

PM appeals nation to observe Namaz-e-Istisqa (prayer for rain)

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday appealed to the nation to perform Namaz-e-Istisqa (prayers for rain) and pray to Allah Almighty for His mercy in the form of rain. The prime minister said that the federal and provincial governments should arrange Namaz-e-Istisqa in the mosques across the country.



NDMA chairman discusses GCF accreditation framework at COP 29

NDMA Chairman Lt. General Inam Haider Malik met with Henry Gonzalez, Chief Investment Officer of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), at the GCF Pavilion during COP 29 to discuss establishing a framework for GCF accreditation to support climate disaster mitigation and adaptation. NDMA chairman highlighted the development of early warning systems (DEW) and anticipatory actions at NDMA's National Emergencies Operations Center (NEOC).

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Funeral prayer

The funeral ceremony was held at Chaklala Garrison, Rawalpindi, and was attended by General Syed Asim Munir, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Mr Ahsan Iqbal, and senior civil and military officials, along with officers, soldiers, and family members of the Shaheed.



Photo: ISPR

Funeral prayer of Major Muhammad Haseeb Shaheed offered at Chaklala Garrison

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The funeral prayer of Major Muhammad Haseeb Shaheed (aged 28, resident of District Rawalpindi), who embraced martyrdom while defending the motherland in Harnai district, Balochistan, was offered on Thursday at Chaklala Garrison.

General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff, Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister Planning, Development & Special Initiative along with senior military and civil officials, officers, soldiers, and family members of the Shaheed, attended the funeral prayer, said an Inter Services

Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

Funeral prayer of Major Muhammad Haseeb Shaheed offered at Chaklala Garrison

The Army Chief expressed that the sacrifice being made by the valiant officers and soldiers exemplify the unwavering dedication towards defending the country against the menace of terrorism.

He highlighted that the nation stands in solidarity with the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies in the fight against Fitna al Khawarij and all those who hold their reins.

Funeral prayer of Major Muhammad Haseeb Shaheed offered at Chaklala Garrison

Two security personnel, including major, martyred in Harnai gun battle: ISPR

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Two security personnel, including a major, were martyred in an exchange of fire with terrorists in Balochistan's Harnai on Thursday, the military's media wing said.

The martyred security forces personnel were identified as Major Muhammad Haseeb, 28, a Rawalpindi resident, and Havildar Noor Ahmed, 38, a Barkhan resident.

President, PM pay tribute to security personnel for embracing martyrdom

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations said: "Security forces under Major Muhammad Haseeb were



immediately mobilised to sanitize the area on the reported presence of terrorists, planning to target innocent civilians in the Harnai district."

At least three terrorists were killed in the gun battle with

security forces, it added.

"Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan, and such sacrifices of our brave

soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the statement said.

Pakistan has seen an increase in militancy since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in 2021, with the Pakistani chapter of the movement carrying out attacks mostly targeting security forces.

Last week, four Frontier Corps soldiers were martyred in an exchange of fire with terrorists from the banned Fitna al Khawarij group, erstwhile TTP, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's South Waziristan district.

Earlier this year, the government designated the banned TTP as Fitna al Khawarij while mandating all institutions to use the term khariji (outcast

when referring to the perpetrators of terrorist attacks on Pakistan.

The Harnai attack comes on the heels of the Quetta Railway Station blast, which killed at least 27 people and injured more than 50 people.

In reaction to this, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti decided to expand the intelligence-based operations in the province.

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

General Mirza visit to State of Qatar, discusses regional cooperation

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee on an official visit to State of Qatar, called on His Highness

HH Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Qatar and held a separate meeting with Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces.

During the interaction, both sides discussed evolving regional dynamics and expressed mutual commitment for enhancing bilateral cooperation between both countries. Chairman JCSC highlighted strong brotherly relations between Islamic Republic of Pakistan and State of Qatar, and reaffirmed commitment to further strengthening military-to-mil-



itary cooperation in defence and security domains. Qatari leadership acknowledged the positive role of Pakistan in ensuring regional stability and appreciated the professionalism and sacrifices of Pakistan Armed Forces in fight against terrorism.

Earlier upon arrival at Qatar Armed Forces Headquarters, smartly turned-out military contingent presented "Guard of Honour" to Chairman JCSC.

PPP chief Bilawal slams PML-N for failing relations with US, blocking VPNs

Khurram Jaffirani

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has slammed the ruling coalition for allegedly failing the relationship with the United States and blocking the virtual private networks (VPNs).

"The government is misleading the people about 4G internet services while in reality only 3G services are being provided," he told reporters in Karachi. "The government has deviated from commitments made to the PPP during constitutional discussions."

This comes after a few ministers' concerns over Republican candidate Donald Trump's victory in the US elections. They expressed their concerns after many PTI supporters claimed that Trump would play a role in the release of incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan.

Moreover, the coalition

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

Grievances over constitutional bench formation

Bilawal claimed that the federal government failed to uphold the promise of maintaining equality during constitutional discussions. He was of the view that judges from rural Sindh would have been a stronger push for equality. The PPP chief revealed that he stepped away from the Judicial Commission of Pakistan in protest against a lack of representation for Sindh.

He demanded equal representation in the country's highest judicial institutions, saying: "Two separate systems cannot exist within one country." He criticised the federal constitutional bench for adopting a "different approach" for Sindh and

Continued on Page 8

Int'l community should honor its commitments regarding climate change: Tarar

Spokesman Report

BAKU: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday called upon the international community to honor the commitments made in the Paris Agreement and on the occasions of COP27 and COP28.

"The international community should honor their commitments so that the lives and property of people could be protected by building climate resilient infrastructure," said the minister while talking to the media during his visit to the Pakistan's Pavilion at COP29 in Baku.

Flanked by Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam and a young climate activist Zunaira, Atta Tarar said the climate change is the biggest threat to the lives and property of the people in Pakistan and the government has been taking concerted measures to protect the people and culture from its affects.

The minister cited the recent flash floods due to heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan, and melting glaciers due to the global warming as an example. "The climate change is affecting our people, rendering them shelter less and damaging their crops and live-



stock," he added.

He said Pakistan has only been contributing 0.5 per cent to the carbon emissions, while there were other countries that had major contribution in this regard.

As regards the Pakistan's pavilion, he termed it vibrant which has been receiving people of international stature who were being sensitized

about the damage unleashed by the climate change on Pakistan, and also about the need for establishing the climate finance fund for the country.

To a query, he said every country should have climate finance strategy which would enable donor agencies and developed countries to fund the vulnerable countries as per the existing structure.

The Minister also introduced to the media the young climate activist from Balochistan, saying Zunaira is a voice of Balochistan.

He said Zunaira has been highlighting climate change effects on education in Balochistan. She is an accomplished individual who has contributed to policy paper of the United Nations.

The government, he said, would provide her full support so that she could represent Pakistan including Balochistan at international fora.

"We are proud of you and keep up the good work," he said while appreciating her and calling her as bright future of Pakistan.

Khawaja Asif files report with London Police after harassment, murder threats

News Desk

LONDON: Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Thursday arrived at the Pakistan High Commission in London and filed report with local police following an incident of harassment, verbal abuse and murder threats earlier this week. Pakistan's cuisine

He informed the police about the threats of murder with a knife and the harassment he faced during the train incident.

The London Transport Police is investigating the matter. On the occasion, Khawaja Asif said the unfortunate incident occurred on November 11, 2024, around 3:30 PM on the Elizabeth Line.

"I am in London on a private visit with a relative, and I was traveling to Reading via the Elizabeth Line," he added.

He said that a group of three



to four individuals harassed him on the train, filmed him without permission, used abusive language, and threatened him with a knife.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif said he did not recognize any of the individuals involved in the incident. The London Transport Police should use the CCTV footage to trace the individuals involved, the defence minister added.

He added that such despicable incidents of threats and harassment were not only shameful but also regrettable for the 1.7 million British-Pakistani citizens residing in the UK.

AJK PM reiterates commitment to address people's problems at their doorstep

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has reiterated his government's resolve to solve the masses' problems at their doorsteps. "Every single penny of tax-money will be spent on the welfare of the people", the AJK premier said.

He said that the coalition government was committed to weed out corruption, saying that answer to the region's governance issues lies in eliminating the menace of individual and institutional corruption at all level. Referring to the public interactions he had during his recently concluded visits to Poonch, Neelam, Kotli, Mirpur, Haveli, Bagh, Abbaspur, Siddhnoti, the PM said that the primary objective behind meeting people was to listen,



understand and address their problems.

He said that the elected representatives who work for the good of the people of their respective areas and

constituencies gain the respect of their voters and supporters. "A genuine political worker is one who thinks for the betterment of his people", the PM added.

He said that along with essential food commodities, electricity and flour are being provided to consumers at affordable prices despite the fact that the government has limited resources. He said spreading chaos in the liberated territory (AJK) was tantamount to harming the Kashmir cause. The PM said that all possible measures would be taken to take care of people living in remote areas, particularly those living near the Line of Control during winter.

The government, he said, was duty-bound to solve the problems of people of these remote areas who have bore brunt of Indian shelling since the past several years.

Terming Azad Kashmir as the land of martyrs and Ghazis, prime minister Haq said that the people of the region had rendered unprecedented sacrifices.



TMO Jehangira KPK Ms Shahana Sikandar visited Akora Khat-tak Bazar. Traders Leader appreciated her efforts about maintaining law and order situation and cleanliness in Market

AJK Assembly Speaker warns India over 'double face' of Modi

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that if the Kashmir volcano erupts, not only South Asia but also world peace will be shattered. According to the UN Charter, the Kashmir issue is the most sensitive among the unresolved issues around the world. Influential countries including the UN, the European Union, the OIC should increase pressure on India for mediation between the two nuclear-armed countries. India has made the lives of minorities, including Muslims, difficult. He expressed these views while talking to the media after meeting public delegations including candidate for Assembly Constituency 7 Shaukat Javed Mir in his chamber yesterday. He said that after the so-called elections in India, the double face of India has become clear to the whole world. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi played Holi with the blood of innocent people and promoted a clash between civilizations. With the restoration of the Assembly of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, India's claims have been proven false and baseless. Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that the trust-building process has been promoted through the visits of the National Kashmir Committee and Young Parliamentarians. The National Assembly and the Senate will highlight their priorities in drawing the world's attention to the Indian atrocities by exposing them in a befitting manner. In response to a question, Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that the Kashmiri people cannot give up their right to self-determination under any circumstances, nor will they consider any fake, fake mental luxury option. The eternal struggle and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people are a unique chapter in world history.

DFP concerned over plight of Kashmiri prisoners, continued bloodshed in IIOK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Voicing its serious concern over the continuous and illegal detention of the incarcerated party chairman Shabir Ahmed Shah and other Hurriyat leaders, the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has said that the world community must play its due role to help secure early release of Kashmiri prisoners who have been languishing in different jails since past several years.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal said that hundreds of Kashmiri prisoners lodged in prisons outside Kashmir have been suffering terribly due to highly unfavorable weather conditions and lack of basic amenities including access to clean and drinkable water, hygienic food and medicines.

"Many of them have developed acute ailments due to limited access to food, sunlight and medical care", Iqbal said, adding that it was quite unfortunate that the Kashmiri detainees have now been deprived of their rightful medical treatment.

The lack of basic amenities to Kashmiri prisoners, he said, have further exacerbated depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder among prisoners living thousands of kilometers away from their families.

Deterioration and Corruption Unveiled in Sindh's Healthcare Sector

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Sindh's healthcare sector, intended to provide essential medical services to the public, is now plagued by severe neglect and corruption. In various cities, especially Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Mirpurkhas, and Larkana, healthcare services remain largely inaccessible to ordinary people.

The Civil Hospital in Hyderabad, with an annual budget exceeding one billion rupees, has failed to deliver necessary treatment and relief to the public. Essential medications and emergency services are often unavailable, and hospitals lack basic cleanliness and treatment facilities.

Reports reveal widespread corruption within government offices, as officials allegedly profit from commissions on medical supplies and medication, with this malpractice prevalent at district and tehsil levels. Despite the large buildings of District Health Offices (DHOs), the lack of meaningful relief for the public is concerning.

Karachi airport authorities urged to ease restrictions, adopt new tech

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Officers Association of Pakistan (CAOP) has urged authorities at the Karachi airport to review their recent imposition of additional security restrictions, recommending instead the adoption of advanced technology to strengthen security.

Following a deadly attack on a Chinese convoy, which killed at least two Chinese nationals and injured several others nearby, the airport authorities have asked visitors to bring along additional documents, while also blocking a road leading to the airport and setting up checkpoints on other routes.

In his letter to the Pakistan Airport Authority's Director Vigilance, CAOP Chairman Zarin Gul Durrani said that while he fully supports strengthening airport security, he believes that these measures may unintentionally complicate the experience for passengers and their accompanying family and friends.

Security protocols, he said, should primarily focus on passenger safety without imposing unnecessary restrictions.

"The current approach, which places additional requirements on those coming to receive or send off passengers, may not directly contribute to enhancing security but instead add inconvenience to regular visitors."

It, Zaman said, would be beneficial to focus security efforts more narrowly, ensuring that they target individuals who may pose an actual risk to airport security.

He recommended exploring advanced security technologies, such as CCTV surveillance, biometric scanners, and AI-based threat detection systems to beef up security "without imposing extra constraints on passengers and their families".

The CAOP chief said the modern tools could significantly enhance the airport security while keeping the process seamless for passengers and their greeters.

He also stressed on security staff's high-level training for proper handling of potential threats.

"Additionally, training security personnel to handle and respond to potential threats effectively is crucial. Empowering the security staff with advanced training will help ensure they are fully prepared for any unforeseen situations, further bolstering passenger safety," he maintained.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Ambassador of Lebanon Ghassan El Khateeb on Thursday.

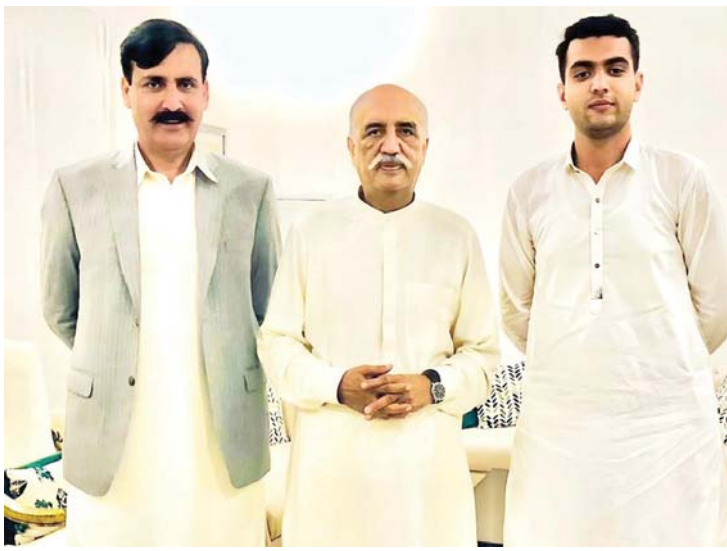


Photo: PID

AJK Minister Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi met with senior PPP leader Syed Khursheed Shah

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi met with senior PPP leader and Member National Assembly Syed Khursheed Shah. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed political issues including matters of bilateral interest. While talking to AJK Minister Syed Khursheed Shah said that Pakistan will continue to provide political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiris. He paid tribute in eloquent words to the martyrs of Kashmir who made great sacrifices for the love of the green crescent flag. He appreciated the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army in the war against terrorism. Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development



ment Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi said that Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto founded the PPP on the Kashmir issue, Shaheed Democracy Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto introduced the Hurriyat leadership to the world stage and shattered India's diplomacy. He said that President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari introduced the politics of tolerance, love and unity. It strengthened democracy in Pakistan. Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi said that the PPP will continue its journey of serving the people of Azad Kashmir under the leadership and instructions of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. He said that the workers of the PPP are a great story of determination and courage who have made unparalleled sacrifices for the rule of law in the country he added.

DG Water Management visits Nareja Center

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Director General of Water Management, Syed Nadeem Shah, visited the Water Management Center Training Institute at Nareja Workshop to assess various administrative tasks and inspect development work on training facilities. During the briefing, DG Training Institute Water Management, Muhammad Ayub Burdi, shared that future water management training sessions are planned, with the facilities now prepared to host employees from different districts of Sindh for skill development to honor the

country's reputation.

During the visit, DG Nadeem Shah, DG Training Muhammad Ayub Burdi, and Additional DG Anwar Shoro praised the displayed kitchen garden kits for their effectiveness. Burdi announced an upcoming seminar on climate-smart agriculture in the Nareja Workshop, aiming to educate Water Management employees about mitigating climate change effects.

Ayub Burdi further noted that initial training would be provided to employees to ensure smoother operations, with additional learning opportunities also offered by the

institute, benefitting numerous employees. The center, part of Agricultural Engineering and Water Management, aims to inspire citizens to grow vegetables at home by displaying kitchen garden kits. Water Management, under Nadeem Shah's leadership, continues to make progress that directly benefits the public.

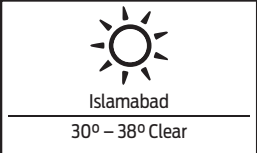
On November 26, DG Nadeem Shah mentioned that on-farm water management DDOs will receive SUPRA law training from experts, who will be present at the workshop to provide insights into procurement under SUPRA guidelines.

Minister for Mines, Minerals reviews Attock mining in high-profile meeting

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Minister for Mines and Minerals, Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani, along with Secretary Mines and Minerals, Perviaz Iqbal, at the Deputy Commissioner's office. The meeting was attended by Director General Mines and Minerals, Raja Mansoor Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza, and DPO Attock Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan.

The focus of the meeting was the performance evaluation of the mining industry in District Attock. The efforts of the Deputy Commissioner were commended, and the Mines and Minerals district officers were given strict instructions to maintain close coordination with the district administration to address all issues. It was emphasized that no unauthorized mining will be tolerated, and all resources will be utilized to recover government dues.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:13 am
Zohr 11:52 am
Asr 3:27 pm
Maghrib 5:05 pm
Isha 6:31 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 4451122
& 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

CDC Brings Joy to Dar ul Afiat Seniors at Islamabad Lok Mela

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under the leadership of Meera'n Malik, President of the Community Development Council (CDC), a heartfelt recreational trip was organized for the senior residents of Dar ul Afiat, an old age home in Rawalpindi, to Islamabad's vibrant Lok Mela. The event, a celebration of Pakistan's diverse cultural heritage, provided a rare opportunity for these seniors to experience the joy and energy of a lively festival. The elderly participants were moved to dance to the beats of the Punjabi dhol—a sight that touched everyone's hearts, as they rarely have moments to smile or socialize. The day included a traditional Kabuli lunch, rekindling memories of home-cooked flavors, and a special calligraphy session led by Sir Kabeer Shah, offering a creative outlet to express their individuality. CDC hopes this trip inspires the community to organize more recreational activities for senior citizens, bringing joy and connection to those who deserve our compassion and care:

Pakistan Cyber Security Challenge 2024 Kicks Off at Air University

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Centre for Cyber Security (NCCS) and PK-CERT launched the third edition of the Pakistan Cyber Security Challenge 2024 with an inaugural ceremony held at Air University in Islamabad. This prestigious event, which has been running annually since 2021, aims to foster a new generation of cybersecurity experts and promote digital security awareness across Pakistan.

The opening ceremony was graced by distinguished guests, including Chief Guest Air Marshal (R) Asad Lodhi, former Vice Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force and Guest of Honour Prof. Dr. Zia-Ul-Qayyum, Executive Director of the Higher Education Commission

(HEC) of Pakistan.

In his keynote address, Air Marshal (R) Asad Lodhi underscored the critical importance of advanced technical expertise in strengthening Pakistan's national cybersecurity posture. He emphasized that the Pakistan Cyber Security Challenge serves as a dynamic platform for participants to enhance their technical proficiency while cultivating a deeper sense of responsibility towards cybersecurity excellence.

Prof. Dr. Zia ul Qayyum reinforced this vision, highlighting the essential role skilled human capital in cybersecurity plays for Pakistan's national institutions. He praised initiatives like the Pakistan Cyber Security Challenge for their pivotal role in nurturing talent

and building awareness in this critical domain. The distinguished guest extended warm congratulations to all participants competing in the four key event categories.

Vice Chancellor Air University, Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan, reaffirmed the institution's commitment to producing highly skilled cybersecurity professionals. He recognized the Pakistan Cyber Security Challenge as an important step in identifying and promoting the nation's top talent in cybersecurity. In his address, the Vice Chancellor also acknowledged the efforts of event's organizing team.

Prof. Dr. Ammar Masood, Director of NCCS and Dean of Air University Faculty of Computing & Artificial Intelligence

expressed pride in the event's growing impact. He noted that the competitive event has become a valuable platform for students from across Pakistan to engage in various cybersecurity challenges, including Capture-the-Flag, the Show-down event, the Pak-Crypt Challenge, and the Cybersecurity Startup Ideas Cup. "This event has been organized regularly for the past three years and is crucial in cultivating a generation of skilled cybersecurity enthusiasts who will contribute to a stronger, more cyber-secure Pakistan," Dr. Masood added.

The Pakistan Cyber Security Challenge 2024 attracted over 1,600 participants from more than 110 educational institutions across Pakistan. Industry leaders, government representatives,

and members of academia attended the opening ceremony, all praising NCCS's commitment to fostering cybersecurity awareness, expertise, and capacity-building across Pakistan.

Participants in the third Pakistan Cyber Security Challenge expressed their appreciation for Air University's continued leadership in cybersecurity education in Pakistan. The four-day event promises to be an exciting showcase of talent and innovation in cybersecurity, with participants vying for top honors in various categories. As Pakistan continues its journey towards digital transformation, initiatives like the Pakistan Cyber Security Challenge play a vital role in ensuring the country's cybersecurity readiness for the future.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal (R) Asad Lodhi, Executive Director HEC, Prof. Dr. Zia-Ul-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor Air University, Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan and other distinguished guests pose for a group photo at the opening ceremony of Pakistan Cyber Security Challenge 2024 at Air University.



Photo: Online

Punjab Provincial Education Minister visits Punjab Pavilion

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat along with his children visited the Punjab Pavilion in the ongoing festival at Lok Virsa, Islamabad. Director Rawalpindi Arts Council Sajjad Hussain welcomed him by putting the traditional turban of Punjab over his head. Director Information Rawalpindi Iftihar Ali Shah was also present on this occasion. Rana Sikandar Hayat visited various stalls set up in the pavilion and appreciated the creative work of artists and artisans. Speaking on this occasion, Rana Sikandar Hayat said that the establishment of cultural pavilions of all the provinces of the country, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir in Lok Virsa Islamabad has shown national unity. He said that the cultures of all the provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir are very similar and it shows the nation-



unity that we are united for the sake of this country and are continuing our efforts for its development. He said that it was a great pleasure to see the rich culture of Punjab in the Punjab Pavilion and for this, Provincial Information Minister Uzma Bukhari deserves congratulations. Sikandar Hayat said

that he brought his children along so that they can know what the culture of Punjab is. He said that the schools of Punjab are currently closed due to smog and this festival based in Lok Virsa Islamabad is also providing an entertainment opportunity for the students of Rawalpindi Division.

that he brought his children along so that they can know what the culture of Punjab is. He said that the schools of Punjab are currently closed due to smog and this festival based in Lok Virsa Islamabad is also providing an entertainment opportunity for the students of Rawalpindi Division.

Assistant Commissioner announces grand operation against encroachments in Rawalpindi



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Assistant Commissioner Rawalpindi City Malik Hakim Khan said that our job is to reduce the problems of the people. The operation will continue until the encroachment is completely eliminated.

On Thursday, Assistant Commissioner Rawalpindi City Malik Hakim Khan was met by young journalists Shaukat Ali Malik and Liaquat Ali Awan Multan Khurd in his office. In which there was a detailed discussion on the problems of Rawalpindi city. On this occasion, young journalist Shaukat Ali Malik appreciated the countless efforts of AC City Rawalpindi Malik Hakim Khan to launch a grand operation against illegal encroachments throughout Rawalpindi city, cleaning the entire city from encroachments as much as possible, effective campaign and concrete measures against dengue and smog.

Assistant Commissioner Rawalpindi City Malik Hakim Khan said that our job is to reduce the problems of the people and solve the problems faced by the citizens. The operation will continue until the encroachment is completely eradicated across the city. For which they are devoting all their energies. It should be remembered that Malik Hakim Khan belongs to Tala Gang, the land of martyrs and ghazis, who has previously served as Assistant Commissioner in Jhelum and Bhera too.

DR. Asma Mansoor Assumes Incharge of Protocol and Public Relations at IIUI

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Asma Mansoor, an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, has taken on the role of Incharge of Protocol and Public Relations at the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) on Thursday.

Dr. Mansoor, who joined the International Islamic University, Islamabad in 2006, specializes in Posthuman Studies and has contributed research to international journals, including Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education, Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction, Curriculum Inquiry, Asiatic, New Writing: The International Journal for the Theory and Practice of Creative Writing, South Asian Review, International Journal of Leadership in Education, and Palgrave Communications.

Dr. Mansoor has co-edited the Journal of Contemporary Poetics for three years and is a reviewer for international journals. Currently, she is editing Pakistani Literature, the Pakistan Academy of Letters' journal, and recently translated the novel Habs by Hassan Manzoor into English.



CDC organizes a heartfelt recreational trip for senior residents of Dar-ul-Afiat



The Community Development Council (CDC) organized a heartfelt recreational trip for the senior residents of Dar ul Afiat, an old age home in Rawalpindi, to Islamabad's vibrant Lok Mela. The event, a celebration of Pakistan's diverse cultural heritage, provided a rare opportunity for these seniors to experience the joy and energy of a lively festival.

The elderly participants were moved to dance to the beats of the Punjabi dhol—a sight that touched everyone's hearts, as they rarely have moments to smile or socialize. The day included a traditional Kabuli lunch, rekindling memories of home-cooked flavors, and a special calligraphy session led by Sir Kabeer Shah, offering a creative outlet to express their individuality.

Save Islamabad: A Call for Sustainable Urban Planning

As Islamabad continues to grow, the city faces critical challenges that demand immediate action. The call to preserve the green belts in Zones III and IV, as outlined in Islamabad's original master plan, is not just a request; it is essential for the city's future health, sustainability, and livability. Without a strict adherence to the master plan, Islamabad risks falling victim to the environmental issues that have plagued other urban centers, particularly Lahore and much of Punjab.

Zones III and IV in Islamabad, designated as green areas, are crucial for maintaining the city's air quality and natural ecosystem. These zones

were originally planned to serve as natural buffers, limiting urban sprawl and acting as "lungs" for the city, improving air quality and reducing temperatures. However, rapid and unchecked construction, particularly the mushrooming of new housing societies, threatens these green zones. Allowing further development in these areas will increase deforestation, disturb the local ecosystem, and exacerbate air pollution, with smog and haze emerging as direct consequences.

The implementation of Islamabad's

master plan, in its original form, is a vital step to ensuring sustainable urban development.

This plan, with its zoning laws, provides a blueprint for responsible growth while preserving the green zones crucial to the city's well-being. Enforcement of this plan should be uncompromising, with a strict ban on new housing societies in Zone IV. If Islamabad follows in the footsteps of Lahore, where rapid, unregulated expansion has led to one of the worst air quality indices in the

world, the consequences will be severe. Smog—a hazardous blend of pollutants that impacts health, reduces visibility, and affects the climate—has already proven deadly in Lahore, causing a significant increase in respiratory illnesses, traffic accidents, and economic strain.

The time to act is now. Authorities must prioritize the preservation of green zones, reinforce zoning laws, and ensure that Islamabad's master plan is upheld without compromise. By protecting Zones III and IV, Islamabad can safeguard its environment and secure a healthier, cleaner future for its residents. Failure to do so risks the same air quality crisis now seen across Punjab.

Analysis



Aamir Sheikh

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Lebanon-Syria refugee crisis risks destabilizing the region

Israel's ongoing war on Lebanon has caused an unprecedented wave of displacement, with thousands of Lebanese and Syrians fleeing across the border to Syria to escape the escalating violence. This mass exodus represents a new humanitarian crisis, with more than 276,000 people, primarily women and children, forced to cross into Syria under extremely challenging circumstances. The displaced face a lack of essentials — such as water, food and shelter — at border and reception areas, revealing a severe shortfall in resources to address the needs of this vulnerable population.

This humanitarian crisis should not be underestimated or overlooked. The situation extends far beyond a simple refugee movement; it could become a multifaceted disaster affecting the entire region. As global powers struggle to broker a peace deal or offer substantial aid, the toll of inaction grows.

"We can no longer view the situation in the Middle East as a series of isolated conflicts and displacement crises. Political failure risks destabilizing an entire region and condemning millions to catastrophe. Global diplomacy must move beyond platitudes and unkept commitments," said Angelita Caredda, the Norwegian Refugee Council's Middle East and North Africa regional director. Her words capture the urgency needed from international leaders to prevent an escalation of this crisis.

This issue is compounded by Syria's limited capacity to manage an influx of refugees. Economically, the country is already under immense strain due to 13 years of internal conflict that have decimated its economy, reduced national income and left millions impoverished.

The nation's struggling economy cannot feasibly absorb this influx of displaced people from Lebanon, adding a new layer to the crisis.

Refugees require jobs, housing and economic support, all of which are in short supply in Syria due to years of conflict and the country's own humanitarian challenges. This economic strain ultimately impacts both the host country and the displaced individuals, who face higher costs and limited opportunities for survival.

Syria's infrastructure is similarly unprepared to handle this influx. With hospitals, schools and housing already in disrepair, Syria lacks the essential facilities to support both its citizens and the incoming refugee population.

Years of war have severely damaged basic services like healthcare, education and transportation, creating barriers for those in need. The Norwegian Refugee Council has reported that the situation is dire: basic resources are unavailable, food prices have surged and affordable housing is scarce. In this environment, even the most resilient refugees will struggle to rebuild their lives.

In some cases, refugee populations can benefit host economies through contributions to the workforce and demand for goods and services. However, these benefits are only possible when there is sufficient infrastructure and basic resources to support the additional population. In Syria's case, where even the foundational elements of public services are severely depleted, the refugee influx

presents a daunting challenge rather than an economic opportunity. For Syria to experience any economic benefits from hosting refugees, substantial investments in infrastructure and humanitarian support are essential.

This crisis within a crisis becomes even more complex considering Syria's prolonged suffering. After 13 years of conflict, it does not seem to be in a position to handle the arrival of a new wave of displaced families. The situation for Syrian refugees has been dire for more than a decade, with humanitarian aid stretched thin and communities exhausted from years of instability. The thousands of families crossing into Syria from Lebanon now face challenges with no immediate or sustainable support in sight.

"Syria is already on its knees after 13 years of conflict. The mass displacement from Lebanon comes at a time when the aid response already cannot keep pace with existing needs. Thousands of families crossing into Syria will struggle to find a safe place to stay or the basics their children need. This is a crisis within multiple crises," Caredda noted, underscoring the heavy burden on Syrians.

More fundamentally, refugees need more than mere survival — they need access to healthcare, education and protection, especially children, who are often left vulnerable. The children crossing into Syria alone or with their families are at risk of trauma, malnutrition and neglect. Basic provisions, including water, food, shelter and mental health support, are vital for their survival

and well-being. Mental health services, particularly for children who have experienced the horrors of war, are critical to help them cope and adapt. In the absence of these fundamental necessities, the crisis will continue to spiral, affecting generations.

As a result, the international community must urgently address this humanitarian catastrophe. Three essential actions must be taken to prevent further suffering and instability. First, global leaders need to secure and create a pathway toward peace. Diplomatic efforts must shift from empty promises to concrete actions that prioritize stability and security in the region.

Second, humanitarian aid must be significantly increased, focusing on essential services and infrastructure for refugees. The €5 million (\$5.2 million) allocated by the EU last week is a positive step, but much more funding and resources are required to meet the needs of the displaced. Third, support can be provided to strengthen Syria's ability to host refugees. The international community should focus not only on immediate relief but also on building long-term resilience in host regions.

In a nutshell, the emerging refugee crisis between Lebanon and Syria demands immediate and concerted action from the global community. Without substantial intervention, this crisis risks destabilizing the entire region, resulting in untold human suffering. The needs of the displaced cannot wait and the international community has a moral obligation to prevent this crisis from spiraling out of control.

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh is a Harvard-educated Iranian American political scientist. X: @Dr_Rafizadeh



Analysis

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

Trade between China and Latin America

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation will remain vital for globalization, with the group's meetings in Peru aiming to highlight its role as the gateway for trade and investment from China and Asia to Latin America, experts said.

Michael Walsh, Executive Director of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, an organization of CEOs and business leaders, said this year's gathering serves as a pivotal platform for fostering inclusive economic growth across the Asia-Pacific region, especially against the backdrop of changing political winds with regard to trans-Pacific trade.

In the face of economic challenges and the attack on free trade, APEC is seeking to reinforce regional cooperation and globalization while supporting a sustainable recovery, he said.

The priorities for this year's meetings include trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected growth, innovation and digitalization to promote the transition to the formal and global economy, and sustainable growth for resilient development.

"We anticipate that the discussions will lead to actionable strategies that facilitate efficient implementation initiatives and interoperability in cross-border trade, allowing for a more equitable redistribution of resources and opportunities throughout the region," Walsh added.

Alejandro Indacochea, president of law firm Indacochea Asociados, said the APEC gathering is a significant event for Peru, which could become the hub of Latin American integration with Asia, China Daily reported.

"The 21st century belongs to the Pacific Basin, where the fastest-growing economies are found," said Indacochea, who is also founding professor of the Centrum Business School at Pontifical Catholic University of Peru.

He said the upcoming inauguration of Chancay Port, a key project in Peru under the Belt and Road Initiative, will be a historic event for both the country and Latin America. Ships from Asia weighing 50,000 metric tons, which previously could not dock in Peru, can now arrive at the new port, he said, adding that the shipping time could also be reduced by 12 to 15 days.

Renzo Burotto, a historian from Chile, said the 21 APEC economies vary widely in size, capacity and comparative advantages, but all the members are treated as equals on the platform.

"China, as an APEC member, has traditionally emphasized Asia-Pacific cooperation as an area of opportunity for development, and calls for deepening and continuing the dialogue and friendship," he said.

Burotto said that China's unique capabilities could significantly contribute to jointly finding solutions to socioeconomic development challenges.

The APEC meetings will serve as a catalyst for deeper economic integration between China and Latin America, fostering increased trade and investment by air and sea, as well as virtually, in a mutually beneficial relationship that promotes trade, investment and shared prosperity, he added.



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

Kashmir: The Pulse of Pakistan

In the majestic mountains of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), the National Security Workshop Kashmir (NSWK-II) opened like a story retold through generations—a tale of resilience, unity, and undying loyalty to the cause of Kashmir. For four memorable days, Muzaffarabad, the capital city of the liberated territory, became more than just a place; it transformed into a meeting of minds and hearts, where the spirit of Kashmir was invoked with reverence and purpose. Attendees came from different regions and all walks of life—military leaders, diplomats, educators, traders, students, and advocates—all woven together by a thread as ancient and unbreakable as the mountains.

A visit to the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) followed, offering a glimpse into the future of Kashmir through its bright and questioning youth. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi fielded questions with the wisdom of an educator who knows the stakes involved in shaping young minds. Alongside him, Prof. Dr. Saadat Hanif Dar gave an inspiring overview of the university's achievements, showing how the institution stands as a bastion of critical thinking and hope. At that moment, UAJK wasn't just a university but a sanctuary for a generation that holds Kashmir's fate in its hands. This visit was a reminder that in every classroom and conversation, the legacy of Kashmir is being passed down, growing stronger, deeper, and more resilient.

I had the privilege to speak on "The Role of Media in Opinion Formula- tion and Its Impact on National Cohesion and the Kashmir Cause," and I felt the gravity of the moment. Media, as I shared, is a double-edged sword—capable of fostering unity or creating discord. It doesn't merely reflect our reality; it shapes it, amplifies it, and determines what issues live in the spotlight, and which fade into silence. I spoke of the power of framing, and how media can unify a nation under shared tragedies, like the 2005 earthquake, or inspire collective resolve, as it did after the APS Peshawar attack. But in the digital age, media has also become a fertile ground for echo chambers and misinformation, amplifying divisions that erode our national identity. I urged participants to see media as a guardian of truth, a force that can—if used wisely—unite us in purpose and remind us of our shared values.

As the workshop neared its end, mili-

tary leaders invoked the timeless vision of Allama Iqbal, whose poetry and philosophy continue to inspire Pakistan's national identity. They called on us to be vigilant in upholding justice, to live by the principles of merit and accountability, to be torchbearers of Pakistan's promise. "Nations rise in the hearts of poets," they reminded us, "and fall in the hands of those who abandon integrity." In that moment, Iqbal's dream felt more alive than ever, his call to unity a legacy that each participant was charged to carry forward.

The Kashmir Institute of Management (KIM), led by the dedicated Director Tariq Butt, was the quiet yet powerful force behind this event. His unwavering vision and meticulous planning were not merely the work of a director but of a true custodian of the Kashmiri cause. KIM demonstrated that institutions are not just buildings but embodiments of purpose, principles, and passion.

As I left the venue, the spirit of NSWK-II was still with me—a reminder that the road to Kashmir's freedom is paved not just with policies and protests, but with the values we hold, the resilience we nurture, and the unity we protect. Kashmir's story is still unfolding, its chapters written with courage, with sacrifice, and with an unbreakable faith in the power of justice and truth. The message was clear: Kashmir is not a cause to champion momentarily; it is a legacy to uphold eternally. And in each participant's heart was the unshakable resolve to keep that legacy alive, come what may.

The writer is a media researcher based in Muzaffarabad, contributing to leading English national publications. He tweets at @SMubasharNaqvi.



Analysis

Mubashar Naqvi

Foreign occupation is destroying the very fabric of Kashmiri society

November 16th is observed as the International Day for Tolerance. It was declared by UNESCO in 1995 to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance.

The mission statement of International Day of Tolerance says that "Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human."

Philémon Yang, President of the 79th session of the General Assembly said on September 13, 2024, "Let us work towards tolerance and dialogue... In so doing, we can also accelerate progress towards sustainable development and ensure universal respect for the human dignity of everyone, everywhere."

Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations has said that tolerance, inter-cultural dialogue and respect for diversity are more essential than ever in a world where peoples are becoming more and more closely interconnected. On this international day for the elimination of racial discrimination, let us all be inspired anew by the fundamental principle, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of the equality of all human beings.

Mr. Annan also said that in every great faith and tradition one can find the values of tolerance and mutual understanding. Kofi Annan is correct. Take the case of Islam. The Quran tells us that "We created you from a single pair of male and female and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other."

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has said, "Be tolerant and you will receive tolerance."

Once when the Prophet (PBUH) was asked, "What is Eemaan (belief)?" He (PBUH) replied: "Belief is patience and tolerance."

Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī, one of the most celebrated Muslim poets, stated, "Listen with the ears of tolerance! See through the eyes of Compassion! Speak with the language of Love!"

Al-Ghazzālī, one of the most prominent Muslim philosophers' stresses tolerances as respecting each other's rights. He urges that human beings must go beyond tepid abidance-tol-

erance, to the loving embrace of one another.

Sanjay Kak, a film maker and himself a Kashmiri Pandit wrote that "although terrible tragedies did happen to many individuals, most Kashmiri Pandit families were not betrayed by their Muslim neighbours. While some properties were torched and destroyed, most temples and homes were not ransacked or looted, and many more have run to ruin over years of neglect. Most critically, this myopic narrative succeeds in obscuring the fact that what happened in Kashmir in the 1990s was not centrally a conflict between Muslims and Hindus. It was an uprising against the Indian state."

We all know that the Pandits languishing in the refugee camps in Jammu, Delhi and elsewhere were victims of the tragedy of Kashmir for which the Government of India must take responsibility. Only Governor Jagmohan made this Pandit community flee and desert Kashmir at its hour of trial. They were made to abandon their own people. It is a pity that India is using these helpless victims of India policy as pawns in a cynical propaganda game. Kashmiri Pandits want to return to their homes. Muslim families, despite their own plight, are ready to welcome them back. But I am afraid that Indian authorities will try to score points in the debates. To them human rights are of secondary importance.

There is no doubt that the foreign occupation has destroyed the very fabric of Kashmiri culture. It has also shattered the communal harmony and the pluralistic nature of Vale of Kashmir. The occupation has dispossessed the people from their culture which is distinctly unique and different from Indian culture. The resistance in Kashmir is against alien occupation and is not communal. It cannot be communal and should not be. Kashmiri culture was nurtured over the course of centuries where various religious and ethnic groups lived in complete harmony. Even after the annexation of the State of Jammu & Kashmir by India, this spirit continued to thrive, and Muslims and Hindus (Pandits) lived in amity in the Valley of Kashmir.

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Analysis

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

U. S. launches new program to help Pakistan farmers adapt to climate change

Kiran Asim /Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: United States Ambassador for Pakistan Donald Blome inaugurated a new, five-year Climate-Smart Agriculture program designed to equip Pakistani farmers with innovative tools and practices to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

This U. S.-funded initiative will benefit farmers across Pakistan, and the program was launched at the University of Agriculture - Faisalabad, where the United States has previously supported the establishment of a Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture. U. S. Consul General Kristin Hawkins and USAID Mission Director Kate Somvongsiri joined Ambassador Blome for the launch event, along with Pakistani representatives from government, academia, and the agribusiness



community.

This program builds on the long-standing partnership between the United States and Pakistan in agriculture, exemplified by the groundbreaking work of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug, whose efforts in the 1960s significantly boosted wheat production in Pakistan. "Through this initiative, the United States and Pakistan will collaborate to improve both crop yields and farmers' livelihoods," Ambassador Blome said.

For over 60 years, the United States and Pakistan have worked closely to strengthen agricultural output while promoting environmental conservation. Ambassador Blome emphasized, "Through projects like these, the United States is supporting a brighter, more prosperous, and climate-resilient future for the Pakistani people

UK to support Pakistan in pursuing accountable, inclusive governance after 18th Amendment



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Learning Event on "Reforming Governance Post-18th Amendment: Lessons Learnt and the Path Forward" opened today at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad, bringing together prominent figures from government, academia, and the international development sector. Hosted by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) in partnership with Oxford Policy Management (OPM) and other development partners, the conference reflects on progress with governance reforms post 18th Amendment, and reform priorities for the future.

The event opened with addresses from Jane Marriott CMG OBE, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mujib Sadozai, Director of the Sub-National Governance (SNG) Programme, and by Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Federal Minister for Power. In her opening remarks, Jane Marriott highlighted the importance of "Accountable, Capable and Inclusive Governance", and UK's longstanding support for Pakistan's governance journey. She noted that "Decentralised governance has the potential to drive sustainable development, and we are committed to assisting Pakistan in achieving resilient and inclusive reforms."

Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, the Federal Minister for Power, expressed gratitude for the event and the role of the UK as a development partner. He emphasized the importance of increased fiscal space to ease economic pressures, particularly in the power sector where fiscal constraints limit government's ability to invest and provide benefits to consumers. The Minister discussed the need for reforms in social protection systems to improve transparency and inclusion, and the need for reforms to strengthen local government. He noted the challenges posed by Pakistan's rapid population growth, stressing the need for preventive healthcare measures. In the power sector, he outlined efforts to increase renewable energy generation, and the importance of ensuring that power sector investments are economically viable. He highlighted government's ongoing efforts to reform power distribution companies, including through privatisation, and to improve efficiency and management. The Minister concluded by highlighting how these reforms will improve public services for the benefit of the citizens of Pakistan.

Iran says 'won't succumb to pressure' during nuclear talks with IAEA

Iran is willing to resolve outstanding disputes over its nuclear programme but won't succumb to pressure, its foreign minister told the UN nuclear watchdog head on Thursday, as European countries push for diplomacy before Donald Trump's return to the White House.

"The ball is in the EU/E3 court," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote on X following talks in Tehran with IAEA chief Rafael Grossi, referring to three European countries — France, Britain and Germany — which represent the West alongside the United States at nuclear talks. "Willing to negotiate based on our national interest and inalienable rights, but not ready to negotiate under pressure and intimidation," Iranian state media quoted Araghchi as saying. "I hope the other side will adopt a rational policy."

A senior Iranian official told Reuters that Tehran would send a message to the three European powers through Grossi about Tehran's seriousness to resolve its nuclear standoff, while stressing that any pressure on Tehran would have the opposite effect.

Diplomats told Reuters on Wednesday that Britain, France and Germany are pushing for a new resolution against Iran by the International Atomic Energy Agency board next week to pressure Tehran over what they view as its poor cooperation.

Trump's return to office as US president in January upends nuclear diplomacy with Iran, which had stalled under the outgoing administration of Joe Biden after months of indirect talks.

During Trump's previous tenure, Washington ditched a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers that curbed Tehran's nuclear work in exchange for relief from international sanctions.

Trump has not fully spelled out whether he will continue his "maximum pressure" policy on Iran when he takes office.

Relations between Tehran and the IAEA have soured over several long-standing issues including Iran barring the agency's uranium-enrichment experts from the country and its failure to explain uranium traces found at undeclared sites.

In August, the agency said Iran's production of highly enriched uranium continues and it has not improved cooperation with it, despite a resolution passed by the IAEA Board of Governors in June.

Grossi, who has long sought progress with Tehran over its fast-advancing nuclear work, said: "Inspections are just one chapter of our cooperation and cannot be discussed."

The US withdrawal from the nuclear pact in 2018 and the reimposition of sanctions prompted Tehran to violate limitations on its uranium enrichment—seen by the West as a disguised effort to develop nuclear weapons capability.

Mashreq expands Global Climb2 Change Initiative with Environmental Clean-Up Mission

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mashreq, a leading financial institution in the MENA region, has announced the launch of its clean-up expedition in Egypt as part of the bank's global initiative to scale and clean up 14 mountain sites around the world, with the aim of reaching 7 peaks and 7 base camps. This global clean-up mission is one of Mashreq's key undertakings within Climb2Change, a global initiative integrating the bank's ongoing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) efforts and milestones. Recognized by Forbes Middle East as 'Most Sustainable Project in the Middle East', in the Financial sector, Mashreq is advancing its commitment to sustainable finance and its ambition to accelerate environmental and social

impact through this expedition.

The mission in Egypt will focus on the clean-up of three designated zones in Wadi Degla, a natural reserve and protectorate near Cairo that spans over 60 square kilometres. Taking place in November 2024 and led by renowned adventurers Omar Samra and Manal Rostam, this expedition will address waste accumulation and promote environmental conservation.

Wadi Degla is a natural reserve located 15 minutes from Maadi, Cairo. This rugged canyon is home to diverse wildlife and ancient geological formations, including a 50-meter-deep canyon that cuts through 60-million-year-old limestone layers that reveal rare fossils and petrified wood. It is a popular destination for outdoor activities such as hiking, climbing, and

camping.

Ahmed Abdelaal, Group CEO of Mashreq, stated, "Expanding our Climb2Change initiative into Egypt underscores Mashreq's unwavering commitment to driving measurable environmental and social impact across the globe. Building on the success of our clean-up missions in Nepal and Pakistan, this initiative in Wadi Degla goes beyond conservation—it embodies our ambition to cultivate a culture of environmental stewardship and proactive climate action. Egypt, as a key market closely aligned with our strategic ESG objectives, provides an ideal setting for the next phase of Climb2Change, reinforcing our commitment to creating lasting impact through environmental and social initiatives. This expansion highlights Mashreq's dedication to

community empowerment and environmental stewardship in markets essential to our mission."

Commenting on the announcement, Omar Samra said, "Joining Mashreq's Climb2Change initiative in Egypt is a great opportunity to contribute to environmental preservation in my home country.

Manal Rostom added, "I am honoured to be part of Mashreq's Climb2Change clean-up mission in my home country Egypt, a cause that resonates deeply with my commitment to breaking barriers and advocating for social and environmental change.

After Egypt, the initiative's efforts will extend to reach Tibet, China in the coming months, targeting other iconic locations and fragile ecosystems in this region.

Commemoration of Iqbal Day

Hamdard Foundation hosted monthly meeting of Hamdard Naunhal Assembly

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: In commemoration of Iqbal Day on November 9th, the Hamdard Foundation Pakistan hosted the monthly meeting of the Hamdard Naunhal Assembly Karachi yesterday at the Bait ul Hikmah Auditorium, Madinat-al-Hikmah. The event was titled "Allama Iqbal's Life and Thoughts" and was presided over by Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of the Hamdard Foundation Pakistan.

The chief guest, Mehmood Arshad, an economist and Chairman of the Economic Council Employees Federation of Pakistan said that Allama Iqbal imparted to the younger generation the importance of self-awareness (Khudi). Through his poetry, Iqbal inspired a sense of self-realization and a deep commitment to serving the nation.

Allama Iqbal's philosophy of Shaheen (Eagle) is essentially a practical extension of his concept of Khudi, in which he teaches that Allah Almighty has made the universe



conquerable for humankind. This conquest is only achievable when we recognize and harness the God-given qualities and abilities within ourselves. The concept of Khudi encourages us to discover our inner potential and use it to contribute to the welfare of society. According to Iqbal, those who dedicate their lives to the service of others embody the true spirit of Shaheen. The life of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said is a testament to this ideal; although Hakim Said is no longer with us, his legacy endures. The institution he estab-

lished Hamdard continues to play a vital role in nurturing the intellectual development of the next generation.

Mehmood Arshad, urged the youth to keep Iqbal's concept of Khudi in mind, so that they may develop the qualities of Shaheen and bring glory to the country and the nation. He also praised the passionate speeches of the young participants, noting that by engaging in such programs, despair is dispelled, and hope is rekindled, affirming that the future of our beloved country is bright.

Earlier, in her welcome address,

Ms. Sadia Rashid highlighted that Allama Iqbal not only conceived the idea of Pakistan but also directly addressed the youth in his poetry, urging them to possess courage and strive for the achievement of their goals. According to Iqbal, the prosperity of a nation and its global standing depend on the academic, physical, and intellectual capabilities of its youth. Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, deeply inspired by Iqbal's philosophy, ensured that special articles on Iqbal were included in the Hamdard Naunhal magazine. This was done to enlighten the younger generation with the teachings of this great thinker. Iqbal's message serves as an intellectual guide, offering youth the tools for purpose, knowledge, and courage in their lives.

The event concluded with a tribute to Allama Iqbal by the Naunhal speakers from various schools, followed by a Dua-i-Said presented by the students of Hamdard Public School.

Pakistan on a Way to 62 million Diabetics – Experts

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set on the way to have 62 million diabetic by 2045. The number of people living with diabetes in Pakistan increased from 6.3 million in 2011 to 33 million in 2021 and approximately 36 million in 2024, with an additional one million as pre-diabetic. The sharp surge of diabetes has ranked Pakistan a number one country globally in term of prevalence rate of diseases where every third adult Pakistani is diabetic. More than 1100 deaths are attributed to diabetes or its complications daily in Pakistan. If no immediate policy action taken, the situation will further deteriorate. Experts agree that the consumption of ultra-processed foods lurking with industrially produced trans fats, sugar

and salt are major contributing factors to the diabetes surge in Pakistan. Trans fats, found in processed foods, fried items, and baked goods, are known to increase insulin resistance, raise bad cholesterol (LDL), and promote inflammation – all of which increase the risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. This was said by representatives of civil society organizations during a walk organized jointly by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANA), Heartfile, Pakistan Youth Change Advocates, Center for Peace and Development Initiative and others in front of National Press Club Islamabad on world diabetes day.

Mr. Munawar Hussain said that sweet drinks are the largest source of the intake of the sugar in the diet. The liquid sugar alters

the metabolism of the body, promote excess calorie intake which leads to type 2 diabetes and many other fatal diseases. Several research studies indicate that consumption of sugary drinks has clear link with type 2 diabetes.

Mr. Sanaullah Ghuman said that higher taxes on sugary drinks proves to be an effective strategy for reducing the prevalence of diabetes and other fatal non-communicable diseases. This approach has been successfully adopted by approximately 50 countries, including Bahrain, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

Dr. Saba stressed the importance of curbing SSB consumption to combat diabetes.

urgent policy action by the government at regulatory and

legislative level"

"World Diabetes Day is a crucial opportunity to raise awareness about the link between industrially produced trans fats and the rising rates of diabetes in Pakistan," said Mukhtar Ahmed Ali, Executive Director of CPDI. "Trans fats are a significant contributor to this crisis, and it's essential that we eliminate them from our food system. He urges the government to adopt mandatory standards limiting industrially produced trans fats to less than 2% in all foods, in line with the WHO's best practice policy recommendations.

Mr. Afzal Butt said that I and my entire society of journalist will support Taxes campaign and requested government to take immediate the other policy measure like regulating trans fats. Students, civil society repre-



sentatives, health experts and public health advocates were carrying placards demanding government to take necessary policy steps to reduce the consumption of ultra-processed foods and sugary drinks. They requested FBR and Ministry

of finance to increasing tax on sugary drinks and junk foods. They also requested Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority to enacting front of pack warning labels on all ultra-processed food and beverage products, and regu-

lating trans fats in all foods.

The walk was also attended by Dr. Qayyam Awan Senior Executive vice president Pakistan National Heart Association (PANA), Mr. Afzal Butt- President Union of Journalist, Mr. Anwar Raza Executive Islamabad press Club, Dr. Saba-CEO Heart File, Mr. Munawar Hussain-Country Coordinator Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI), Ms. Areeba Shahid- Executive Director of Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA), Mr. Mukhtar Ahmed Ali- Executive Director Center for Peace and Development Initiative (CPDI), Mr. Sana Ullah Ghuman General Secretary Pakistan National Heart Association (PANA), representatives of civil society, media, students, teachers, health experts and people from all walks of life.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
94,191.89	93,355.42
Day's High	Day's Low
94,289.97	93,672.72
Index Value	Change
20,795,331,392	+836.47
Percentage	Time
+0.9%	14 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,071.19	+40.86
Percentage	Time
+0.51%	14 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
43,856.79	-101.40
Percentage	Time
-0.23%	14 Nov, 12:05 pm GMT-5
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,535.70	-185.96
Percentage	Time
-0.48%	14 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181.25	181.43
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	198.16	200.56
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	290.85	293.60
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	311.45	314.25
Thai Bhat	7.93	8.08
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	349.55	353.05
US Dollar	277.40	278.90

Ethiopian Ambassador visits Rawalpindi Chamber

Explores Opportunities for Bilateral Trade and Investment

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Ethiopian Ambassador H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), engaging in discussions with RCCI President Usman Shaukat and other officials on enhancing trade and investment ties between Pakistan and Ethiopia.

During the meeting, President Usman Shaukat provided an overview of RCCI's ongoing initiatives and highlighted Ethiopia's potential as a valuable market for Pakistan's non-traditional exports, particularly in pharmaceuticals, agri-foods, defense equipment, and IT services. He emphasized the importance of easing regulatory compliance to facilitate Pakistani industrialists in exploring Ethiopian markets. President Shaukat further remarked that RCCI will coordinate with the Ethiopian Embassy to arrange a trade delegation visit in March 2025, strengthening the RCCI's active role in promoting Pakistan's "Look Africa" policy. He noted that

mutual trade delegations are essential for building networking opportunities and expanding trade cooperation between the two nations.

Addressing the meeting, Ethiopian Ambassador H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, recognized Ethiopia as a strategic gateway to the African region, with significant potential to support Pakistan's trade and export expansion across a regional market of 1.4 billion people. He encouraged Pakistani businesses to consider Ethiopia as a key partner, mentioning the country's import needs in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, and construction materials. A presentation was also shared with attendees, showcasing various opportunities for trade and investment in Ethiopia.

The meeting was attended by RCCI Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, and several executive and chamber members, all affirming their commitment to fostering strong economic ties between Pakistan and Ethiopia.



Call on

ISLAMABAD: Turkish ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Irfan Neziroglu called on the Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday.



Photo: PID

FrieslandCampina Engro Limited x Reon Energy



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited, a leader in Pakistan's dairy industry, has announced a 3.4 MW solar power project in a significant partnership with Reon Energy, a leading Intelligent Renewable Microgrids company, to strengthen sustainability across its operations.

The plant will be installed at FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan's manufacturing facility in Sahiwal. The system is designed to generate 5,013.6 MWh of clean energy annually, significantly reducing CO2

emissions by approximately 2,506 tonnes each year. This initiative underscores FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan's dedication to environmental stewardship and represents a significant advancement in the dairy industry.

While addressing the event, Kashan Hasan, CEO & Managing Director of FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEPL) emphasized how such partnerships serve as a defining moment in strengthening and promoting environmental sustainability in the dairy industry. He added: "Our partnership with Reon Energy is a key milestone in

our strategy to minimize environmental impact and to foster a sustainable future for the dairy sector. By leveraging solar energy, we have developed a cost-effective and sustainable approach that reduces reliance on non-renewable resources and enhances financial viability for the dairy sector."

Regarding the collaboration, Mujtaba Haider Khan, CEO of Reon Energy, stated, "Reon's partnership with FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEPL) reflects our commitment to promoting renewable energy across industries, including the dairy sector.

Payoneer Reports Record Q3

Commerce Report

LAHORE: Payoneer (NASDAQ: PAYO), a global fintech leader empowering small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) to expand globally, has reported its highest-ever Q3 revenue, reaching \$248 million—a 25% increase year-over-year. With growth driven by a 57% surge in the B2B segment, Payoneer continues to develop its integrated financial stack for SMBs, delivering consistent results for seven consecutive quarters. This growth is highly impactful for Pakistan's SMBs, offering seamless digital payment solutions that empower local businesses to confidently expand their

reach on the global stage. John Caplan, CEO of Payoneer, remarked, "Payoneer delivered record quarterly volume and revenue, and significant profitability in the third quarter. We are building a full-service financial stack for global cross-border SMBs and accelerating growth and profitability across our business. We have increased our growth rate for ICPs for four consecutive quarters to 11% year-over-year, and for ARPU excluding interest income for five consecutive quarters to 20%. We are at the beginning of our growth trajectory and are focused on consistent execution to capture the opportunity ahead of us."

SECP Notifies Regulations for Securities Managers

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has notified the Securities Managers (Licensing and Operations) Regulations, 2024 with the objective to facilitate investment advisory in the securities market.

The regulatory framework permits eligible securities brokers to provide portfolio management services after obtaining the license of a securities manager from the Commission. Prior to the issuance of these regulations, securities brokers were precluded from providing investment advisory services.

The eligibility criteria for obtaining the license of a securities manager include maintaining a minimum net worth of Rs. 30 million and a Broker Fiduciary Rating of BFR 2 or higher. The applicant must further be able to demonstrate adequate research capacity to undertake the functions of a securities manager.

Meezan Bank has played key role in promoting Islamic banking

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Meezan Bank played a key role in introducing and promoting Islamic banking system in Pakistan, said Mr. Rehan Naseem Bharara, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). Addressing an awareness session on Islamic banking, he said that Prophet Mohammad PBUH was a trader and the profession of trading is tantamount to follow his footprints. Mr. Bharara appreciated the professional approach of the local team of Meezan Bank and said that we should not restrict ourselves to the Islamic banking but also keep in view the "Halal and Haram" in other spheres of life. He appreciated the role of religious scholars who dispelled the apprehensions of the people about Islamic banking and we are expecting that interest based banking system would be completely rooted out by 2028. Mian Muhammad Yaseen Senior Area Manager introduced Meezan Bank and said that it had started its operation as the first Islamic commercial bank in 2002 and now 40 branches are operational in Faisalabad city alone.

OICCI highlights the critical role of the private sector for climate resilience at COP 29



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) underscored the essential role of public-private collaboration in tackling Pakistan's climate challenges at COP 29.

OICCI Secretary General M. Abdul Aleem stressed the private sector's critical role in bridging Pakistan's \$152 billion climate adaptation gap, noting that "supportive policies and incentives are essential for scaling climate-smart investments." Andrew Bailey, Managing Director at BASF Pakistan, underlined the importance of resilient financial systems, adding that "OICCI members are advancing Net Zero goals through investments in clean energy, green financing, and climate resilience, turning climate action into a pathway for sustainable growth."

Rob Cameron, Global Head of ESG Engagement at Nestlé, highlighted Nestlé Pakistan's role in water regeneration, "Preserving water resources and regeneration is part of Nestlé's legacy and under the Caring for Water - Pakistan initiative, drip irrigation and smart soil moisture sensors have been operational across 128 acres in Punjab and 183 acres in Sindh and with these efforts, Nestlé is advancing regenerative agriculture across its value chain."

Veronica Nyhan Jones discussed the critical role of innovative climate finance instruments in advancing climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land-use projects in Pakistan. Fiona Duggan, Global Sustainability Climate Lead at Unilever, stressed the need for regulatory reforms and financial incentives to scale circular economy practices discussed how companies must embed climate resilience into their supply chains for broader impact. Dr. Fatima Khushnood, Executive Director, Pakistan Environment Trust also spoke.

Shandong enterprises form groups to jointly explore the overseas market in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Department of Commerce of Shandong Province (China) recently hosted the China (Shandong)-Pakistan Economic and Trade Matchmaking Conference to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the two sides in trade cooperation, technology transfer, investment, and factory construction.

The matchmaking conference was held on the sidelines of the recently held Pakistan Industrial Exhibition

where representatives from over 40 enterprises in Shandong Province and more than 100 Pakistani business people gathered together to engage in in-depth discussions on multiple topics.

The atmosphere at the matchmaking conference was lively, and representatives from both companies actively communicated and sought opportunities for cooperation. Representatives of enterprises in Shandong Province provided a detailed introduction to their respective advantageous products and

technologies, showcasing Shandong's strong strength in manufacturing, high-tech industries, and other fields. Pakistani business people have shown strong interest in the products and technologies of Shandong enterprises, and the two sides have conducted preliminary negotiations on multiple projects and reached multiple cooperation intentions.

In addition to attending the matchmaking conference, the Shandong enterprises also participated in the 8th Pakistan Industrial Expo.

This expo attracted nearly a hundred Chinese manufacturing companies to participate, with the theme of "Promoting China-Pakistan Cooperation and Building the Industrial Future Together".

It not only showcased the latest products and technologies in core industries such as machine tool manufacturing, engineering machinery, automotive equipment, hardware and building materials but also became an important platform for Chinese and Pakistani enterprises to deepen cooperation

and expand markets. This expo will last until November 11th and last for three days. Multiple forums and seminars were held during the expo, inviting industry experts and scholars to have in-depth discussions and exchanges on topics such as industrial development and technological innovation. The expo contributed new strength to China, Pakistan, and South Asia's industrial development, while providing more opportunities for enterprises to expand their international markets and achieve business growth.

Australia won the First T-20 Match against Pakistan by 29 Runs

Asim Tanveer

BRISBANE: Australia won the first T20 match by 29 runs, just as they did in the ODI series, with Pakistan losing 6 wickets in the final 15 balls. Australia defeated Pakistan in the first T20 International match at the Gabba in Brisbane. Just like in the ODI series, they started the T20 series with a win, although Pakistan went on to win the following two ODI matches to claim that series. The remaining T20 matches will determine the ultimate winner of this series. The Pakistani team, losing 6 wickets and scoring only 16 runs in the last 15 balls, could not make a comeback.

The rain-affected match was reduced to 7 overs per innings. Pakistan won the toss and opted to bowl first, with Australia scoring 93 runs for 4 wickets in 7 overs. Glenn Maxwell spared no one, including Haris Rauf, scoring 43 runs off 19 balls with the help of 3 sixes and 5 fours. He was dismissed by Abbas Afridi, with Usman



Khan taking the catch. Apart from him, Matthew Short scored 7, Tim David 10, and Jack Fraser 9 runs. Marcus Stoinis played an unbeaten innings of 21 off 7 balls.

For Pakistan, Abbas Afridi gave away only 9 runs in his one over and took 2 wickets. In their overs, Haris Rauf

conceded 21 runs and Naseem Shah 37 runs, both taking one wicket each. Shaheen Afridi, after conceding 25 runs, remained wicketless.

In reply, Pakistan's innings began disastrously. Rizwan couldn't get going, and Babar Azam didn't last either. Usman Khan's bat remained silent, and Agha

Salman couldn't contribute. At one point, Pakistan was 5 wickets down for 16 and later 6 wickets down for 24. Opener Sahibzada Farhan scored 8, but his partner Mohammad Rizwan was dismissed for zero. Babar Azam made 3, Usman Khan 4, Agha Salman 4, and Irfan Khan also went out for zero.

Haseebullah and Abbas Afridi managed to stop the fall of wickets, but by then, the required run rate had climbed too high. With the Green Caps at 47 runs after 5 overs, they needed another 47 in the last 2 overs, but Haseebullah was dismissed for 12 on the second ball of the sixth over. Shaheen Afridi scored 11 but was stumped off Zampa's delivery. Abbas Afridi remained unbeaten with 20, as Pakistan could only manage 64 runs for 9 wickets.

For Australia, Xavier Bartlett took 3 wickets for 13 runs in his 2 overs, but pacer Nathan Ellis excelled with 3 wickets for just 9 runs in his 2 overs. Adam Zampa also took 2 wickets for 11 runs in one over.

Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament. Zone-VII Whites Qualify for Semi Final.

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VII Whites Qualify for the Semi Final after beating Zone-I Whites by 9 Wickets in their last group "A" match in the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at KCCA Stadium.

The highlights of the days play was deadly bowling by Medium Pacer Hadi Babar 5/31, Younas Khan 4/38.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies.

Scores in Brief:

Zone-VII Whites beat Zone-I Whites by 6 wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-I Whites 79 all out in 35 overs. Kabib Muhammad 25, Muhammad Asghar 18.

Muhammad Hunain (sla) 3/19, Hassan Ahmed Siddiqui 2/7, S. Abdul Rafay 2/11.

Zone-VII Whites 81/4 in 18.3 overs.



Hassan Ahmed Siddiqui 29 not out, Amanullah 26, Hassan 22.

Later Hassan Ahmed Siddiqui received

Medicam Man of the Match Award.

In the 2nd Match at Landhi Gymkhana Ground Zone-II Whites

defeated Zone-V Blues by 9 Wickets. Zone-V Blues 149 all out in 38.5 overs. Usman Ghani 52 6x4 1x6, Muhammad Aman 25. Hadi Babar (mf) 5/31, Umar Shah 2/24.

Zone-II Whites 150/1 in 29.3 overs. Zaqqwan Fareed 58 9x4, Konain Imam 52 6x4 not out. After the end of the Match Hadi Babar received the Medicam Man of the Match Award from Fateh Khan and Nusrat Mehbob.

In the 3rd Match Zone-II Blues beat Zone-III Blues by 9 Wickets at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-II Blues 163 all out in 37.5 overs. Turab Ali 37, Muhammad Shehzain 25, Ali Haider 22.

Younas Khan 4/38, Ahmed Abdullah 2/27, Syed Raahyab 2/23.

Zone-II Blues 164/1 in 32.5 overs. Mudasser Shoaib 55 7x4, Adam Gilchrist 40 not out, Hassan Mangal 29 not out. Later Younas Khan received the Medicam Man of the Match Award from Former First Class Cricketer Ali Raza.

ICC in talks with boards over non-payment of T20 World Cup dues to players

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The governing International Cricket Council (ICC) is in talks with several boards which have yet to pay prize money from this year's Twenty20 World Cup to the players, sources told Reuters on Thursday.

India beat South Africa in the final to win the tournament, which was co-hosted by the US and West Indies in June.

The World Cricketers' Association (WCA) said in a statement on Wednesday that some cases of non-payment of the prize money have been paired with "threatening and intimidatory behaviour" by national governing bodies to player groups.

A source told Reuters that the ICC has taken up the issue with five boards of the 20 participating countries to ensure players were paid in a timely manner.



Earlier, WCA CEO Tom Moffat said the global players' body was "extremely concerned... with a number of threats made against players who stand up for themselves and their colleagues in some

cricket environments".

"We appreciate the ICC's efforts to date in ensuring the players involved are paid in full and are certain the ICC will continue to take all appropriate steps

against any Boards who do not do so and to enforce their terms of participation," Moffat said in the statement.

"Every player in our sport should receive the benefits they are entitled to in full, and should be provided with a safe environment to play, work, and advocate for themselves and their colleagues off the field, through a players' association if they choose."

The WCA released the statement after the board met this week in Singapore for its annual general meeting, where they also launched a Global Player Hardship Fund.

The fund was created to support international players in need "who are not covered by the game's existing domestic frameworks for support".

"We are certain it is going to assist those current and recently retired international cricketers who are presently unsupported and vulnerable," said JP Van Wyk, the WCA's head of welfare and education.

Glenn Maxwell, pacers star as Australia thump Pakistan in rain-affected first T20I

Sports Desk

KARACHI: BRISBANE: Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis' power hitting, coupled with excellent pace bowling, led Australia to a commanding victory over Pakistan in the rain-affected first T20I here at The Gabba on Thursday.

While chasing a massive 94-run target in seven overs, Pakistan managed 64-9, losing by a margin of 29 runs.

The visitors had a horrible start to the run-chase as they lost six wickets in 3.2 overs with only 24 runs on the board. None of the top six batters managed to reach the double figures.

Haseebullah Khan (12) and Abbas Afridi showed some resist-

ance with a 23-run stand for the seventh wicket before the former fell prey to Nathan Ellis.

Adam Zampa bowled Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah off the final two balls to seal Australia's victory. Abbas remained unbeaten on 20 off 10 which featured two fours and one sixes.

Xavier Bartlett and Nathan Ellis took three wickets each for Australia, while Zampa took two and Spencer Johnson managed one.

Earlier, Maxwell (43) and Stoinis (21) displayed brilliant power hitting to take Australia to 93-4 in seven overs against a formidable pace attack of Pakistan.

For the unversed, due to the rain and thunderstorms, the

match was reduced to seven overs.

Australia, after being invited to bat first by the Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan, struck 16 runs in the first over, however, Jake Fraser-McGurk (9) fell prey to Naseem Shah on the first ball of the next over.

Glenn Maxwell joined Nathan Ellis and smashed four boundaries to Naseem, taking Australia's total to 33-1 in two overs.

Haris Rauf forced Pakistan's comeback after two expensive overs as he gave away only three runs and removed Matthew Short (7).

However his next over was expensive as Maxwell, who fell thrice to Haris during the ODI

series, struck him for two sixes and one four.

Maxwell's blistering 43-run knock came to an end in the next over when he was caught by Usman Khan at deep square leg off Abbas Afridi.

The all-rounder conceded 19 balls and hit eight boundaries, including three sixes, during his entertaining knock.

Abbas dismissed Tim David (9) in the same over courtesy of Irfan Khan's catch at deep midwicket.

Stoinis struck 20 runs in the last over of Naseem to lift Australia's total to 93-4. He remained unbeaten at 21 off seven, laced with two fours and one six.

For Pakistan, Abbas took two wickets, while Naseem and Haris



bagged one each.

Playing XI's

Australia: Jake Fraser-McGurk, Matt Short, Josh Inglis (c)(wk), Glenn Maxwell, Marcus

Ahmed Shehzad slams Pakistan batters after T20I defeat against Australia

Sports Desk



KARACHI: Test cricketer Ahmed Shehzad launched a scathing criticism against Pakistan batters after a humiliating defeat to Australia in the rain-affected first T20I in Brisbane.

Australia after being invited to bat first posted 93-4 in seven overs courtesy of the brilliant power hitting of Glenn Maxwell (43) and Marcus Stoinis (21) against a formidable pace attack of Pakistan.

In response, Pakistan managed 64 runs at the loss of nine and succumbed to a 29-run defeat.

Ahmed Shehzad expressed his disappointment with Pakistan's batting performance on his official X (formerly Twitter) account, calling it 'shameful'.

"Such a shameful display from Pakistan batsmen. Looks like Pakistan's on a runaway train," he posted.

In another post, the opening batter urged senior players to take more responsibility, as they showed little resistance against the Australian bowlers.

"It was a truly disappointing performance by this Pakistan batting lineup. Youngsters like Sahibzada, Haseebullah, and Abbas showed intent, but it's a team game, and Pakistan's bowling won't save them every day," he posted.

"The seniors need to step up their game. Shot selections were poor, and we're missing power compared to other teams."

Pakistan and Australia will next face each other on November 16 in Sydney, while Hobart will host the third T20I on November 18.

Broadcasters urge ICC to release Champions Trophy 2025 schedule: reports

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Broadcasters have urged the International Cricket Council (ICC) to promptly release the schedule for the Champions Trophy 2025.

The schedule was originally set to be released earlier this week; however, the announcement was delayed after the government of India refused to send its team to Pakistan for the event.

The broadcasting rights, awarded to broadcasters until 2027 for a record \$3 billion, hinge largely on the popularity of marquee matches, particularly between Pakistan and India, which consistently draw the highest viewership.

Broadcasters earn the highest revenue from Pakistan-India games, as these matches attract massive audiences and generate significant advertising revenue.

The early release of the schedule would aid broadcasters in maximizing their promotional and commercial planning for these high-stakes events.

On November 9, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) informed the International Cricket Council (ICC) that India would not travel to Pakistan to participate in the Champions Trophy 2025.

According to ESPNcricinfo, the BCCI officially informed the ICC that the Indian government advised against sending the team to Pakistan.

It must be noted 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.

ICC Champions Trophy tour to kick off in Islamabad from Nov 16

The trophy tour for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025 will kick off from Islamabad on November 16 despite the uncertainty surrounding the Indian team's visit to Pakistan for the tournament scheduled for February next year.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on X said that the trophy's tour will begin in Islamabad and will also see scenic travel destinations like Skardu, Murree, Hunza and Muzaffarabad.

"Catch a glimpse of the trophy which Sarfaraz Ahmed lifted in 2017 at The Oval, from 16-24 November," wrote the cricket body.

The prestigious silverware was brought from Dubai to Islamabad, two days before the scheduled commencement of the trophy tour.



Summit on Journalism

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal delivered address as Chief Guest at Journalism of the Future Summit on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Chief Justice to discuss comprehensive justice reforms in coming months

City Desk

As a part of commitment to strengthen service delivery and broaden access to justice, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, convened a meeting today on 14.11.2024 at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad. The meeting was attended by the academia from Pakistan's leading varsities and prominent development experts and advocates including Dr. Ali Cheema, Vice Chancellor of Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS); Dr. Aftab, Rector, FAST University; Prof. Dr. Fazal Khalid, Rector, Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI); Dr. Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST); Mr. Rauf Ata, President Supreme Court Bar Association (SBCA); Advo-



cate Mansoor; and Mr. Sher Shah, a noted development expert to lay the groundwork for comprehensive justice sector reforms.

At the outset of the meeting, the Hon'ble Chief Justice welcomed the participants and highlighted the challenges facing Pakistan's justice system. He underscored that these reforms would encompass every tier of the judiciary, beginning at the Apex Court and extending through to the lower courts.

Emphasizing a collaborative approach, he stated that feedback from all stakeholders—judges, lawyers, litigants, and citizens—would be central to developing a responsive and effective system. The Chief Justice further acknowledged the invaluable role of academia in this transformative process, inviting universities to contribute their expertise to enhance judicial efficiency, transparency, and accessibility.

Mr. Mohammad Saleem Khan Registrar, Supreme Court addressed the meeting on the pressing need for comprehensive reforms within the justice sector, setting a clear agenda for enhanced service delivery. Development expert Mr. Sher Shah outlined the Chief Justice's reform vision and presented short-term foundational plans as essential stepping stones towards medium-term and long-term improvements. Mr. Hamayoon Zafar

detailed the judiciary's digital transformation roadmap, highlighting short, medium and long-term objectives to modernize the system through technology.

Throughout the session, participants engaged in constructive discussions, individually stressing the importance of building IT capacity and conducting a thorough Business Process Analysis of the judicial system. These initiatives are anticipated to address existing bottlenecks, ultimately making the justice system more accessible, transparent, and efficient. Each representative assured their full commitment to supporting and advancing these reform efforts.

The meeting resolved that focal persons nominated by the participating universities will coordinate closely with the Supreme Court's team to carry forward this transformative agenda.

Pakistan unveils first climate finance strategy to mobilise funds for national climate action

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Pavilion hosted a session on Thursday its first National Climate Finance Strategy (NCFS) to address the escalating challenges posed by global heating by mobilising financial resources for climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, focusing on scaling up climate-related investments, attracting international finance and strengthening domestic financial systems, according to a press release issued here from the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination.

Pakistan's Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and Pakistani Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam

jointly unveiled NCFS at Pakistan Pavilion in Baku on the sidelines of the two-week UN-led global climate conference (COP29).

Muhammad Aurangzeb said having unveiled the NCFS is a matter of great pride as it provides a roadmap to systematically access and secure climate finance from available funding channels. He further said that NCFS is based on principles of transparency, accountability and inclusivity. It outlines the multiple avenues to leverage international, domestic and private finance.

He also termed NCFS a cornerstone of Pakistan's commitment to the Paris Agreement, underpinning the unprecedented significance of engaging with private sector, international climate finance,



and carbon markets.

It also identifies sectoral priorities and outlines measures to leverage various financial instruments to support climate resilience initiatives, which paints a clear framework for climate finance from various channels, Mr. Aurangzeb highlighted.

"Above all, the launching of NCFS actually reflects Paki-

stan's proactive approach to mobilising climate finance and building resilience against climate-induced challenges," the Pakistani federal finance minister told the participants of the event.

"It's really a historic moment for Pakistan to be able to unveil its first-ever climate finance strategy, a major step in our commit-

ment to a sustainable and climate-resilient future," PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam said in her keynote remarks at the launching event.

Explaining about the strategy, she said that the climate finance strategy outlines a path to bridge the significant climate finance gap facing Pakistan—a gap we estimate at \$348 billion by 2030 for our climate-resilient and low-carbon development goals. She mentioned that the NCFS will accompany the national climate finance portal, that will share all the climate finance inflows as well as outflows to ensure transparency and accountability. She also mentioned the NCFS is an inclusive document, where input from all the stakeholders have been included.

FO dismissed reports of Beijing pushing Islamabad to join security efforts in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday dismissed reports of Beijing pushing Islamabad to join security efforts in Pakistan, terming them as "speculations motivated by an agenda to create confusion."

The statement by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch comes amid heightened security concerns, with China's envoy recently expressing frustration over the attacks, which Baloch said were "perplexing" remarks. However, on Monday, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson reaffirmed Beijing's support for Pakistan in countering terrorism. Lin Jian also asserted that China and Pakistan had "the resolve



and capability to foil any attempt to harm China-Pakistan relations and ensure that terrorists will pay the price."

Responding to queries during a weekly press briefing in Islamabad today, Baloch said: "We do not respond to media speculations that are based on unreliable sources and motivated by an agenda to create confusion about the nature of this relationship.

"We advise media to ascertain the

motivation of individuals who feed them such stories," she stressed. The spokesperson further asserted: "We would not allow any effort to derail the Pakistan-China strategic partnership."

Two major deadly attacks have occurred this year — a March blast in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bisham killed five Chinese nationals while another blast near Karachi airport last month killed two citizens of the neighbouring country.

A media reports this week, citing "five Pakistani security and government sources", stated Beijing was pushing Islamabad to allow its own security staff to protect thousands of Chinese citizens working in Pakistan.

Neither Beijing nor Islamabad have confirmed the talks officially. The inte-

rior and planning ministries had not responded to Reuters' requests for comment on the report, which also cited a "written proposal sent by Beijing to Islamabad."

Echoing her Chinese counterpart's remarks, Baloch asserted today: "Pakistan and China have the resolve and capability to foil any attempt to harm China-Pakistan relations, including by spreading stories about the nature of our cooperation."

"Pakistan and China have robust dialogue and cooperation on [a] range of issues, including counterterrorism and security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan," she said, adding that the dialogue was based on mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation.

DPM Dar in Abu Dhabi to attend three-day 15th Sir Bani Yas Forum



Spokesman Report

ABU DHABI: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday arrived here to attend the 15th Sir Bani Yas Forum being held from November 15-17, 2024.

The deputy prime minister is

attending the three-day event, at the invitation of his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan according to a Foreign Office press release.

At the forum, the DPM Dar will engage in high-level dialogue with global leaders, investors and experts, addressing critical issues of regional security, economic cooperation and sustainable development.

He will underscore Pakistan's strategic perspective on fostering diplomatic solutions to complex regional challenges and advancing collective prosperity. Pakistan's cuisine

PTI protest should solely focus on 'one purpose': Marwat

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The sole aim of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf protest on November 24 should be the release of incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan, party's lawmaker Sher Afzal Marwat has said.

In an interview with News Insight with Amir Zia which was aired on Aaj News on Thursday, he rejected the notion that any of the party's recent movements have failed. "The last sit-in at D-Chowk lasted only two days, but for the first time, we have announced a definitive plan for a conclusive protest."

Khan has announced the date of the protest, which he believes would be for the "restoration" of democracy and judiciary.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur took oath from the party's supporters at the Swabi rally that they would not return home until Khan was released.

When asked how long the protest would last, Marwat said: "It could be a one-day protest, 10 days, a hundred days, or even indefinite. This time, we are determined not to back down until Khan's release is secured."

He added that the specific objec-



tives of the protest have not yet been formally announced. "For the past two months, I have been focusing solely on the need for Imran Khan's release," Marwat said and expressed his intention to keep the protest limited to this goal. "Once Khan is freed, they can then address other political or national interests under his leadership and guidance."

The MNA was of the view that no one in the party would be "cruel enough" to compromise on Khan's release. "This is a shared desire among all party members and the initiative for protests and sit-ins came from the party leadership, which Khan has endorsed."

Federal Minister highlights need for strategic development in Balochistan



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, emphasized the importance of addressing human security and governance in Balochistan, stressing the need for a comprehensive and consistent policy framework.

He highlighted Balochistan's unique landscape and socio-political challenges, including its high poverty rate, with 45% of the population living below the poverty line, and low literacy rate of 45%, far below the national average.

Jam Kamal Khan argued for decentralization of power and merit-based appointments, noting that coalition governments have long dominated Balochistan due to its small political party structure, which he said limits policy continuity.

He also called for an economic consensus to address underdevelopment, pointing to the province's rich

mineral resources and the strategic Gwadar Port. While Gwadar's development under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offers economic opportunities, he warned of challenges posed by external influences.

He advocated strengthening local industry and regulating border trade to support economic growth and ensure Balochistan's success, which he sees as vital to Pakistan's overall prosperity.

Speaking from his experience as the former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Khan laid out a roadmap for addressing the complex internal and external factors impacting the province's security, governance, and economic development.

In his remarks, Jam underscored the vast but underutilized potential of Balochistan, which, despite contributing nearly 40% of Pakistan's mineral wealth, remains one of the country's most impoverished regions.

PPP chief Bilawal slams PML-N for failing relations with US...

Continued from Page 1

called for decisions affecting Sindh to reflect the same standards applied to the federal government.

Bilawal alleged that "some judges engage" in politics from the bench, emphasising that both the chief justice of Pakistan and the constitutional

bench head should remain non-controversial.

He pointed out that the people interact with lower courts, urging the Sindh chief minister to consult with the CJP regarding reforms in such courts. "Until reforms are implemented in the lower courts, our mission will remain incomplete."