includes, new inlet works connected to an inter-ceptor sewer, a 35 MIGD integrated

wastewater treatment plant, a pipeline for RO concentrate discharge to the river, and a pumping station and pipe network designed for 50 MIGD to supply 28 MIGD of recycled water to industries within SITE.

The chief minister mentioned that the project has advanced past the tender stage and will soon be awarded. Additionally, Murad Shah and

Qaiser Shaikh discussed the installation of a Combined Effluent Treatment Plant, agreeing that both provincial and federal governments should collaborate on this project.

During the conversation, it was noted that Karachi Port and Port Qasim currently handle sea traffic. However, there is an increasing need for another deep port, such as Ketu Bandar, to help alleviate some of this load. Ketu Bandar Road has connectivity to the National Highway and motorway, facilitating efficient transportation of goods to inland areas.

The Chief Minister stated that the Ketu Bandar project was initially approved as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects but has not been pursued for unspecified reasons. The federal minister expressed his intention to discuss the issue within his ministry and seek a private partner to establish the port.

It was agreed that a follow-up meeting would be held shortly to review the progress of the decisions they took in the meeting.

## Mardan Police perform full state honors on martyr Wali Muhammad Khan at his native village

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: The funeral prayer of martyr ASI Wali Muhammad Khan, who sacrificed his life for the nation, was performed with full state honors in his native area. According to details, the funeral prayer of martyr ASI Wali Muhammad Khan was held today with state honors in his native village of Shingrai Sakhakot, Malakand district. On this occasion, DSP Shergarh Ajab Khan, DSP Takht Bhai Shakeel Khan, DSP Faqeer Gul, along with SHO of relevant police stations, police officers, personnel, local residents, and family members attended in large numbers. A well-prepared police contingent presented a salute to the martyr, paying tribute to his bravery and great sacrifice. DPO Mardan Zahoor Babar Afridi described the sacrifice of Shaheed Wali Muhammad Khan as a bright chapter in the history of Mardan Police. He stated, "The great sacrifice of the martyr further strengthens our resolve to be ready to make every sacrifice for the protection of people's lives and property." He added that Wali Muhammad Khan set an example by sacrificing his life in the line of duty, which will always be remembered. It should be noted that Wali Muhammad Khan was martyred last night during duty at the Garu Shah checkpoint when a firing incident took place. After the incident, the police launched a search operation in the area, and efforts are ongoing to apprehend the culprits. Earlier, the funeral prayer was also held at Mardan Police Lines, where RPO Mardan Najeeb-ur-Rehman Bagvi, DC Mardan Dr. Azmat Wazir, DPO Zahoor Afridi, and other officials attended in large numbers.



## Awareness

FAISLAABAD: Diabetes Day awareness walk held in at Medical University Faisalabad.



Photo: Online

## District Administration Multan and Police Have Continued a Joint Crackdown to Combat Smog



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Waseem Hamid Sandhu stated that the district administration and police have continued a joint crackdown to combat smog. In this effort, 30 additional brick kilns that contribute to environmental pollution have been sealed.

Over 1,000 vehicles have been taken off the road, and 10 individuals have been arrested for burning trash and crop residue, with more than 30 cases registered. The Deputy Commissioner stated that during the four-day anti-smog campaign, 70 Veda buses and over 800 commercial vehicles have been shut down.

Only 40 brick kilns with zigzag technology are fully operational; no other kilns will be allowed to operate. In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner instructed that markets and bazaars must close by 8 PM, with police enforcing a smart lockdown against smog. City Police Officer DIG Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar mentioned that manpower has been provided to teams from the environmental, transport, and labor departments. Citizens are encouraged to report trash or crop residue burning by calling 15.

## Govt started to eradicate the industry through the Department of Environment: Shakeel Ansari



Abdul Majid

FASALABAD: As you all know that 60% of all industries in Pakistan have been sold as scrap. Electricity bills played a major role in the demise of the industry. The largest part of the industry to be sold is power looms and sizing industry. Now the rest of the industry is left by the Government of Pakistan through the Department of Environment. what is This is the first incident in the history of Pakistan in Faisalabad, which however condemnable, is the next victim of the Environment Department and you can be too. To save the industry, all the organizations of Pakistan, including the Chamber of Commerce, have to come together. I strongly appeal to all the organizations of Faisalabad to call their respective meetings and plan the future course of action and play their role in saving the industry.

Now I want to draw your attention to the pollution and nook, actually it is a source of displeasure of Allah Ta'ala. We should ask Allah Almighty to forgive us for our sins and pray for the rain of mercy, that Allah Almighty will save us from this calamity, Ameen. Now let me share with you the data of a statistical institute that shows how much of each process contributes to pollution. Transport 83%, Kiln industry 5%, Boiler industry 4%, Agricultural residue burning 3%, Household waste burning 3%, Soil around dust. 2%. Now decide for yourself why only industry is focussed on bower and furnace industry. The efficiency of the department is shown by sealing and fining small establishments and filing FIRs.

And huge bribes are collected from the big industry. In these circumstances, small industry cannot run. If the government wants to run a small industry, it should first resolve the loss of age sizing and benefit sizing immediately and negotiate with our association. In the general meeting of the Sizing Association that was held today, the formula that will be decided through mutual consultation will be implemented by the Sizing Association. May Allah support me and you, long live Pakistan. I am once again very grateful to all the honorable guests for encouraging me by participating in the Industry Rescue Program.

# Teachers and students from THE EDEX School visit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Teachers and students from THE EDEX SCHOOL Peshawar visited the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly on a study tour. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Acting Secretary Syed Waqar Shah, who, along with Assistant Secretary Saifullah Khan, provided an insightful briefing on the assembly's functioning. They explained the legislative processes, the responsibilities of standing, special, and public accounts committees, as well as the stages involved in budget preparation, constitutional amendments, and in-house voting procedures.

During an engaging Q&A session, Acting Secretary Syed Waqar Shah emphasized that, in line with the vision of Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Babar Saleem Swati, the assembly is now open to students from various educational institutions to help the younger generation appreciate the importance of parliamentary functions. He shared the historical significance of the venue, highlighting that the hall, known as the Old Jirga Hall, has hosted many pivotal meetings, including a visit by Quaid-e-Azam, the founder of Pakistan.



The study tour proved highly beneficial for the students, offering them a unique opportunity to witness the workings of the provincial government firsthand.

# Waste Water Treatment Plant Project, milestone for Multan people's: Khalid Raza Khan

Quaratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Managing Director Wasa Khalid Raza Khan has said that the Waste Water Treatment Plant project is a milestone for Multan People's.

The start of this mega project will not only end the environmental pollution, sewage water in the canals, but also our Future generations will also be protected from the risks of pollution of precious underground water due to sewage water. Should be concentrated as most of WASAs budget is spent on payment of electricity bills.

In order to reduce the cost of electricity bills, work on solar projects is



fast-tracked. And the launch of solar-ization schemes in other places will

bring a clear reduction in the cost of electricity bills.

He expressed these views during a meeting regarding the feasibility with the leader of Asian Development Bank's consultant team Mr. Frenz and other officers under the Punjab Intermediate Seats Infrastructure Investment Program.

Engineering Hafizullah Leghari and others were present during which MD Wasa Khalid Raza Khan discussed the measures to improve public service delivery including operation and maintenance, desalination and provision of other facilities to the citizens.



Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 5:12 am  
Zohr ..... 11:52 am  
Asr ..... 3:28 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:06 pm  
Isha ..... 6:32 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Smog meeting in DC office

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza has stated that all resources are being utilized to combat smog. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting organized by the Regional Transport Authority to address smog. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Aneel Saeed, Secretary Regional Transport Authority Zaheer Ahmed Khan, and other relevant officials were also present at the meeting. During the meeting, a detailed review of the measures taken to control smog through transportation was conducted, and it was decided that strict action would be taken against smoke-emitting vehicles, with heavy fines imposed. Additionally, an effective awareness campaign will be launched to inform the public about the harmful effects of smog. Regular meetings will be held with bus terminal managers and transporters, directing them to prevent smoke-emitting vehicles from operating on the roads.

# Romina Khurshid calls for global leadership in greening the future of young people

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that empowering young leaders from around the world to push with strong call for global climate action and spearhead meaningful environmental change is paramount to cultivate a new generation of climate-conscious leaders with passionate for creating sustainable solutions for the future, according to a press release issued from the climate change and environmental coordination ministry.

Addressing a high-level side 'Global Youth Leadership in Climate Action' held at the Pakistan Pavilion on Wednesday in Baku on the side-line of two-week's global climate summit (COP29), the PM's climate aide said, "While the adverse impacts of climate change become increasingly evident, young people themselves are at the forefront of the global demand for urgent climate action. However, connecting youth leaders with those demanding for climate justice and

global climate action including environmental experts and policymakers is vital to efforts for tackling pressing common climate challenges."

The event was organised jointly by the Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry and Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS).

She said further that engaging youth leadership is critically important for many reasons. Because, young people are key to driving sustainable change and addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change.

"Climate change will disproportionately affect future generations, particularly youth, who will have to live with its long-term impacts. Issues like rising sea levels, extreme weather, and biodiversity loss will shape their future, making it essential for young people to be actively involved in shaping climate policies and solutions today," PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted.

The PM's climate aide also said that youth actually bring fresh perspectives,



creativity, and innovative approaches to climate solutions. Their understanding of technology, social media, and modern communication tools allows them to mobilise communities, raise awareness, and drive grassroots movements effectively.

"Youth leadership's engagement in climate action actually embodies the principle of intergenerational justice—the idea that current generations should not deplete resources or degrade the

planet at the expense of future generations. By empowering youth, the global community ensures that their voices are heard in discussions that will affect their future well-being," Romina Khurshid Alam remarked.

## Traffic James

ISLAMABAD: Traffic jam on Express way in the Federal Capital.

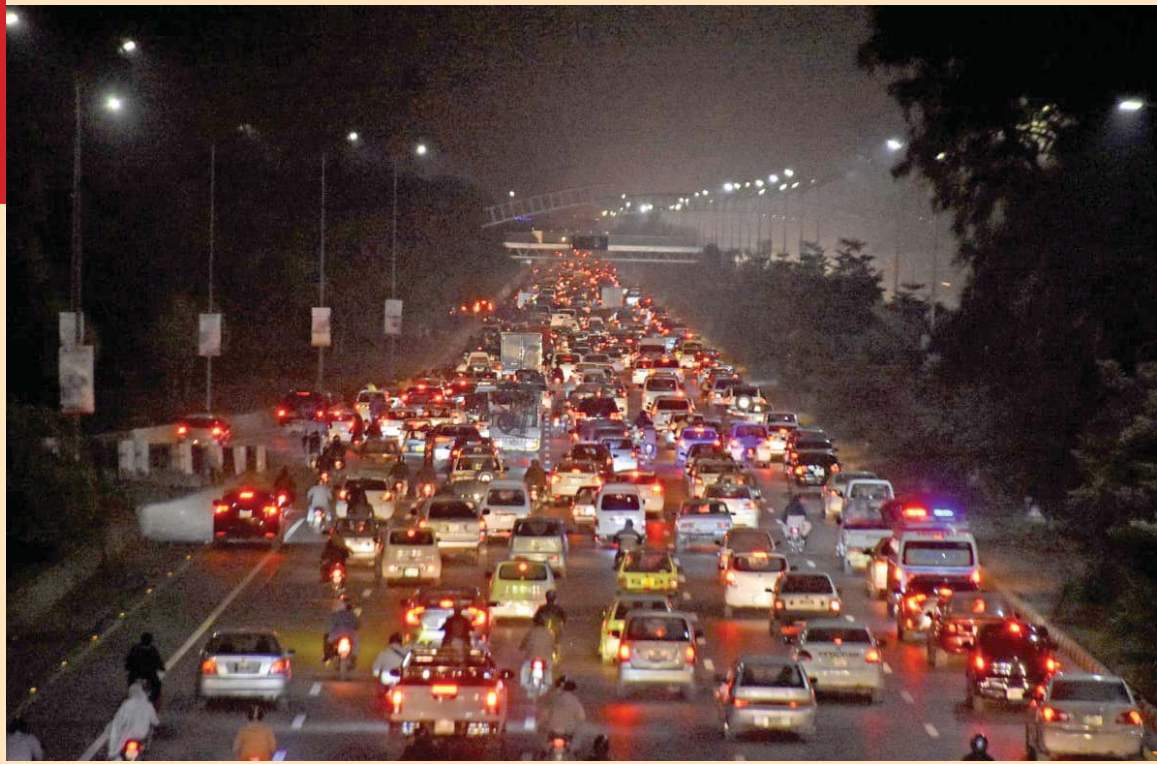


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Pakistanis, Turks are like one nation, Turkish Ambassador, Irfan Neziroglu

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, HE Irfan Neziroglu has said that Turkey's borders do not meet Pakistan, but Pakistanis and Turks are like one nation, their hearts beat together. He was addressing a one-day conference titled "Pakistan-Turkey Friendship: In the Context of Iqbal's Thought" held here last day at Allama Iqbal Open University to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the poet of the East.

The ambassador said on this occasion that Turks consider Pakistan as their second home and Pakistanis also consider Turkiye their second homeland as well. He said that Turkey is Pakistan and Pakistan is Turkey. The ambassador said that we provide scholarships to Pakistani students in Turkey and will try to increase the number of scholarships.

Vice-Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood while addressing the gathering thought of the strong, enduring friendship between the two countries, calling it



a global model. He encouraged students to embrace Allama Iqbal's philosophy of "Khudi" (selfhood) and focus on personal development to help lead the nation toward success.

The session featured prominent keynote speakers, including Professor Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Director General National Language Promotion Department, Professor Dr. Zafar Hussain Zafar, Turkish Embassy Educational Attaché Dr. Mehmet Tuyran, Dr. Khalil Tokar, Director of the Yunus Emre

Institute, and Dr. Syed Shiraz Ali Zaidi, In-charge of the Department of Iqbaliyat at the University.

Dr. Khalil Tokar, Director of the Yunus Emre Institute also spoke on this occasion. He emphasized the importance of passing down the deep friendship between Pakistan and Turkey to future generations and praised Iqbal's love for the Turkish people. Professor Dr. Zafar Hussain Zafar reflected on Iqbal's lifelong solidarity with Turkey, noting that Iqbal never missed an opportunity to express his affection.

## Over 100 Women Qualify Sewing and Stitching Course in Hyderabad

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

HYDERABAD: A fascinating graduation ceremony was held at the Aynabad Vocational Training Center, where certificates were awarded to 100 women who completed training in sewing and stitching clothes. The vocational training course of three months was initiated by Aga Khan Higher Secondary School Aynabad facilitating around 100 women belonging to them belonging to families in destitute. Chief organizer of the Project Qasim Pirji while addressing the gathering said that the project aimed at empowering women who could not get opportunities in the society owing to multiple reasons.

He further said that he had spent more than 50 years of his life serving people of Sindh adding that soon he would launch this project in other areas of the province to improve the quality of life of the poor masses. Shedding light on his past achievement he said that around 150 women belonging to the Bagri community of Ghafor Basti area of Hyderabad were trained in sewing and stitching garments in 2022 and 2023 and further mentioned that later sewing machines were distributed among them to help them utilize their skills and learning. Salma Fazal, a middle-aged woman sharing her views at the ceremony said that this training institute has given hope to several hopeless and jobless women of Hyderabad adding that she was one of those lucky women who had got a chance to change their lives.

Another lady Nasreen said that women empowerment in the society had been a challenge in this society but such initiatives would pave the way for women empowerment in future. In charge of the training center Ms Noorul Huda extended best wishes for graduating women and urged them to play their part in the progression of the society. She further said that women were no longer a suppressed class of this society. Towards the end best performance awards were given to the deserving trainees.

## Malik Abrar rejects decision to closure of educational institutions in the name of Smog

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Malik Abrar Hussain, the central president of the All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, rejected the decision to ban educational institutions in Punjab province in the name of Smog. Under a systematic conspiracy, the educational system in the country is being brought to the brink of destruction. Even in the intensity areas of the smog should not be closed, but the condition of the disqualified advisers of the Punjab government is that in the Rawalpindi division where the smog is not equal. There have also been orders to close the schools.

In a statement issued here yesterday, Dr Malik Ibrahr Hussain added that all the experiences in Pakistan are done on all unfortunately on education. The closure of educational institutions in Corona, holidays on the occasion of political rallies, holidays in the name of various days, cold heat holidays are being made, which is destroying the future and nonsense. This was the case and if it was not considered by concrete planning, then the literacy rate in the homeland could drop alarmingly in the next few years. The drop -out rate is increasing due to the holidays. More than two and a half million children are out of school. Dr Malik Abrar Hussain demanded the government to prevent the country from falling into the pit of educational backwardness.

# Ahsan Bakhtawari for Clean and Green Islamabad hails CDA for its efforts in Blue Area

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Clean and Green Islamabad, member of the Central Core Committee of UBG (FPCCI), and former president of ICCI, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, stated that Islamabad is the heart of Pakistan, and the Blue Area is the heart of Islamabad. In collaboration with the CDA, efforts will be made to make it clean. He emphasized that his mission, Clean and Green Islamabad, began in the Blue Area. He expressed these views yesterday while reviewing the cleanliness of the Blue Area alongside Director Sanitation & Market Development, CDA, Mashooq Ali Sheikh; President Blue Area, Raja Hasan Akhtar; and Group

Leader, Yusuf Rajput. While informing the Director CDA of the issues during the visit to Blue Area, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that in order to promote the commercial activities of Islamabad, it is necessary to improve the basic infrastructure and facilities so that the business community can continue their business activities smoothly. He said that parking problems are a major challenge, to solve which CDA has to make a comprehensive and rapid plan on regular basis, regular cleaning, proper disposal of garbage and beautification in important business center like blue area

Director of Sanitation and Market Development, Mashooq Ali Sheikh, stated that all issues in the Blue Area, including encroach-

ments, cleaning, tree branch trimming, and footpath repairs, will be addressed promptly. He announced that a comprehensive cleaning campaign will commence in the Blue Area within ten days.

Speaking on the occasion, President of the Blue Area Traders Association, Raja Hasan Akhtar, emphasized the importance of strengthening mutual cooperation between the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the business community.

Group leader Yusuf Rajput stated that traders will fully cooperate with the CDA. He emphasized that it is their responsibility to keep their shops clean and dispose of garbage properly. To achieve this, a regular campaign will



be launched. This initiative aims to enhance commercial activities in the area. ICCI Executive Members Waseem Chaudhry, Mohsen

Khalid, Tahmas Butt, Yusuf Balti, Khalid Chaudhry, Saif-u-r-Rehman, Zia Chaudhry, and others were also present on the occasion.

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# Social Media Monitoring for National Security

**S**ocial media monitoring has become an essential practice for governments, businesses, and organizations globally. By analyzing data from social media platforms, these entities can gain insights into public sentiment, track trends, and respond to issues in real time. For example, in the United States, both government agencies and private companies employ social media monitoring. Agencies like the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) monitor social media for potential threats, public safety issues, and national security concerns. The DHS utilizes tools to assess public sentiment during emergencies, such as natural disasters, allowing them to evaluate the effectiveness of their communication strategies and adjust responses as needed. Political campaigns also heavily rely on social media monitoring to gauge voter sentiment and tailor their messaging.

In China, authorities monitor popular platforms like Weibo and WeChat using both automated systems and human analysts to detect discussions that could lead to social unrest.

Recently, Indian media reported that the Indian Army has been granted authority to directly monitor social media content, enabling it to issue requests for the removal of certain posts. According to the report, the Indian Ministry of Defense has appointed a senior officer to oversee this process, empowered under Section 79 (3) (b) of the IT Act to request the removal of illegal content related to the army. Previously, the Indian Army relied on the Ministry of Electronics and IT for content removal or blocking. Although India has a poor

track record on human rights, and their military is likely to exploit this right to further violate human rights, especially in IIOK, this decision still demonstrates that no country permits others to use social media platforms against them. These examples also illustrate that no country permits the misuse of social media against its national interests or military.

Misinformation campaigns can significantly impact national security by fostering distrust in the military, which is viewed as the guardian of the nation. False information regarding military operations, troop movements, or security incidents can cause public panic, weakening citizens' resolve and diminishing support for military initiatives. Adversaries may exploit social media to circulate inaccurate reports about the Pakistan Army's effectiveness, suggesting failures in counterterrorism efforts or portraying the military as oppressive. Such narratives not only damage the army's reputation but can also embolden extremist groups by casting doubt on the state's ability to maintain security.

Misinformation can exacerbate divisions within society, especially in a diverse country like Pakistan. Social media is often used to promote sectarian or ethnic tensions, which can lead to violence and civil unrest. Propaganda targeting specific communities or highlighting perceived injustices can incite fear and hostility, undermining social cohesion and national unity. By

framing conflicts in polarized terms, these campaigns manipulate public sentiment, making it challenging for the government and military to cultivate a sense of shared identity and purpose among citizens.

Additionally, misinformation about Pakistan can have far-reaching implications for its international relations. False narratives can influence perceptions in foreign countries, potentially straining diplomatic ties. For instance, exaggerated claims of human rights violations or military aggressiveness can shape global discourse, leading to diplomatic isolation or unfavorable foreign policies. These narratives are often amplified by international actors or media outlets with particular agendas, making it challenging for Pakistan to effectively counter the harmful effects of misinformation.

Recognizing the threat posed by propaganda and misinformation, the Pakistani government and military have begun implementing strategies to address these narratives. Educating citizens about the risks of misinformation and promoting digital literacy can help individuals distinguish credible information from falsehoods. Government agencies are increasingly monitoring social media platforms to identify and counteract misleading narratives. This includes collaborating with tech companies to track and limit the spread of harmful content.

The Pakistan Army and government officials are also engaging more proac-

tively with the public on social media, providing accurate information and directly addressing concerns to build trust. Additionally, establishing firewalls for social media monitoring can offer several significant benefits for Pakistan. By monitoring social media activity, authorities can identify and mitigate potential threats before they escalate, ensuring a safer environment for citizens.

During emergencies, monitoring social media can provide real-time insights into public sentiment and behavior, facilitating more effective communication and response strategies. Data collected from social media monitoring can inform government policies, helping to address public concerns and improve governance. Firewalls can protect vulnerable populations, especially young users, from harmful content and cyberbullying, promoting a healthier online environment. The implementation of monitoring systems can be combined with public awareness campaigns to enhance digital literacy and empower citizens to recognize and combat misinformation.

There is an urgent need to establish a robust mechanism to monitor and control the influx of misinformation and false propaganda targeting Pakistan and the Pakistan Army on social media, similar to measures in place in many other countries. This issue has become a significant threat to our national security, and spreading hatred against our homeland and our brave military should not be tolerated. Strict actions must be taken against those who promote such divisive narratives for their own interests or serve the agendas of our adversaries, aiming to weaken the country.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Senate Committee berates railways over

**T**he Senate Standing Committee on Railways expressed dissatisfaction towards the Ministry of Railways on Wednesday for failing to provide requested information on theft, embezzlement, and accidents within the railways, marking the third consecutive time this has occurred.

While chairing the meeting, Senator Jam Saifullah Khan criticized the ministry's intent to withhold information and instructed them to provide all relevant details in the next meeting.

The committee discussed the issue raised by Senator Shahadat Awan concerning cases of theft, embezzlement, and accidents within the railways over the past five years, along with the status of the audit report and the ongoing FIA investigation.

The mover Senator Shahadat Awan expressed dissatisfaction with the ministry's failure to provide the requested details for the third consecutive time, noting significant discrepancies between the information given in the last and current meetings and accusing the ministry of reluctance to share necessary details.

Senator Shahadat Awan highlighted the encroachment of thousands of acres of railway land by private individuals, leading to significant losses from theft and embezzlement.

He argued that the railways could be profitable if the ministry took strong action against these issues.

The Committee recommended appointing a Minister for Railways to address operational losses and instructed that the heads of NAB and FIA be invited to the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the closure of the Loop Section railway line, which once connected the districts of Umerkot, Tharparkar, and Mirpurkhas, raised by Senator Poonjo Bheel.

Officials explained that the 183 km line, running from Jamrao to Pitharo (meter gauge) and built during the British era, was previously served by 10 steam-powered trains. However, it was closed due to its outdated design and commercial non-viability.

Senator Poonjo Bheel suggested that the section could be made commercially viable and benefit thousands if the government took the necessary steps. The Committee recommended that the next meeting be held in Karachi.

In attendance were Senators Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee, Shahadat Awan, Dost Ali Jessar, Poonjo Bheel, Liaqat Khan Tarakai, Secretary for Ministry of Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah, Inspector General Railway Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan and other senior officials from relevant Departments.



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

## Climate Change, the Threat to Agriculture, and Government's Inaction!

**C**limate change has become a global crisis affecting every country, region, and community. These shifts are not only rapidly altering weather patterns but are also impacting agriculture and the economy. The Asia-Pacific Climate Report sheds light on a troubling scenario for Pakistan. According to the report, climate change could lead to a 21% reduction in Pakistan's GDP, a significant blow to the economy, especially when the nation is already grappling with inflation and unemployment.

### Decrease in Rice and Wheat Production

Rice and wheat are essential crops in Pakistan, forming the staple food for the population. A decline in their production could lead to food shortages. Issues like water scarcity, rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and natural disasters are disrupting farming practices, leading to unpredictable crop yields. These challenges are particularly hard on farmers, especially small-scale farmers with limited resources.



Analysis

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

**Impact on Other Crops**  
 In addition to rice and wheat, other crops like sugarcane, vegetables, fruits, and various grains are also affected by climate change. In certain regions, unusual rainfall, storms, and extreme heat have been damaging crops, increasing the likelihood of further agricultural losses.

**Government's Silence and Neglect**  
 Despite global reports indicating that the effects of climate change in Pakistan could last until 2070, the government's lack of action is alarming. International organizations have repeatedly warned that without effective policies to combat climate change, Pakistan may face a severe food and economic crisis.

The government needs to update agricultural policies to address these urgent needs, focusing on sustainable strategies and plans to mitigate the impact of climate change. To protect the agricultural sector, improved irrigation practices, efficient water distribution, and modern technology adoption are essential.

### The Need for Agricultural Policy Reforms

To protect agriculture from the adverse effects of climate change, it is crucial to overhaul agricultural policies. The government must implement new technologies and innovative practices to make agriculture more resilient to climate change. Failure to act now would place enormous pressure on the economy and likely worsen food shortages.

**Conclusion**  
 The impact of climate change in Pakistan is not temporary but will persist for decades. If solutions are not implemented now, future generations will face even greater risks. The government must not only take these reports seriously but also introduce practical reforms in agriculture and climate policies. By improving irrigation systems and adopting advanced agricultural technologies, the nation can safeguard itself from potential food shortages and economic crises in the years to come.

## Reshaping Pakistan's Foreign Policy

**P**akistan's foreign policy has faced several challenges that have led to its limited success on the global stage. While many factors contribute to this, one often overlooked reason is the pervasive influence of emotion-driven policies, particularly those shaped by anti-India sentiments. Since its inception, Pakistan's foreign policy has largely been built on countering India. This adversarial stance has resulted in a reactive, rather than proactive, approach to international relations, preventing Pakistan from developing a well-rounded, principle-based foreign policy.

This India-centric focus has also shaped Pakistan's perspectives on several global issues, most notably the Kashmir issue. Pakistan has consistently aligned itself with positions that resonate emotionally with its population but may not always align with its long-term strategic interests. For instance, Pakistan's unwavering support for Palestine, while rooted in solidarity with Muslim-majority nations, has limited its ability to explore potential diplomatic or economic ties with large parts of the world, including some key players in technology and defense. Similarly, Pakistan's involvement in Afghanistan, often driven by a desire to sympathize with Muslim communities, has embroiled it in a complex web of regional conflicts and internal security issues. In both cases, emotional affiliations and security concerns have overshadowed pragmatic assessments of national interest.

Another consequence of this emotion-

ally charged approach is Pakistan's strained relationship with the United States. Although the U. S. and Pakistan share deep trade connections and a long history of strategic cooperation, many Pakistanis view the U. S. with skepticism and even hostility, largely due to the U. S.'s perceived support for India and its involvement in Middle Eastern conflicts. This public sentiment creates a challenging environment for the state, as hostility toward the U. S. limits Pakistan's ability to fully leverage this partnership for economic and strategic gains. Thus, Pakistan finds itself in a paradox: while it benefits from trade and aid from the U. S., it struggles to foster a positive perception of the relationship among its own population.

This dynamic underscores a deeper issue: the hijacking of foreign policy by emotional rather than pragmatic considerations. Public sentiments, shaped by historical grievances and ideological positions, often exert undue influence on policy decisions, preventing a more rational and future-focused approach. As a result, the government's ability to pursue policies that could enhance national prosperity and international standing is significantly hampered.

Hostile behaviors among the populace towards certain countries—driven by long-standing prejudices—create an environment where politicians may feel pressured to cater to popular sentiment rather than pursue policies based on objective analysis and mutual benefit. For Pakistan to improve its foreign policy, it must break free from the confines of these emotional premises. In today's

postmodern, globalized world, where economic interdependence and technological advancement define state relationships, foreign policy must be rooted in adaptability, pragmatism, and a clear understanding of national interests. This shift will require not only a structural reorientation in Pakistan's foreign policy apparatus but also a cultural shift within society. Public opinion should be shaped to understand that alliances and partnerships with nations like the U. S. or even regional rivals can bring mutual benefit without compromising national integrity or identity.

Pakistan's foreign policy establishment would benefit from a strategy that de-emphasizes ideological alignments and instead prioritizes economic growth, technological partnerships, and regional cooperation. By re-evaluating its approach toward countries such as India, the U. S., and others, Pakistan could open new avenues for trade, innovation, and strategic collaboration. This recalibration of foreign policy would allow Pakistan to engage in global issues based on its interests rather than inherited biases.

In conclusion, Pakistan's foreign policy needs a comprehensive overhaul that prioritizes pragmatism over sentiment. By fostering a more nuanced understanding of international relations and aligning its strategies with the requirements of the postmodern era, Pakistan can enhance its acceptance on the global stage and improve its standing in international forums. Only with a disciplined, forward-looking approach can Pakistan ensure a prosperous and stable future in a world that is rapidly changing.

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# Xi embarks on Latin America trip to champion cooperation, multilateralism

Xinhua

**BELJING:** Chinese President Xi Jinping is embarking on a journey Wednesday to Latin America, where he will attend the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, capital of Peru, and the 19th G20 Summit in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro, and pay state visits to the two countries.

As he travels halfway around the globe, the world is witnessing a host of unprecedented and intertwined chaos and challenges: lackluster economic growth, rising trade protectionism and protracted regional conflicts. These pressing crises are demanding global unity, resolve and, most of all, effective actions.

Xi's visit is expected to boost China's efforts with Latin American nations to build a community with a shared future, bolster cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, and renew the world's commitment to improving global governance for an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic



globalization.

## NEW MILESTONES

Over the past three decades, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, has driven rapid development in the region, turning it into a powerhouse for world economic growth, an anchor of stability for global development, and a pacesetter for international cooperation.

As President Xi has put it, since the establishment of the economic leaders' regular meeting mechanism, APEC

has always stood at the global forefront of openness and development. It has played a robust role in promoting Asia-Pacific trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, economic growth and technological progress, and the flow of goods and people. It has helped create the "Asia-Pacific miracle" that has staggered the world.

As the highest-level, broadest, and most influential economic cooperation mechanism in the Asia-Pacific region, APEC embodies the deep aspirations

of partners to build a better future together.

The Asia-Pacific region has great economic potential thanks to its rich natural resources, booming tourism, dynamic markets with strong purchasing power, and fast-growing digital economy. In October, the International Monetary Fund predicted that the world economy will grow at 3.2 percent in 2024 and the emerging and developing Asia is expected to grow at 5.3 percent this year.

As Xi has pointed out, development in the Asia-Pacific region has been achieved not through provoking antagonism and confrontation, pursuing a beggar-thy-neighbor policy, or erecting high fences around a small yard, but by staying open and inclusive and drawing on each other's strengths.

Amid growing protectionism and calls for decoupling, APEC's role as a multilateral forum dedicated to economic cooperation is more crucial than ever in fostering dialogue, said Hans Hendrischke, a professor at the University of Sydney Business School.

# U. S. Ambassador discusses English Access Program with Faisalabad students



Abdul Majid

**FAISALABAD:** American Ambassador Donald Bloom and American Consul General in Lahore Kristen K. Hawkins met with the students under the English Access Scholarship Program supported by the United States of Agriculture University Faisalabad and University of Education Faisalabad Campus and discussed this

program. Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University Faisalabad Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan and other faculty members were also present in the session held at the Main Library of Agriculture University Faisalabad.

The students shared their experiences regarding the skills acquired under the Axis program and highlighted communication, leadership and other skills. American Ambassador

Donald Bloom appreciated the efforts of the teachers and administration of both universities.

He said that this program will equip the students with the skills to become community leaders so that they can play their full role in the future and development of Pakistan. It should be remembered that since 2004, 27,000 students have benefited under the Access Program. Prof.

Dr. Mohammad Sarwar Khan said that the Access program has a unique status in which along with communication skills, a plan has been devised to become a community leader. He said that the University of Agriculture is taking all possible steps to improve the God-given abilities of the students so that they can cope with prosperity and development while ensuring a bright future.

# First Direct Cargo Vessel from Karachi arrives in Chittagong

Spokesman Report

**DHAKA:** A direct cargo vessel from Karachi, Pakistan, has reached the port of Chittagong, Bangladesh, marking the first-ever direct maritime link between the two countries.

The direct route promises to significantly streamline supply chains and reduce transit time. Carrying a diverse array of goods with an estimated 2,300 TEUs of capacity, the vessel's voyage highlights growing demand for direct trade between the two coun-

tries.

Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Syed Ahmed Maroof termed the direct shipping route a major step forward in enhancing bilateral trade and business ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh besides boosting a more integrated and trade network across the region. He said that the initiative will not only accelerate the existing trade flows but also promote new opportunities for businesses on both sides, from small traders to large exporters.



# The Epic of Mughal Saga: Aurangzeb the Shrewd

Aurangzeb was an unlikely Mughal hero. He did not have the dynamism, charisma and verve that characterized his ancestors, but was a dour, joyless drudge. This however was the persona that he deliberately cultivated. He had in his early youth loved music, enjoyed hunting, and was susceptible to famine charms, but he burnt out all those vulnerabilities with his searing, inexorable will, so as to focus his whole life and his entire being on the business of winning the throne and ruling. Utterly implacable and cold-blooded in his pursuit of power, his life was a triumph of mind over body and will over nature.

Aurangzeb believed that he had a divine dispensation to rule, not for his own enjoyment of power, but for the restoration of the true kingdom of Islam in India. Characteristically, when

his sister Jahanara Begum pleaded with him to spare the life of his brother Dara, he said: "Dara is an infidel and a friend of Hindu. He must be extirpated for the sake of the true faith and the peace of the realm." He had no feeling for his father either, and in all the years he kept him confined in the Agra fort, he never once visited him, not even during his final illness, and did not attend his funeral. He had no weakness of sentiment or love.

Yet he was a man of great humility, soft-spoken, mild-mannered and of equable temper. He was particularly kind in his treatment of the lowly. He led an ascetic life, was very simple in dress, wore hardly any jewels, and met his personal expenses by making caps.

Contemporary Muslims regarded him as a saint, however it was a façade.

Under Aurangzeb, the very nature of the Mughal Empire changed. Shah Jahan had tentatively begun the conversion of the secular empire into a theocratic Muslim state; this process was now completed by Aurangzeb. He reimposed jizya, 115 years after Akbar abolished it, and imposed various disabilities on non-Muslims as required by orthodox Islamic tradition. However, in all this he acted strictly within the law, doing what was permitted and obligatory for a Muslim ruler but nothing beyond that, and he did on occasion pull up his officers who, in their theocratic fervor, unlawfully persecuted Hindus.

One phase of Aurangzeb's life ended in 1681 when, after reigning from north India for 23 years, at the age of 63 he crossed into the peninsula, to begin the final ascent to the summit of the Mughal Empire. He would spend the next 23 years there in ceaseless wars, conquering new territories, subduing rebels, and capturing forts. At the end of the titanic effort, a vast sweep of land from Kabul across virtually the entire Indian subcontinent lay under his sway. There were no more lands to conquer, no more forts to take or armies to defeat. Aurangzeb had become the master of the largest empire that India has ever known.

Mughal imperial destiny had been fulfilled; it seemed. Yet, just when Aurangzeb appeared absolutely triumphant, everything was in fact utterly lost. At the moment of his supreme triumph, Aurangzeb found to his horror that the very ground on which



he stood was crumbling. The wicked Marathas were the nemesis, whose Emperor thought that he had ponded them into the earth; and indeed, he had, but they rose again. Meanwhile, the multitiered Mughal administrative edifice began to crack. Rebels and bandits roamed the land freely and as Aurangzeb's end neared, his sons, even the grandsons, squared off to fight for the succession. Since, the very foundation of the Empire has been shaken by him. He willfully destroyed the old family relation, cut down the loyal Rajputs, divided the people in the name of religion, who's

after effects still lingering in Hindi, in fact Aurangzeb was the one who first divided us, and I believe he is responsible for the pillaging of Hindustan by lovely British.

Aurangzeb began his solo trek northwards to Delhi. But on the way, while camping at Ahmednagar in central Maharashtra, he fell ill with a high fever. And on 3rd March 1707, a Friday, in the early morning while he was saying his prayers, Aurangzeb, 89 years old and Emperor for 49 years, slid into death.

Aurangzeb had once said: After me, chaos! And that was how it would be. The prophecy on his birth was indeed factual.

I would be ending this Epic of Mughal Saga right here, since my pen stopped writing, as my eyes weep and my heart bleeds by recalling the events that occurred on my beloved Emperors. (Concluded)

## Ambassador Dr. Jemal receives Global Ambassador Award



Spokesman Report

**ISLAMABAD:** H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, received the Global Ambassador Award for his outstanding and extraordinary diplomatic activities in Pakistan, Islamabad on Wednesday.

The Diplomatic Insight, a global public diplomacy institution in Pakistan, honored the Ambassador with the award for his exemplary efforts and contributions to bringing the two big nations closer together at bilateral, regional and multilateral forums within a short period of time.

The 6th Global Ambassador Awards Ceremony 2024 took place here in Islamabad in the presence of Ambassadors, diplomatic corps, Parliamentarians, government officials, business community, academia, media and civil society.

H. E. Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, graced the occasion as a chief guest.

H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is a seasoned diplomat. His groundbreaking efforts for the Ethiopian Missions in Australia, Bahrain and Pakistan are highly acknowledged at official level.

H. E. Ambassador Jemal Beker has already received the Best Ambassador Award from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a Peace Award from the National Peace and Justice Council of Pakistan and COMSTECH Award for strengthening fraternity between the two nations.

The launch of the Ethiopian Airlines in Karachi, mobilization of two 80-member trade delegations to Ethiopia and one 50-member to Pakistan, and signing of Memoranda of Understanding between the two countries in the areas of commerce, trade, health, science and technology are the major initiatives taken by the Ambassador within the two years of the opening of the Ethiopian Mission in Pakistan.

The launch of the Green Legacy Initiative, an afforestation campaign of H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, for food security, in Pakistan is another shining feather in his cap.

Above all, H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker brought the two heirs of civilizations together and enhanced government to government, people to people, business to business relations as well as across the societal segments to advance mutual and collective interests and cooperation. Indeed, this award will add a new chapter and elevate the already flourishing Ethio-Pakistan relations.

## Farewell Visit of Ambassador of Pakistan to Niger, to Muslims Hands School



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

**NIAMEY:** His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Niger, made a farewell visit today to Muslims Hands School, where he was warmly welcomed by the students, the principal, teachers, and the NGO staff.

The principal expressed deep gratitude for the consistent support provided by the Embassy of Pakistan and praised the close collaboration established under His Excellency Dr. Sirohey's tenure. In response, the Ambassador reassured the students and the Muslims Hands community of his commitment to continue supporting their educational initiatives through the strong ties he maintains with the organization, even after his departure from Niger.

## Trump, Biden meet at White House, promise smooth power transfer

**WASHINGTON:** President-elect Donald Trump returned to the White House on Wednesday for the first time since winning last week's election and sat down for talks about the looming transfer of power with longtime political rival President Joe Biden.

"Welcome, welcome back," Biden told Trump at the start of their meeting in front of a roaring fireplace.

He promised Trump a smooth transition of power and to do all he could "to make sure you're accommodated."

"It'll be as smooth as it can get," Trump said.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
93,355.42	93,224.56
Day's High	Day's Low
93,803.58	92,943.07
Index Value	Change
21,903,307,597	+130.86
Percentage	Time
-0.14%	13 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,030.33	+4.56
Percentage	Time
+0.057%	13 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
44,091.02	+180.04
Percentage	Time
+0.41%	13 Nov, 12:21 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,721.66	-654.43
Percentage	Time
-1.66%	13 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181.25	183.50
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.16	202.56
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	292.85	295.60
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	312.30	315.10
Thai Bhat	7.93	8.08
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	351.45	354.95
US Dollar	277.90	279.40

**CIRCLE Women brings Aurora Tech Award to Pakistan for the 2nd time**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: CIRCLE Women Association organized the Aurora Tech x CIRCLE Women informational event in Pakistan, with NIC Islamabad as Co-Host. Aurora Tech Award, initiated by inDrive, is a global initiative for women-led startups in innovation and technology. Aurora Tech Award highly supports and invests in Pakistan, a country with less than 1% women in tech entrepreneurship.

The event brought together 30 talented women entrepreneurs to celebrate their achievements and inspire future generations. A highlight of the event was the "Women of the Future" segment, which showcased 10 promising startups, including Agrigel, a second-place winner from the She Loves Tech National Finale.

CIRCLE Talks titled "Women's Access to Capital: Investing in Women" featured industry experts, Kiran Afzal, Senior Private Sector Specialist-World Bank, Baber Mushtaq, Startup Growth Manager-NIC Islamabad and Dr Irum Naveed, Life Coach, who delved into the challenges and opportunities facing women entrepreneurs in Pakistan. Moderated by Sadaf Abid, Founder and CEO of CIRCLE Women, the panel provided valuable insights and strategies for expanding the growth of women-led startups.

Sadaf Abid emphasized the importance of such initiatives in a country where women's representation in entrepreneurship is limited. "By hosting the Aurora Tech Award, we aim to empower women and create a more inclusive tech ecosystem in Pakistan," she said.

With a pool of partners-Meezan Bank and Mobilink WIN Incubator as Community Partners-and NICAT, NIC Karachi, Daftarkhwan and PASHA as outreach partners, CIRCLE Women pulled off a successful event, with the primary goal of this event being to increase awareness of the Aurora Tech Award and encourage more women entrepreneurs to apply and benefit from this global platform.

Through this event, CIRCLE Women continues to champion women's empowerment and foster innovation in Pakistan.

Chief guests: The retired director from the World Bank Therese Couture is coming along with a Canadian High Commission representative.

**Japan provides 18.5 million USD for Flood Management Enhancement in the Indus Basin**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has agreed to provide new grant assistance worth 2.831 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent to around 18.5 million USD/ around 5.119 billion PKR) for Flood Management Enhancement in the Indus Basin.

On 13 November 2024, a signing ceremony for the assistance was held at the Ministry of

Economic Affairs in Islamabad. H. E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan, Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, and other officials from both countries attended this ceremony.

In 2022, Pakistan experienced the most devastating flood in the country's history. In response, the Government of Japan has been dedicated to providing necessary assistance to support Pakistan's recovery and reconstruction efforts.



This assistance will fund the construction of three embankments on the Indus River in Haripur district, KP, and install water and rain meters at 45 sites along the river in KP and Punjab.

The three embankments will protect local communities from potential human and economic losses due to flooding and data from the water and rain meters, managed by FFC and WAPDA, will be shared with various agencies

to help predict and manage potential possible floods. This project incorporates the concept of "Build Back Better", which the Government of Pakistan strongly emphasizes.

In the signing ceremony, H. E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro stated, "I hope this project will provide reassurance to the people of Pakistan regarding possible future floods. Japan remains committed to providing assistance that will directly benefit vulnerable people in Pakistan."

**Meeting**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan meets with the World Bank team to discuss strategies for boosting Pakistan's export competitiveness and strengthening trade policies, emphasizing a Whole-of-Government approach for export-led growth.



Photo: PID



Hasham Khawaja, Vedio maker MK TV is receiving the shield from Iqbal Saif and M. Sajid Sales Manager of Aarosh Developer during the real estate Exhibition held at Lahore.

**Flat electricity tariff across industries demanded**

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Ms. Qurat Ul Ain, Acting President, FPCCI, has demanded that - while the apex body appreciates the announcement of winter package - the relief in the electricity tariff announced under it should be made available to small & medium enterprises (SMEs) as well through withdrawing the condition of 100,000 units consumption in the corresponding period of last year; and, resultantly, only applying the Rs. 26 / kWh tariff to the incremental units consumed after that threshold.

Ms. Qurat Ul Ain, Acting President, FPCCI, explained that SMEs and new industries in particular cannot fulfill this conditionality; therefore, they will remain disadvantaged as compared to the larger industrial units. Additionally,

the government will also not get full results of its winter package in industrial production and exports as the limitations in the applicability of the winter package will create impediments in fully materializing the impetus offered for trade and industry.

Mr. Abdul Mohamin Khan, VP & Regional Chairman, FPCCI, raised the issue of losses booked by electricity distribution companies (DISCOs) year after year; which are expected to be approximately Rs.

Mr. Aman Paracha, VP FPCCI, stressed that the government should not entertain K-electric's efforts to get an increase in electricity tariff through their requisition in NEPRA as the business, industry and trade community of Karachi is already under a lot of stress due to rising costs and shrinking profitability.

**Meezan Bank and CashNow join hands**

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, has entered into a strategic alliance with CashNow, Pakistan's pioneering supply chain finance platform, to revolutionize Shariah-compliant supply chain finance. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed at Meezan Bank's Head Office in the presence of senior management from both organizations.

This partnership, the first of its kind in Pakistan, enables CashNow—a cutting-edge fintech platform—to power a fully integrated digital Islamic supply chain finance solution for suppliers, developed in collaboration with Meezan Bank. Through this initiative, Meezan Bank's customers will gain access to digitally streamlined Shariah-compliant financing.

Under the terms of this MoU, Meezan Bank and CashNow have co-developed a digital Islamic product for finished goods financing. The CashNow platform integrates with Meezan's core banking system to fully digitize the transaction process, offering the Bank's customers rapid access to Shariah-approved working capital. "Meezan Bank is committed to fostering



growth across all business sectors, with a strong focus on supporting SMEs & Supply Chain finance," said Syed Tanveer Hussain-Group Executive Corporate, Commercial & Investment Banking, Meezan Bank. "We are honored that Meezan Bank has entrusted CashNow with this pivotal Supply Chain Finance initiative," remarked Saeed

Iqbal-Director/Co-Founder, CashNow.

This collaboration is a significant step towards advancing financial and operational excellence in supply chain management. Through this initiative, new standards in supply chain finance are being set, driving innovation, and supporting the country's economic growth.

**Mian Akram Farid Emphasizes OSH Compliance at Tripartite National Labor Conference**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Mian Akram Farid Emphasizes OSH Compliance at Tripartite National Labor Conference

Islamabad, Pakistan - A significant two-day Tripartite National Labor Conference, co-hosted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Geneva and Pakistan's Federal Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, concluded with a strong emphasis on occupational safety and health (OSH) standards. The conference brought together government officials, employers, and labor unions from across Pakistan to discuss and address critical labor issues.

On the final day of the conference, Mian Akram Farid, Chairman of the Central Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP), former Senior Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of



Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), and former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI), delivered a keynote address. Focusing on the

implementation of international labor laws, particularly occupational safety and health (OSH) standards, in Pakistan's industries, he noted that according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, there are approximately 445,500 large and small factories in Pakistan contributing 64% to the country's GDP.

He highlighted the significant progress made in recent years in aligning Pakistan's industries with ILO occupational safety and health (OSH) labor standards. However, he also pointed out instances where workers have been negligent in using safety equipment provided by employers, leading to accidents. To address this, he emphasized the importance of regular safety training for workers.

Recognizing the challenging working conditions, especially in industries like steel mills, he commended the workers who operate in extreme temperatures.

**Spotify continues user and Premium subscriber growth in Q3**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Last night, Spotify released its Q3 2024 earnings, continuing to showcase its strong performance as the most popular audio streaming subscription service.

Daniel Ek, Spotify Founder & CEO, said, "We've never been in a stronger position, thanks to the outstanding execution by our team. I'm incredibly proud of the way we've delivered and the progress we've made. We're where we set out to be—if not a little further—and on a steady path toward achieving our long-term goals. This relentless pursuit of innovation and commitment to growth sets us up to deliver the most valuable user experience in the industry, while reinforcing the core strengths that make Spotify unique. I am very excited about what lies ahead for us."

Review the full earnings release here. Watch here Spotify's CEO, Daniel Ek, and their new CFO, Christian Luiga, share their takes on the performance this quarter.

**Meta supports Pakistani creators in Karachi to inspire a new wave of content**

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Meta connected with content creators in Karachi through various engagements starting with an event on November 6 that brought together around 40 creators from across Pakistan. Throughout the week, Meta worked with popular creators like Food Fusion, Samosiii and Osamah Nasir and collaborated on content creation.

Revie Sylviana, Meta's Director of Global Partnerships for South and Southeast Asia, said, "We're thrilled to see Pakistani creators using Meta platforms in innovative ways to build and grow their communities. While we don't have a local representative specifically dedicated to supporting accounts of content creators in Pakistan, our global teams are committed to providing the necessary tools and resources to help creators in Pakistan succeed."

# Nooh Dastgir Butt lauds his father for Commonwealth success

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Commonwealth Powerlifting champion Nooh Dastgir Butt along with his father Dastgir Butt called on Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry at the National Hockey Stadium here on Wednesday.

Talking on this occasion, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that Nooh Dastgir Butt has performed great feat for the country by winning 7 gold medals in the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship. "Nooh Dastgir Butt is the pride of Pakistan and the whole nation is proud of his great achievement".

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that Sports Board Punjab (SBP) will provide all possible support to Nooh Dastgir Butt for the preparations of his future international sports competitions. "We are upbeat that Nooh Dastgir Butt will clinch the gold medal in the upcoming Asian Powerlifting Championship to be held next month".

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry further said that Sports Board Punjab will continue to encourage and support



national sports heroes. "Sports Board Punjab is going to construct a modern sports arena for traditional games in Gujranwala".

Commonwealth powerlifting champion Nooh Dastgir Butt, who has won 40 medals in different international

competitions, on this occasion, has expressed his determination to break the existing Asia record in the Asian Powerlifting Championship.

Revealing his future events, Nooh Dastgir Butt said that he will also participate in World Championship in

Germany and China next year. He also expressed his gratitude to Provincial Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar and DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry for extending him valuable encouragement and cooperation

# Shahzaib's unbeaten century leads Pakistan to 10-wicket win

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: An unbroken 193-run partnership for the opening wicket between Shahzaib Khan and Usman Khan led Pakistan to a comprehensive 10-wicket win over UAE in the opening match of the U19 tri-series here at the ICC Academy in Dubai on Wednesday.

According to details, chasing 192 runs to win, both Pakistan opening batters Shahzaib and Usman played shots to all parts of the ground and achieved the target in the 43rd over. Left-handed batter Shahzaib, scored an unbeaten 109 off 133 balls, which included 10 fours and two sixes. His fellow southpaw, Usman returned undefeated on a 122-ball 77, hitting three fours.

Earlier, after being put into bat, UAE



were bowled out for 191 in the 50th over with Uddish Suri contributing 40 runs off 63 balls, which included two fours.

For Pakistan, Abdul Subhan was the most successful bowler, taking two wickets for 42 runs in 10 overs, while Ali Raza, Hassan Khan and Usman Khan snapped a wicket each. Five batters from the hosts were run-out. Shahzaib Khan was declared Player of the match.

Pakistan will now face Afghanistan in the second match of the tournament scheduled on Friday, 15 November. The first ball of the match will be bowled at 10:30am PKT. Scores in brief: UAE U19 191 all out, 49.3 overs (Uddish Suri 40, Madhav Manoj 34, Yayin Rai 33; Abdul Subhan 2-42). Pakistan U19 193-0, 42.3 overs (Shahzaib Khan 109 not out, Usman Khan 77 not out).

# Champions Trophy: Mohammad Rizwan invites Indian cricketers to Pakistan

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan extended a heartfelt invitation to India men's cricket team for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

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

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

However, on Sunday, sources confirmed that the International Cricket Council (ICC) informed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that the Indian government is not ready to allow their cricket team to travel to Pakistan.

Mohammad Rizwan, during the media talk at The Gabba in Brisbane ahead of the first T20I against Australia, was asked



about the ongoing controversy regarding India's visit to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy.

The 32-year-old extended an invitation to Indian players while also expressing hope that a decision would be taken on

the matter soon. "KL Rahul, Suryakumar Yadav [and other players] are all welcome. All the players who will come, we will welcome them," said Rizwan.

"[But] this is not our decision; this is

PCB's decision. Hopefully, they will all discuss and take the right call. But we are hopeful that if the Indian players will come, we will welcome them," he added.

India has not travelled to Pakistan since the Asia Cup in 2008 due to the long-standing political tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

In contrast, Pakistan has made four trips to India in the last 16 years. Their most recent visit was last year for the ICC Men's World Cup 2023.

Last month, in an interview, Mohammad Rizwan acknowledged the hospitality Pakistan players received, during the World Cup 2023, and asserted that the Indian players would be treated similarly.

"Pakistan fans love Indian players; we received love in India as well (during the 2023 World Cup). We also want India to come to Pakistan and play here. I'm unsure if they're coming for the Champions Trophy, but one thing is certain – if they come, they'll receive an awesome welcome here," stated Rizwan.

## Women's Nations Cup: 3rd edition to be played in Chile

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is glad to announce that the third edition of the FIH Hockey Nations Cup (women) will be played in Chile from 23 February to 2 March 2025.

The participating teams include Canada, Chile, Ireland, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Scotland and USA, said a press release.

"For us it is a tremendous pride to be able to host a FIH event again. We will be the hosts of a Nations Cup! This is a giant achievement not only for hockey, but for Chilean sport in general. We are waiting for all the players from several of the best teams in the world with open arms for action", said Andres de Witt, President of the Chilean Field Hockey Federation and the Local Organizing Committee of the event.

Commenting on the announcement, FIH President Tayyab Ikram said, "It's with great pleasure that we're returning to Chile for another major FIH event. The South American country is a rising hockey nation and has always put together fantastic FIH hockey tournaments. I would like to thank Chile for hosting us once again and I wish all athletes to experience a great FIH Hockey Nations Cup in Chile."

The FIH Hockey Nations Cup was launched in 2021 with the aim of offering a top-level competition to the best-ranked teams not participating in the FIH Hockey Pro League and giving the winning team the option to be promoted to the FIH Hockey Pro League the next season, precisely.

The first two editions of the FIH Hockey Nations Cup (women) were played in Spain (in Valencia in 2022 and in Terrassa in 2024). India won the inaugural edition, whilst Spain won the second one.

## ICC launches refreshed visual identity for men's, women's Champions Trophy

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ICC has launched a brand-new visual identity for both the men's and women's Champions Trophy with an entertaining and distinctive edge.

The unmissable Champions Trophy sees the top teams in the world come together for a thrilling two-week competition where every match counts.

The men's event will return for the first time since 2017, whilst there is a brand-new women's version in the T20 format, as the world's best players compete for the Champions Trophy white jackets, said a press release.

A battle for the iconic white jackets will occur every two years as an alternating men's ODI event featuring the top eight teams and then entering a new era, the top six women's T20 teams will compete in an intense and all-out showdown where we will witness each team write history.

The newly created visual identity is a digital-first vibrant expression, deliberately challenging the status quo, with an unconventional typographic logo which sets the tone for the look – bold and loud, confident and fun.

It has been designed to be agile, distinctive, and expressive, it's inspired by the language of cricket; from the unique and integral words that describe the game, to the shouts when a wicket falls, to the name of each superstar that appears on the back of their kit. Both the verbal and written words are an integral part of the sport and that is celebrated through the brand.

ICC Chief Commercial Officer, Anurag Dahiya said, "The return of the men's ICC Champions Trophy with a brand-new women's event has provided us with a great opportunity for a refreshed vibrant and fun visual identity to represent the events over the next few years.

"The two-weeks of thrilling competition the event is renowned for is reflected in the bold and loud edge to the brand. The new elements are accompanied by the distinctive white jackets which nod to the history of the Champions Trophy and its unique, global appeal."



## U-19 Women's Asia Cup: Rivals Pakistan, India placed in same group

KARACHI: Traditional rivals Pakistan and India have once again been placed in the same group, this time for the inaugural Under-19 Women's Asia Cup, as the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) unveiled the tournament schedule.

The competition will run from December 15 to 22 in Malaysia, featuring six teams vying for the title.

Group A consists of Pakistan, India, and Nepal, while Group B includes hosts Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.

U-19 Womens Asia Cup: Rivals Pakistan, India placed in same group

The U-19 girls from Pakistan and India will clash on the opening day, December 15. Pakistan will then face Nepal in their second group match on December 16.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the Super Four stage, scheduled for December 19 and 20. In this phase, teams will compete against the top two qualifiers from the opposite group.

The final is set for December 22, where the best two teams from the Super Four stage will battle for the championship.

This is not the first time Pakistan and India have been placed in the same group in a cricket tournament. The pairing of these two South Asian neighbours has become a regular feature in International Cricket Council and ACC events, underscoring the significance of the rivalry at every level of the game.

# Pakistan Shaheens, Sri Lanka A match heading for exciting finish

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sri Lanka A and Pakistan Shaheens four-day match was heading for an exciting finish after the visitors secured an overall lead of 221 runs with one second innings wicket remaining at stumps on the penultimate day at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.

Trailing by 143 runs on the first innings and starting the day at 77 for one, Sri Lanka 'A' were 364 for nine at the draw of stumps. After dismissing the visitors for 115 on day one, Pakistan Shaheens had replied with 258 on day two.

Five half-centuries and two century partnerships brought Sri

Lanka 'A' right back in the match, while Test fast bowler Khurram Shahzad and Kashif Ali tried to keep the visitors in checking by sharing six wickets between.

No.9 batter Wanuja Sahana with 73 and Sonal Dinusha, batting on 62, pulled Sri Lanka 'A' from trouble by adding 130 runs for the eighth wicket after the tourists had slipped from 213 for three to 226 for seven to lead the home side by 83 runs. The partnership ended when Sahana fell to Mohammad Suleman after a 99-ball innings that included seven fours and a six. Suleman also picked up the last wicket to fall on the day to finish with figures of two for 21.

Dinusha, No.6 batter, will resume his innings on Thursday

morning at 62 that has come from 125 balls and includes six fours. With him will be last-man Vishwa Fernando, who is yet to get off the mark.

The other century partnership was for the fourth wicket when Pasindu Sooriyabandara and Pavan Rathnayake put on 126 runs to lift the side from 87 for three to 213 for four. Sooriyabandara scored a 95-ball 64 with seven fours, while Rathnayake scored 60 from 69 balls with six fours and two sixes.

Ahan Wickramasinghe, No.3 batter, was the other Sri Lanka 'A' batter to cross the 50-run mark, scoring 53 from 95 balls and five fours.

For Pakistan Shaheens, Khurram followed up his first

innings figures of four for 32 with four for 70, while Kashif bagged two wickets for 79 for match figures of seven for 110. Mohammad Rameez Inr picked up the scalp of Rathnayake to end the fourth wicket partnership.

Scores in brief (day 3 of 4): Sri Lanka 'A' 115 all out, 33.1 overs (Sonal Dinusha 30, Pasindu Sooriyabandara 28; Kashif Ali 5-31, Khurram Shahzad 4-32) and 364-9, 96 overs (Wanuja Sahana 73, Pasindu Sooriyabandara 64, Sonal Dinusha 62 not out, Pavan Rathnayake 60, Ahan Wickramasinghe 53, Nipun Dhananjaya 28; Khurram Shahzad 4-70, Mohammad Suleman 2-21, Kashif Ali 2-79).

Pakistan Shaheens 258 all out,



82.1 overs (Hussain Talat 56, Rohail Nazir 55, Ali Zaryab 55,

Abdul Faseeh 26, Mohammad Suleman 24; Vishwa Fernando

4-44, Isitha Wijesundara 2-49, Nisala Tharaka 2-57).

## Enhancing cooperation

BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of Azerbaijan H.E Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of COP29 Climate Action Summit on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

# PM praises Pak-Azerbaijan strong ties; hopes to grow further

### Spokesman Report

BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday praised the strong ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and expressed optimism about further enhancing cooperation in various fields, including technology sharing and joint ventures in renewable energy.

On the sidelines of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit (COP-29), Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a productive bilat-

eral meeting with President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated President Aliyev on successful holding of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

He commended President Aliyev's vision and commitment to enhance international cooperation to address challenges posed by climate change, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister assured

him that Pakistan being itself among the most affected countries due to climate change despite its negligible contributions, was committed to work with Azerbaijan and the international community on climate change related challenges.

Both leaders reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations. They expressed their commitment to further strengthen the strategic partnership between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, particularly in the areas of economic and defence cooperation; as well as people

to people and cultural ties.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the escalating situation in the Middle East and other regional and international developments.

Separately, on X handle, the prime minister posted that he held a most warm and cordial meeting with brother President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan.

"Congratulated him on hosting the successful World Leaders Climate Action Summit in Baku and appreciated his commitment to working on issues related to

climate change. Pakistan, as one of the most climate-vulnerable nations, is dedicated to working closely with Azerbaijan and the global community on climate challenges. We also discussed strengthening our strategic partnership, with a focus on economic and defense cooperation, tech sharing, and renewable energy. Exchanged views on the Middle East situation and other global issues. Together, we resolve to strive for a resilient and collaborative future," he said in a post.

## PCB to send PIA privatisation issue in CCOP

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan chaired a high-level meeting of the Privatization Commission Board in which various issues including the privatization of PIA were discussed and recommendations were approved. In this meeting, it was decided to refer the issue of privatization of PIA to the Cabinet Committee, while the Privatization Commission Board meeting was briefed on various issues of privatization and satisfaction was expressed over the development so far. In the meeting of Privatization Commission Board it was decided to form



3-Member Committee to participate in the process of privatization by the Members of the Board. In this 227th meeting of Privatization Commission Board held under the Chairmanship of

the Minister for Privatization/Chairman Privatization Commission, Abdul Aleem Khan, the Board considered the bid of Pak Rupees 10 Billion submitted by Blue World City Consortium for

the divestment of 60 percent shares of PIACL on the 31st October, 2024 and recommended to reject the bid. The board also deliberated on the way forward for the divestment of PIACL and consid-

ered various options for its early privatization. The Board further reviewed the status of other ongoing privatization transactions in the meeting.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the privatization issues will be completed in accordance with the laws and regulations and keeping in views the national interest before us because the final decision on the issues of privatization of PIA and other institutions has to be taken by the Cabinet Committee. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan directed that the Privatization of State Owned Entities including PIA should be carried forward without delay and in future bids offer for privatization of other institutions should be improved.

## UK set to help over 250,000 children in Pakistan access better education

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Funded by the British High Commission, Pakistan, and delivered by the British Council, the service delivery component of Girls and Out of School Children's Action for Learning (GOAL) programme, Khilo aur Barho will see children receive support with their Urdu, Maths and English. This support will focus on their ability, rather than their age, helping them to catch-up on these subjects quicker. Children from all across Pakistan will be supported, but with a particular focus on South Punjab and merged districts in KPK. At least 10% of participants will be children with disabilities, and 20% will come from marginalised groups

Jane Marriott, the British High Commissioner said: "Pakistan is facing an education emergency, with 26.2 million children out of school. This targeted support will make sure some of the most vulnerable children in the country don't fall behind. The UK is already a significant supporter of



education in Pakistan, supporting over 4.5 million children across Pakistan to access a decent education over the past 10 years."

James Hampson, Country Director of the British Council in Pakistan said: "Education is the key to unlocking the potential of every child and building a peaceful and prosperous future. Today we are showing our unwavering dedi-

cation to enhancing education outcomes for the most vulnerable children in Pakistan.

Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Federal Education Secretary said: "Ministry is focused on helping deliver PMS education emergency whereby we are facilitating each of the provinces to connect with international and local partners to fight learning poverty in every district

with special focus on lagging districts.

Khilo aur Barho will work to holistically address the challenge of children out of school - this includes in-school interventions that improve the learning quality and environment which is integral to preventing drop out as well as addressing barriers to accessing education that many marginalised groups of children have.

## NA Speaker commends security forces for successful operation against terrorists



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday lauded the security forces for their successful operation in the Kech district, which resulted in the

elimination of four terrorists.

In a statement, Sadiq applauded the professional expertise of the security forces, emphasizing that terrorists are enemies of the nation who seek to spread chaos and disrupt peace and development.

The speaker reaffirmed the nation's commitment to eradicating terrorism, stating that the entire nation stands united against terrorism and supports the security forces in their efforts to eliminate this menace.

The entire nation remains steadfast in its support for the security forces as they work tirelessly to protect Pakistan's citizens and territories. Pakistan's cuisine

He reiterated his resolve to continue operations against terrorists until terrorism is completely eradicated.

## Magnitude 5.3 earthquake jolts Islamabad, KP

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Islamabad and cities of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Wednesday.

The National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) confirmed that tremors were felt in Islamabad, Swat, Malakand, Charsadda, Mansehra, Swabi, Mardan, Peshawar, Chitral, Upper Dir,

Khyber, Landi Kotal, Jamrod, Tirah, Buner and other KP cities.

"The center of earthquake was Hindukush mountain range in Afghanistan and depth was 220 kilometers," according to the National Seismic Monitoring Center in Islamabad.

Following the tremors, people came out of their houses in fear by reciting Kalma-e-Tayyaba.

However, no loss of life or property was reported in its wake.

## BISP and NAVTTC collaborate to empower BISP registered families through skill training

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, met with Chairperson of the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), Ms. Gulmina Bilal, at the BISP Headquarters today. The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration to provide skill training and quality certifications to BISP-registered families, aligning programs with both local and international workforce trends.

Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized that BISP supports 9.3 million low-income families, and equipping them with technical skills is essential for improving their living standards. "Our goal is to uplift these families by transforming their skills into sustainable assets through effective human resource development," she



stated. "With skill training, individuals can become self-reliant, raising their economic standing while contributing to the country's progress."

Chairperson NAVTTC Ms. Gulmina Bilal shared that NAVTTC is engaging with technical institutes to uphold standard security protocols, third-party monitoring, and internationally accepted certifications. She also proposed collaborating with BISP to share their database of skilled individuals, ensuring that deserving families receive access to the right training opportunities.

## Chinese Ambassador inspires Pakistani youth at NUML

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Jiang Zaidong today visited NUML university and called on Rector NUML Maj Gen (r) Shahid Mehmood Kayani HI (M) at his office to discuss expanding academic and research collaboration between the universities of both nations, focusing on educational excellence and language as a bridge connecting the people of Pakistan and China.

The Chinese Ambassador, joined by the Rector and the Director General NUML Brig Shabaz Mumir, witnessed an inspiring display of talent as NUML students showcased their language proficiency and cultural performances representing China and Gilgit-Baltistan. In his address, the Ambassador praised the university's efforts in promoting Chinese language and cultural understanding, thanking the administration for fostering educational and cultural exchange.

Engaging directly with students in a lively question-and-answer session, H. E. Jiang Zaidong emphasized the value of resilience and hard work. "Education involves challenges, and happiness is found through struggle," he remarked, inspiring students to



pursue their studies with dedication.

The Ambassador expressed optimism for Pakistan's future, citing the nation's abundant resources, strategic location, and youthful population. He noted the country's recent economic progress, with GDP growth from negative to 2.5% and a forecast of 3.2% in the coming fiscal year. "Pakistan is poised to thrive as a pivotal nation in Asia," he added, highlighting the strong collaboration between China and Pakistan.

The event concluded with an awards ceremony for the contest winners and remarks from the Rector NUML, Maj Gen (r) Shahid Mehmood Kayani who lauded the participants' linguistic achievements and cultural presentations. The Rector extended his gratitude to the Chinese Ambassador for his unwavering support for cultural exchange and highlighted NUML's vision for students to gain expertise in diverse fields, particularly Information Technology, through study opportunities in China.