

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ابن عباس رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے زمانہ میں اپنے ہاتھوں سے ایک گھر بنایا تاکہ بارش سے حفاظت رہے اور جو پتے سے سایہ حاصل ہو اللہ کی مخلوق میں سے کسی نے اس کام میں میری مدد نہیں کی۔ معلوم ہوا کہ ضرورت کے لئے گھر بنانا درست ہے۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6302)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Government dismisses mini-budget rumors as IMF wraps visit for bailout

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb says the government will meet Rs12,970 tax collection target. The federal government has dismissed rumours of a mini-budget following the visit by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to Pakistan for unscheduled talks on a \$7 billion bailout package.



Ukraine's Zelensky says wants to end war by diplomacy next year

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Saturday that Kyiv would like to end the war with Russia next year through "diplomatic means", as both countries prepare for Donald Trump's return to the White House. February 2025 will mark the third anniversary of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, with Russia's troops gaining ground in recent months against Kyiv's outmanned and outgunned soldiers.

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International Defence Exhibition

Tanks and armored vehicles during preparations for the ahead of International Defence Exhibition and Seminar in Karachi Expo Centre



Photo: PID

Six Terrorists Consigned to Hell: Seven Brave Sons of the Soil Martyred

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On night 15/16 November 2024, terrorists attempted to attack a security forces' post in general area Shah-e-Mardan of Kalat District.

Own troops fought gallantly as a result of which six terrorists were sent to hell, while four terrorists were injured. However, during intense exchange of fire, seven

brave sons of soil, having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat.

Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorist found in the area.

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 soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

PM strongly condemns terrorist attack on unarmed civilians in Kalat



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday strongly condemned the terrorists' attack on unarmed civilians in the Johar area of district Kalat, Balochistan.

The prime minister prayed for the elevation of ranks of those killed in the incident and grant of courage to the bereaved families to bear the loss with equanimity.

In a statement issued by the PM Office Press Wing, the prime minister directed to provide best medical facilities to those injured in the incident.

He also ordered to take immediate actions against the people involved in the incident and give them exemplary punishment.

Condemning the terrorists' cowardly attack on the innocent civilians, the prime minister said the elements involved in spreading unrest and insecurity in Balochistan were the enemies of the people and development of the province.

Such despicable acts cannot shake the government's commitment to the development and prosperity of Balochistan, he said adding that the cowardly attacks cannot weaken the nation's resolve.

He vowed to crush the evil designs of the enemies of Pakistan saying that the government will continue its war till the complete eradication of the menace of terrorism from the country.

Crackdown on PTI leaders ahead of November 24 protest

Naveed Ahmad Khan

The Punjab police have intensified raids on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters and leaders ahead of the party's protest on November 24 for the "restoration of democracy and judiciary."

The police conducted a raid at PTI leader Mian Mahmood Rasheed's house in Lahore, with alleged CCTV footage of the operation surfaced on social media.

Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan has urged his followers to march towards Islamabad on November 24 for the "restoration" of democracy and the judiciary.

Former information minister Fawad Chaudhry claimed that the government would make the PTI's protest successful alleg-



edly by arresting PTI workers, blocking streets, and placing containers in the federal capital.

"The government will bring shipping containers before on November 21 and 22 and arrest PTI supporters," he said in a TV interview.

Rasheed's son stated that his father has been in jail for the past

year and a half, leaving only his mother at home. "I am currently in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while the police continue to raid our home daily," he said in a statement.

Amidst this, the PTI leadership met at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's House in

Peshawar to finalise their protest strategy for the demonstration in Islamabad.

Gandapur reiterated that the PTI founder has issued a final call to action. "We will take to the streets with our shrouds on. This time, Punjab must also prepare," he said and instructed each National Assembly member from Punjab to bring 10 vehicles while members of the Punjab Assembly were asked to bring five.

PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan has advised party workers to arrive in Islamabad in convoys to avoid police arrests. "When there is no adherence to the Constitution and law in the country, the only path left is to protest. We will not return until all our demands are met," he said.

Sources within the party revealed that former first

lady Bushra Bibi made a brief address from "behind the scenes," relaying instructions to the leadership based on Khan's directives.

She reportedly said a "strong protest will be staged this time" and instructed all members to "bring 10,000 workers" from their constituencies for the protest.

Gandapur also discussed the upcoming protest with parliamentarians from Malakand and Hazara. He directed the party's MNAs to "bring 1,000 individuals each while provincial assembly members were asked to bring 500."

He urged party members to prepare for a sit-in until their demands were met. "Workers from KP and Punjab will gather at the Islamabad toll plaza," he said.

Information minister urges courts to decide May-9 cases swiftly

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has called upon courts to expedite decisions regarding the May 9 incidents.

Addressing a news conference on Saturday, he presented alleged evidence implicating senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in orchestrating attacks on sensitive installations and memorials of national martyrs. Pakistan's cuisine

He claimed that detailed video evidence, including CCTV footage from Lahore, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, and other cities, directly linked the PTI leaders and members with violence. "The evidence is undeniable, and it is now up to the courts to ensure swift justice," he stated.

The minister accused the PTI leaders of being part of a "well-organised conspiracy" and said they received direct instructions to target key national sites. "They kept asking for evidence, and now it is in front

of everyone," he added.

The minister promised that all evidence, including CCTV footage, was secure and unalterable. He stressed the need for a swift resolution of pending cases to set a precedent and deter such incidents in the future.

Concluding his address, Tarar urged PTI leadership to apologise to the nation and stop calling for foreign interference. He reiterated that justice must be served to prevent chaos in future.



IMF urges Pakistan to slash state intervention in economy

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A participant stands near a logo of IMF at the International Monetary Fund-World Bank Annual Meeting 2018 in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, on October 12, 2018. Reuters

The International Monetary Fund has urged Pakistan to end the state intervention in the economy as the two sides wrap up unscheduled talks on the \$7 billion bailout package.

"Pakistan should take steps to decrease state intervention in the economy and enhance competition, which will help foster the development of a



dynamic private sector," IMF

mission chief Nathan Porter said in a statement on Saturday.

The unusual visit from Nov 12 to Nov 15 discussed a \$7-billion bailout within six weeks of its approval by the IMF board, but came too early for the first review of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), due in the first quarter of 2025.

In September, the IMF's Executive Board approved a new \$7 billion, 37-month loan agreement for Pakistan that requires "sound policies and reforms" to strengthen macroeconomic stability. The approval released an immediate \$1 billion disbursement to Islamabad.

Fog, smog disrupt train, flight schedules in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The intensity of smog has disrupted train and flight operations in Punjab, causing the cancellation of five flights, the diverting of four flights and delays in 55 flights.

Railway officials have reported that trains arriving and departing from cities including Lahore and Karachi faced several hours of delays.

Pakistan's largest populated province is dealing with severe smog because of vehicle emissions and air pollution caused by

crops burning in India.

The provincial government has banned most outdoor activities and ordered shops, markets and malls in some cities to close early to curb illnesses caused by intense air pollution. It has also reduced the physical workforce in office by half and shut down schools to avoid health cases.

Earlier this week, UNICEF called for greater efforts to reduce pollution and protect children's health in Punjab, saying that more than 11 million children under five years of age are in danger as they breathe the toxic air.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Launches 'Life Easy Program' for Special Persons

Bureau Report

LAHORE: "Ease and convenience will be created by providing hearing aid to hearing-impaired people," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while starting a project, Life Easy Program for Special Persons, for the provision of auxiliary equipment to ensure their ease and accessibility. She added, "By getting a wheelchair, special people will no longer need the help of others for mobility." Under the Program, special persons will be able to apply for wheelchair and hearing aid. The receipt of applications for the purpose has started. Special persons can apply online at the portal of Social Welfare Department (awc.punjab.gov.pk) from the ease of their homes.

Madam Chief Minister said, "Rehabilitation of special persons is among the top priorities of Punjab government." She added, "I want special people to live an easy life like normal people." She underscored, "Seeing special people



happy is a pleasant experience of life."

Earlier, a few weeks ago, Madam Chief Minister had announced the project to provide assistive devices to the persons with disability in order to make their lives easier.

Meanwhile CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif release her message on International Day for Tolerance

She Said "The Prophet ﷺ set great examples of tolerance in his life, we have to follow them," said Chief Minister

Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif in her message on International Day for Tolerance. She added, "Patience, respect and tolerance are the foundations of a successful and a peaceful society."

Madam Chief Minister said, "The world is a mixture of different beliefs, cultures, and ideologies, all of which must be respected." She added, "They are promoting tolerance and harmony in the light of the teachings of Quaid-e-Azam."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Educational institutions should also teach principles of tolerance, respect, and love to the young generation." She added, "The poison of hate and bigotry makes societies hollow." She highlighted, "To build a society that provides equal opportunities and rights to every citizen is my priority."

Madam Chief Minister said, "Accept differences, promote tolerance, and respect each other." She added, "Pakistan should be made an example of peace, tolerance, and brotherhood."

Experts guide students on career pathways and opportunities at UAJK Expo 2024



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Allied Health Society of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), in collaboration with the Pakistan Army, marked the second day of the Allied Health Sciences Expo 2024 with an exciting blend of academic engagement, cultural exhibitions, and skill-building sessions. Among the highlights of the day was an exclusive session titled "The Actual Art of Resume Writing," delivered by Mubashar Naqvi, Public Relations Officer of UAJK.

This impactful session focused on empowering students with the skills needed to craft professional and compelling resumes tailored to the needs of the modern job market. Speaking to a packed audience, Mubashar Naqvi emphasized the importance of a well-organized resume in creating a strong first impression with employers.

"Your resume is not just a document; it is a representation of your potential and the gateway to your professional future. A well-crafted resume can set you apart in a competitive environment," he stated. He also shared actionable strategies for structuring resumes, aligning them with industry standards, and effectively showcasing skills and achievements.

In another engaging session, Syed Raza Ali Kazmi, Additional Secretary at the Presidential Secretariat, encouraged students to believe in their capabilities and embrace perseverance for a brighter future. "Consistency and belief in your potential will pave the way for a successful career. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders, ready to contribute as doctors, engineers, and professionals dedicated to national progress," he said.

Ijlal Haider Naqvi, Managing Director of Career Advisors, delivered a session on scholarship opportunities and career development. She guided students on leveraging educational and professional resources to achieve academic and career success.

The Expo also featured research presentations by health sciences scholars and interactive Q&A sessions with faculty. Students from Azad Kashmir, all four provinces of Pakistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan enthusiastically participated in showcasing their regional cultures through traditional attire, local cuisines, and creative projects related to health sciences.

Organizers presented commemorative shields to guest speakers as a token of appreciation for their invaluable contributions to the event. The Allied Health Sciences Expo 2024 continues to serve as a platform for fostering academic excellence, cultural exchange, and professional growth.

Farmers in Khairpur protesting irrigation shortfall in poor farmers' lands

Qayoom Sarohi

KHAIRPUR: In Khairpur, the severe water shortage at the tail end of the Danwrah Minor Canal, originating from the Faiz Wah, has resulted in the inability to cultivate wheat across hundreds of acres. Farmers have demanded that senior irrigation officials take immediate notice of the situation and ensure water supply to prevent further losses.

Protesting farmers, including Haji Abdul Ghafoor Mari, Haji Ghous Bux Phulpoto, Ali Dino Phulpoto, Sanaullah Mari, and others, expressed their frustration, stating that irrigation officials seem intent on deliberately destroying the livelihoods of poor farmers at the canal's tail end. They alleged that while water shortages are inflicted during summer to cause losses, now, during the winter wheat season, they are being denied water entirely, which they described as outright injustice.

The farmers further stated that they are exhausted from filing complaints with officials such as SDO Mazhar Hussain Shaikh, Surveyor Muhammad Usman, and Darogha Saleem Bugti, who have shown no willingness to address their grievances. They warned that if timely water supply is not ensured to save them from economic ruin, they would stage protests outside the offices of the provincial irrigation minister, the secretary, and the Chief Minister.

The farmers emphasized that the water shortage not only damages their crops but also severely impacts their financial stability. They urged higher authorities to take immediate action and ensure water supply to prevent further losses to the poor farming community.

Water Shortage in Danora Canal Tail: Farmers Protest and Warn of Widening Agitation



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KHAIRPUR: Farmers staged a protest over the persistent water shortage at the tail end of Danora Canal. Broken modules and lack of proper maintenance of the canal have hindered water flow, leaving lands barren and severely impacting agriculture in the area.

The protesting farmers, including Abdul Ghafoor Mari, Ghaus Bakhsh Phulpoto, Ali Hassan Phulpoto, Ali Dino Phulpoto, Sanaullah Mari, Usama Mari, Bilal Mari, and Abdul Majeed Mari, demanded immediate repairs of the canal and ensured water supply. They criticized the negligence of relevant officials, including the surveyor, SDO, and engineer, for failing to resolve the issue.

The protesters warned that if the water supply issue is not addressed promptly, they would expand their protest and launch a large-scale agitation. They urged authorities to take swift action to repair the canal and ensure water reaches the tail end to save the region's agriculture from further devastation.

Immediate action is required to address the water shortage and restore agricultural activities in the area to alleviate farmers' suffering.

Protest

RAWALPINDI: Residents of a private housing society are protesting outside the RDA office due to non-availability of facilities.



Photo: Online

HEC shuts down universities, colleges amid severe smog

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has shut down universities and colleges in Lahore and Multan due to severe smog.

According to the official notification, all the universities have been directed to shift classes online to prioritize student safety.

HEC notification stated that schools across Punjab except Murree will remain closed until November 24.

Additionally, the Punjab government has also imposed restrictions on outdoor activities to mitigate the smog's impact. The government urged citizens to take precautions, advising

against unnecessary outdoor activities and ensuring mask usage

Earlier, the Punjab government imposed a complete lockdown in Lahore and Multan for three days a week due to worsening smog conditions.

Senior Minister for Information and Environment Protection Marriyum Aurangzeb, in a press conference, emphasised the severe health risks posed by smog, comparing it to the dangers experienced during COVID-19. She said that like COVID-19, smog is a life-threatening issue, and all necessary precautions must be taken to protect the lives of people.

The lockdown will be fully enforced

in Lahore and Multan from next Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, while the smog situation will be monitored on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The lockdown may be imposed earlier if the air quality worsens.

Marriyum Aurangzeb during her presser announced a complete ban on construction activities in Lahore and Multan starting from 16 November for one week.

She stated that long-term strategies to address pollution, including regulating motorcycle and rickshaw emissions, will be introduced after consideration.

Prior to this, Marriyum stated that the Health Department has been

issued directives to take immediate action.

She said that the smog has led to an increase in respiratory issues, with over 600,000 people affected in Punjab in just one week, and 65,000 hospitalizations reported last week.

In response, paramedical staff leaves have been cancelled, and OPD timings have been extended until 8 pm. Rescue 1122 services have also been ramped up, the minister added.

In the wake of smog, Punjab government earlier sealed dozens of shops, wedding halls and restaurants as authorities have intensified enforcement of early market closures at 8 p.m. to address smog issues.

Pro-Generation

Arisha Irshad Ali

In the bygone era of the 90s, reading was a common pastime that nurtured minds and broadened horizons. People immersed themselves in books, connecting with diverse perspectives and slowing down to appreciate the nuances of language and thought. However, with the advent of the digital age, particularly for Gen Z, a culture of instant gratification has emerged. The patience required for reading—a slow-burn process yielding long-term benefits—has been replaced by the quick dopamine hits of social media. This shift in behavior is alarming, as it prioritizes short-term pleasures over intellectual growth.

A recent book fair in Lahore serves as a stark reminder of this trend. While the event aimed to promote literature and culture, it was overshadowed by the popularity of food stalls. The stark contrast between the meager book sales and the overwhelming demand

for food highlights a generation more concerned with physical sustenance than mental nourishment.

Social media, while a powerful tool, can also be a double-edged sword. It can foster connections, facilitate communication, and disseminate information. Yet, excessive use can lead to addiction, superficiality, and a distorted sense of reality. The constant bombardment of curated content can hinder critical thinking and independent thought.

The question arises: Who will lead the nation if the next generation is preoccupied with fleeting trends and virtual validation? The future of a country depends on the quality of its leaders. We must strive to nurture minds capable of critical thinking, problem-solving, and empathy. It is imperative that we engage with the younger generation, fostering meaningful conversations and encouraging them to explore a world beyond screens.

By promoting reading, critical thinking, and ethical behaviPro-Gen-

eration

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By promoting reading, critical thinking, and ethical behavior, we can empower the next generation to become responsible, informed, and compassionate citizens.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:15 am
Zohr 11:53 am
Asr 3:26 pm
Maghrib 5:04 pm
Isha 6:30 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
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

DIG Raza directs patrolling units to enhance crime control efforts

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza on Saturday emphasized Islamabad Police commitment to eradicating crime during a briefing to the officers of the Dolphin Squad, Ababeel Squad, and Anti-Riot Unit (ARU).

During the briefing, DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza tasked the officers with their respective duties and recognized the efforts of police officers who had performed exceptionally in recent days, awarding them commendation certificates and rewards, a public relations officer told APP.

DIG Ali Raza assured the officers, "Your dedication and hard work will not go in vain. Together, we will ensure the safety of this city and its residents while eliminating criminal elements." Make all patrolling units more effective in curbing crime," said DIG Syed Ali Raza.

During checks at checking points, treat citizens with courtesy and perform your duties with honesty and integrity. Rewards will be given for good performance, while poor performance will lead to strict departmental action, DIG added.

DIG Raza stressed that providing citizens with a sense of security and controlling crime is the police's top priority.

He emphasized, "Any lapse in this regard will not be tolerated. Our first and foremost goal is the protection of citizens' lives and property."

UNICEF joins hands with Pakistan to protect children from climate risks

City Desk

ISLAMABAD/BAKU: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Saturday made a significant commitment on behalf of Pakistani government to join hands with provincial governments to safeguarding its children from the devastating impacts of climate change.

"Recognizing the vulnerability of the youngest and most marginalized populations to climate-induced disasters, today we have pledged to prioritise child-centric climate adaptation and resilience measures in its national strategies," the PM's climate aide made these remarks after a crucial MoU signing ceremony between Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination and UNICEF held at Pakistan Pavilion on the sidelines of the COP29 global climate conference.

The top key representatives of government of Pakistan along with the Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial governments affirmed their commitment to collaboratively protect the rights and interests of children embroiled in the quagmire of the impacts of climate crisis.

Federal Secretary Ministry of Climate

Aisha Humera Moriani and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director signed the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action, a pledge by champion governments to uphold priorities identified by children and youth across the world.

Addressing the event, Romina Khurshid Alam remarked that enhancing access to education, health, and nutrition services in climate-affected areas as well as investing in sustainable infrastructure to protect schools and communities from extreme weather events is top priority of the present government.

She also emphasised that recognising the importance of empowering children as key drivers of climate action is vital to involving them in climate action programmes, fostering a generation of climate-conscious leaders.

"We must ensure our children are prepared for the future they are growing into," said Honourable Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister of Sindh Province. "Our education curriculum must reflect the realities of a world being altered by climate change and preparing our young people for a green economy."

The Government of Pakistan and UNICEF are deeply concerned about the disproportionate impact of climate change on children. Rising greenhouse



gas emissions and short-lived climate pollutants pose an imminent threat to their health, education, and well-being. Regular flooding and intensifying heat waves expose children to higher risks than those faced by children in 1960.

Baluchistan Traditionally Food SAJJI

ISLAMABAD: A stall of Sajji at Lok Mela in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Chairman PRCS meets President Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society on the Sidelines of CoP29

Spokesman Report

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN: The Honorable Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, held a significant meeting with His Excellency, President of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, Dr Novruz Aslanov, at the National Headquarters of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society in Baku on Friday. Mr Afaq Huseynzada Coordinator to Karabakh Regional Centre and Ms Jeyhun Mirzayev, Mr Sajjad Ali Kandhir and Ms Maryam were also present on the occasion.

The meeting marked the first-ever interaction between the two National Societies, symbolizing a significant milestone in fostering stronger ties.



Both leaders expressed their enthusiasm for this inaugural engagement and discussed the potential for collaborative initiatives aimed at addressing

humanitarian challenges in their respective countries.

Chairman Laghari briefed Dr. Aslanov on PRCS's extensive humanitarian work across Pakistan, particularly the organization's response to the devastating monsoon floods of 2022. He highlighted the ongoing recovery programs, which include shelter provision, livelihood support, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services, and cash assistance for flood-affected families.

It is noteworthy that Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari is representing the Pakistan Red Crescent Society at the 29th Conference of the Parties (CoP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, showcasing Pakistan's commitment to advancing global humanitarian efforts.

Ayla Majid Becomes First Pakistani President of ACCA

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Ayla Majid, the CEO of a Pakistan-based firm which advises on decarbonisation, sustainability, and energy transition, has been elected president of leading global accountancy body ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants). She becomes the first person from Pakistan to be elected to the role.

Ayla Majid will lead more than 252,500 members and 526,000 future members of ACCA across 180 countries during her year-long term of office. She takes up the role in the year in which ACCA celebrates a major landmark of exceeding quarter of a million members and will also celebrate its 120th anniversary.

Ayla Majid achieves this presidential milestone after joining the accountancy body in 2006. Currently founder and CEO of Planetive Middle East and Islamabad-based Planetive Pakistan, Ayla Majid has more 20 years of experience in energy, transaction advisory, mergers and acquisitions, investments and corporate governance.

Attock Police Foolproof Security Sikh Pilgrims Gurdwara Hassan Abdal

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: On the occasion of Baba Guru Nanak's 555th birth anniversary, a contingency plan has been issued for the security of Sikh pilgrims at Gurdwara Sri Panja Sahib, Hassan Abdal, with foolproof security arrangements in place. "Protection of minority communities is the top priority of Attock Police, and no miscreant will be allowed to spread unrest, says DPO Attock. According to details, Sikh pilgrims from within the country and abroad are arriving at Gurdwara Sri Panja Sahib, Hassan Abdal, to perform their religious rituals on the occasion of Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary. To provide foolproof security, Attock Police have deployed fresh troops at various locations under the supervision of DPO Attock Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan.

Additionally, SP Investigation Attock, Jaweria Jameel, along with eight DSPs, will oversee the security operations. More than 1,000 police officers and personnel have been deployed for security duties, including 21 inspectors/SHOs, 131 upper subordinates, 75 head constables, over 600 constables, and 33 lady constables. Furthermore, 29 sections of elite commandos will remain on high alert and conduct patrols to ensure the safety of Sikh pilgrims. On this occasion, DPO Attock Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan stated that the protection of minority communities is the foremost priority of Attock Police. No miscreant will be allowed to disrupt peace, and Sikh pilgrims can perform their religious rituals freely and without fear.

CBD Punjab Temporarily Halts Construction Activities to Mitigate Smog in Response to Lahore High Court and Punjab Government Directives

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: In response to the escalating environmental crisis posed by smog, the Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has taken decisive action to temporarily suspend all construction activities on its projects within Lahore. This measure aligns with directives issued by the Lahore High Court and the Punjab Government, reflecting a unified commitment to address deteriorating air quality and safeguard public health.

CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, highlighted the authority's proactive role in tackling environmental challenges, stating, "As a forward-thinking and environmentally conscious authority, CBD Punjab fully endorses the Punjab Government's robust measures to combat smog. The temporary suspension of construction activities is a necessary step to curb pollution levels, and we are steadfast in our commitment to fostering a cleaner and healthier environment for Lahore's residents."

CBD Punjab's initiative to halt construction underscores its dedication to environmental sustainability and community welfare. The authority aims to set a precedent for responsible development practices that prioritize ecological balance over short-term gains.

CBD Punjab remains committed to its mission of sustainable urban development while addressing the pressing environmental challenges posed by smog. The authority's balanced approach ensures that progress is achieved without compromising the well-being of the community or the ecological integrity of the city.

SSP Traffic Police assures immediate improvements in Blue Area as part of green vision

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: SSP Traffic Police Islamabad Sarfaraz Virk has stated that improving the traffic system and protecting the environment is a shared responsibility that cannot be achieved without the cooperation of traders and citizens. He emphasized that collective efforts will be made to facilitate citizens in commercial centers, with designated alternative parking spaces to enhance convenience and the city's aesthetics.

He commended the Clean and Green Islamabad Movement as a praiseworthy initiative. These views were expressed during his visit to Blue Area yesterday, where he was accompanied by Chairman of the Clean and Green Islamabad Movement and former ICCI President, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari; President of the Traders Welfare Association, Blue Area, Raja Hassan Akhtar;



and Group Leader Yusuf Rajpoot. The visit aimed to review parking issues in the area.

Sarfaraz Virk assured the immediate resolution of parking and traffic concerns and stated that significant

improvements in traffic and parking arrangements in Blue Area and other commercial zones will be visible in the coming days. He urged all stakeholders to continue their cooperation and report issues to the administration, ensuring

the commercial areas are well-organized and improved collectively.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari briefed the SSP Traffic Police on the parking challenges and highlighted that disorganized traffic and parking issues in Blue Area and other business hubs are causing severe inconvenience to customers.

Raja Hassan Akhtar and Yusuf Rajpoot expressed their full support for the efforts to address Blue Area's issues and assured their continued cooperation with Islamabad Police and other administrative authorities.

On this occasion, several other notable individuals, including General Secretary Mian Basharat Kakakhel, Razaq Gujjar, Tahir Abbasi, Sarfaraz Shah, Tahmas Butt, Fayaz Niazi, Saif-ur-Rehman, Khalid Chaudhry, Zia Chaudhry, and others, were also present.

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Failure of Democrates and victory of Trump

Being in the field a month prior to the elections, going door to door and meeting a diverse range of people—from rich to poor, from White to Black, and including Asian, African, and other communities—was an experience like no other. Each of these individuals was preparing to choose the upcoming leader of the most powerful nation on Earth, a person who would hold intrinsic and potentially global influence over American lives and those in other countries. This leader would decide which conflicts to continue, which wars to end, and where new battlegrounds might emerge, even deciding, at times, who might face ruthless elimination.

Through these intimate connections with people on streets, in homes, and in their communities, four primary issues emerged without question. The most pressing concern was jobs and the economy, followed closely by inflation, then women's rights, with many others expressing a general sense that "everything needs to change, stop, and reset."

There was another black lady, which has a house full of young kids when asked what in her opinion is the biggest problem she said it is the current government which has made their live miserable. I asked her follow up question do you think that Kamala Harris or Trump would improve the government. She said that it was been the government by democrats since four years, where Kamala Harris was the Vice President,

had she any guts and ability she could have helped the president take measures to improve the economy and provide jobs to the jobless but she could not do it. How could she now will improve the economy when she had already consumed all her ideas during the last four years.

There was many young Asians who were interviews and asked the same questions. They provided the cogent same reply that during this government most of the the earning hands are out of jobs and see no future jobs openings if the same government continues for another four years. They all were of the view that we will support Trump not because we love him but because failure of the current administration to deliver on economic and employment front.

There was another Black woman who burst into tears when engaged in conversation. She explained that both she and her husband are retired, receiving only \$900 per month in pension. Out of this, they pay \$650 in rent, leaving them with just \$350 to cover all their household needs.

After the economy and jobs, the next most pressing issue for ordinary people was rising inflation. One man in his early 30s, White, had just arrived home from work and, appearing to be slightly intoxicated, became emotional. He shared that he had to sell his truck, his only source

of income, because he couldn't afford the repair and replacement costs due to skyrocketing prices for parts and labor. He had exhausted his savings and now relied on low-wage temporary jobs, which weren't even enough to meet basic household needs.

When I spoke to some wealthy White families, they had different concerns altogether. Interestingly, I found many of these families to be highly conservative and strongly opposed to abortion rights. This sentiment was even more pronounced in rural areas, where a deep adherence to conservative and religious values prevailed. One canvassed White man, around 60 years old, stated that there was no issue more pressing for American society than abortion rights. He argued that many of the hardships Americans face stem from their failure to adhere to religious teachings, which strictly forbid the termination of life once conceived in the womb. He believed the country would only begin to grow and thrive if Americans stopped what he described as the illegal and criminal act of terminating pregnancies after conception.

Though these sentiments gathered from primary surveys and conversations across more than 20 cities and counties in Michigan may not fully capture the feelings of people in other states, on a broader scale, issues such as a struggling economy,

high unemployment rates, rising inflation, and abortion rights formed a formidable charge against the current Biden Administration. This dissatisfaction created a strong advantage for Trump, who went on to secure one of his most significant victories, while the Democrats faced one of their most humiliating defeats. Indeed, the poor performance of the Biden Administration, with Kamala Harris as Vice President, became one of the biggest assets for Trump's campaign.

Despite the government's substantial spending on canvassers nationwide to campaign for Harris, coupled with government-backed surveys indicating support for Harris and Democratic Senators and Congress members, these efforts ultimately failed to sway voters. Reports highlighting low unemployment rates and economic recovery couldn't disguise the harsh reality for many Americans facing job losses, reduced economic activity, high inflation, and soaring commodity prices. Voters, unconvinced by what they perceived as exaggerated claims of progress, responded by overwhelmingly voting Kamala Harris and the Democrats out of office, instead electing Donald Trump. However, in their hearts, many voters likely did not view Trump as the ideal choice but felt compelled to vote for him in the absence of a better alternative.

Qamar Bashir is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Gender-based violence

One in three women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner, which is a human rights violation, with devastating immediate and long-term physical, sexual, and mental consequences for women and girls, including death, the United Nations agency championing women's empowerment, 'UN Women', said Saturday

Violence negatively affects women's general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society, impacting their families, their community, and the country at large, the agency said. It has tremendous costs, from greater strains on health care to legal expenses and losses in productivity.

Of the 165 countries with domestic violence laws, only 104 countries have comprehensive legislation addressing domestic violence, it was pointed out. However, the countries with domestic violence legislation have lower rates of intimate partner violence than those without such legislation (9.5 per cent compared to 16.1 per cent).

Every year, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign led by UN Women serves as a powerful reminder of the widespread violence women and girls face worldwide, UN Women said

Starting from November 25, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and concluding on December 10, on Human Rights Day, this campaign calls on governments, activists, and individuals to unite and push for lasting change.

In support of this civil society initiative the UN Secretary-General back in 2008 launched the campaign UNITE by 2030, which runs parallel to the 16 Days of Activism.

Every year, the UNITE Campaign focuses on a specific theme and this year's focus is UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls, aiming for long-term solutions that address the root causes of the problem.

The statistics are staggering: nearly one in three women and girls worldwide will experience physical or sexual violence during their lifetime.

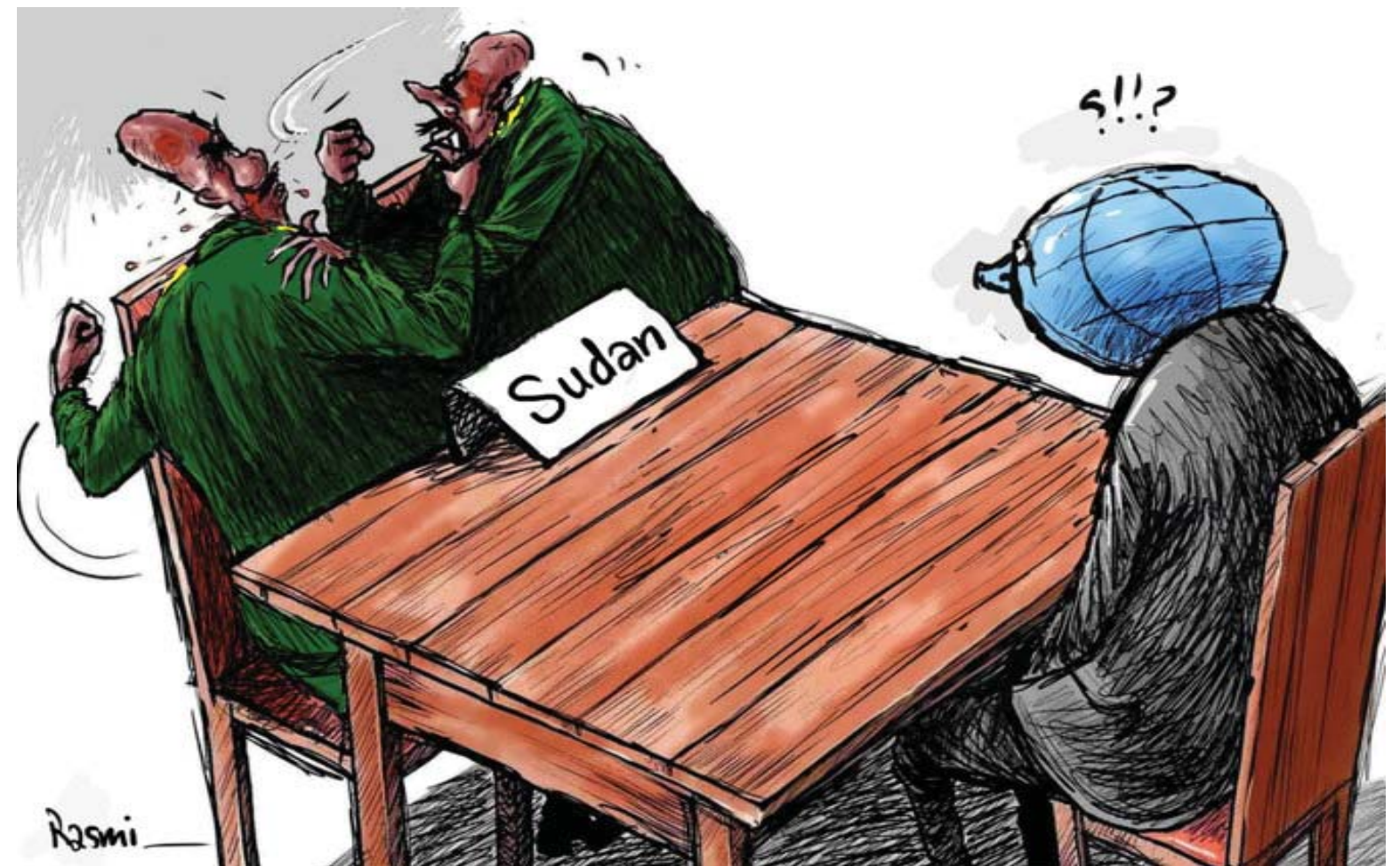
For at least 51,100 women in 2023, this violence escalated to femicide (homicide targeted at women) with over half committed by intimate partners or family members.

UN Women points out, "Femicides are the ultimate evidence that the systems and structures meant to protect women and girls are failing."

"Women are not safe outside their homes either," it said. Public figures, including politicians, human rights defenders, and journalists, are often targeted by violence both online and offline, with some leading to fatal outcomes and intentional killings.

One alarming aspect of this issue is the prevalence of violence in conflict zones. In 2023, the United Nations reported a staggering 50 per cent increase in gender violence from the previous year.

Women like Ukrainian activist Lyudmila Huseynova exemplify the harrowing reality of conflict-related sexual violence, the agency said.



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

Can Baku maintain the momentum on climate change action?

Ranvir S. Nayar

The 29th UN Climate Change Conference, COP29, began in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, on Monday. Over the course of two weeks, representatives of more than 190 nations have been tasked with finding ways to bring under control global carbon emissions, which have been rising for decades.

The negotiators are expected to secure concrete commitments and pledges of action from the leading economies of the world on how they intend to cut emissions and, more specifically, the time frame for doing so.

But this is not all they are expected to do. Another equally or even more challenging task is to ensure rich countries finally meet their commitments on financing to help the developing world deal with climate change through mitigation, adaptation, and upgrading infrastructure to cut carbon emissions.

For more than two decades, wealthier nations have repeatedly reneged on agreements to provide the hundreds of billions of dollars needed each year to help developing nations, in which more than 75 percent of the global population live, address the effects of climate change, which are already causing havoc and widespread destruction, again mainly in the developing world.

The geopolitical situation seems unlikely to evolve in a positive way in the near future, although there are some who are hoping against hope that the Trump 2.0 White House might actually help to reduce tensions globally.

It is against this backdrop, then, that COP29 began in Baku on Nov. 11 and will

continue until Nov. 22. One vital question for negotiators is whether they can maintain what little momentum was obtained, against all odds, during COP28 in Dubai last year.

The first major breakthrough a year ago was an agreement for the first-ever global stocktake, basically an exercise to determine exactly what is happening with carbon emissions at the global and national levels, and to benchmark the figures against commitments made during COP21 in Paris in 2015.

This review of the situation is essential to ensure the nations that signed up to the Paris Agreement are actually keeping their promises, to ensure accountability, and so that corrective action can be taken in terms of adjusting the pace and form of efforts to meet the goals of the agreement.

The global stocktake also includes a review of the financial assistance provided by developed countries to their developing counterparts.

Another significant outcome of the conference in Dubai was a commitment by nations, for the first time in 30 years of UN negotiations, to transition away from fossil fuels in a "just, orderly, and equitable manner."

The fact that this agreement on a commitment to ditch oil, gas, and coal was reached in a country, and region, that depends on fossil fuels for more than 70 percent of its gross domestic product was not lost on anyone.

Though this transition agreement remains only a promise on paper for now like almost every other major decision so far in climate change negotiations, COP28 President Sultan Al-Jaber nonetheless deserves plaudits for pulling it off during his presidency. Compare this to COP24 in Katowice in 2018, when host nation Poland refused to push a proposal to phase out coal because the host city was the site of a historic coal mine and

the country depends on coal to meet a small fraction of its energy needs.

Five years later, the momentum generated under the presidency of Al-Jaber indicated that even in difficult situations, the right kind of guidance and leadership can help negotiators to find a way to navigate even the most complicated issues.

The man who took up the mantle from Al-Jaber as president of COP29 is Mukhtar Bahadur Babayev, an Azerbaijani minister, whose country, like the UAE, depends to a very large extent on oil and gas exports.

Babayev can perhaps take inspiration from what Al-Jaber managed to achieve in Dubai and try to keep the ball rolling in Baku. Despite the many differences between the backdrops to the two conferences, he can maybe take heart from the similarities that also abound.

After all, both the UAE and Azerbaijan are relatively small, wealthy countries, with economies that depend to a significant degree on fossil fuels, and both Baku and Dubai are among the most modern cities in the world, attracting millions of tourists each year.

Just as Al-Jaber managed to secure an agreement on the transition away from fossil fuels, Babayev can perhaps secure an agreement for a mechanism to ensure that countries, in particular the rich ones, are actually held accountable and face a real threat of punitive action if they continue to fail to keep their promises and meet their commitments.

This is what the world needs to see after watching the leaders of wealthy nations make false promises, year after year for more than two decades.

Ranvir S. Nayar is the managing editor of Media India Group and founder-director of the Europe India Foundation for Excellence.

Trump's regional changes

Abdulrahman Al-Rashed

One of the gravest mistakes that people make when dealing with US President-elect Donald Trump is underestimating his capabilities. The fact that he doesn't speak the language of academia, doesn't use the jargon of analysts, and isn't known for the politeness or maneuvering of seasoned politicians doesn't mean he has any less understanding or awareness of the issues at hand. His opponents have mocked him extensively, whether domestically, during his electoral campaign and partisan skirmishes, or internationally, as foreign commentators sought to tarnish his reputation.

Trump is not like Bill Clinton, a Yale graduate, nor like Joe Biden, with 50 years of experience navigating Congress and the world of politics. However, what he achieved when dealing with unfolding issues in the four years he governed the US was far more successful, by comparison.

When he threatened to cancel or renegotiate the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran, he was met with refusal and told it was an international agreement from which he could not withdraw. He ripped it up entirely, altering the course of history in the region and saving it from the dangers of that flawed agreement.

Trump may not be as intellectual as Henry Kissinger or as humble as Jimmy Carter, but coming from a background in business, investment, and real estate plays to his advantage in a capitalist country like the US, which thrives on hard work, competition, and success. Trump demonstrated his leadership capabilities, most notably with his shock victory in his first presidential campaign, which he repeated, even more surprisingly, this month.

Unlike most previous American presidents, who relied on the support of their parties and PR campaign planners, Trump's victories have been unique, in that they can largely be attributed to him personally — a testament to his popularity. And this enables him to make changes and decisions many others would not dare to.

Trump is geared to face numerous domestic battles, as he promised his supporters that he would make

changes to immigration, the economy, and education, which will likely lead to many controversies during his upcoming four-year term.

What about the Middle East? Let's recall what he did at the beginning of his term in 2017. He decided to bypass protocol. Traditionally, Britain is the first overseas call for a new American president. Trump chose Riyadh. At the time, Saudi Arabia faced fierce criticism from US politicians, and Trump's predecessor, President Barack Obama, had relegated the relationship with the Kingdom to the past of US diplomacy. Trump, despite having entered the elections amid accusations of racism against Arabs and Muslims, made a bold move which surprised everyone by choosing Saudi Arabia as his first stop.

That visit sent a message to adversarial politicians in Washington and to countries in the region. Over the next four years, the US-Saudi relationship progressed as Trump intended. When Biden succeeded him, he eventually followed Trump's path.

When the president-elect claims he can resolve serious crises like Ukraine, and the wars in Gaza and Lebanon, we should believe it. With a majority in both houses, he has already begun reaching out before he officially assumes office on Jan. 20.

The final point worth examining is not how Trump views the world, but how the world views Trump. Internationally, he is seen as a strong personality, quick to act, and committed to his words. This image forces America's adversaries to think twice before getting entangled with him in conflicts. Most would prefer to negotiate deals with him, given that he possesses both the will and the tools to push such deals through.

I believe Trump intends to reshape the Middle East his way. We will see this through agreements and sanctions, not wars. Indeed, as he repeatedly emphasizes, he governed for four years without waging a single war. He was firm in enforcing sanctions. The region must prepare for, and adapt to, the changes his second term will bring.

Abdulrahman Al-Rashed is a Saudi journalist and intellectual. He is the former general manager of Al-Arabiya news channel and former editor-in-chief of Asharq Al-Awsat, where this article was originally published.

TRNC marks 41st Anniversary with renewed calls for sovereignty and global recognition

By Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) commemorated its 41st anniversary with a renewed emphasis on its sovereignty and milestones in international engagement. The celebration, hosted by TRNC Ambassador Dilşad Senol, reflected the enduring spirit of the Turkish Cypriot people and their commitment to self-determination, despite longstanding international challenges.

Established on November 15, 1983, the TRNC declared its independence as a testament to the Turkish Cypriot people's right to determine their own destiny. Over the years, the republic has made significant strides in democracy, economy, education, and tourism, emerging as a key player in the Eastern Mediterranean region. However, unresolved political tensions and international isolation continue to pose obstacles to its aspirations.

The anniversary reception in Islamabad drew a distinguished gathering of diplomats, parliamentarians, and other dignitaries. Among them were former senators Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Mushahid Hussain Sayed, and Dr. Waseem Shahzad, alongside Türkiye's Ambassador İrfan Neziroğlu. They lauded the TRNC's achievements and pledged continued support for its quest for global recognition.

Speaking at the event, Ambassador Senol highlighted the TRNC's active participation in international bodies such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Organization of Turkic States. The TRNC recently gained observer status in the Turkic Council, marking a pivotal moment in its diplomatic journey.



"Despite these advancements, the unresolved Cyprus issue casts a long shadow over our progress," said Senol. Decades of negotiations mediated by the United Nations for a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation have repeatedly failed, with the ambassador attrib-

uting the impasse to the Greek Cypriot side's reluctance to share power and resources.

Ambassador Senol expressed deep concern over the continued isolation imposed on Turkish Cypriots. "The Greek Cypriot administration

obstructs our international engagement in fields such as sports, education, and humanitarian work while promoting anti-Turkish sentiment," she stated. Recent provocations, including military build-ups in the buffer zone and violations of TRNC airspace, have further strained hopes for reconciliation.

In response, the TRNC has proposed a new vision for resolving the Cyprus conflict, advocating for the recognition of two sovereign states on the island. This approach aligns with Türkiye's stance, reiterated by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the 79th UN General Assembly. Erdoğan called on the global community to acknowledge the TRNC's sovereignty and end the "inhumane isolations" faced by its people.

"As we celebrate Republic Day, we reiterate our call for justice and equality," Ambassador Senol declared. "It is time for the world to recognize the reality of two states on the island and to lift the unjust sanctions imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people." She extended



heartfelt gratitude to Türkiye and Pakistan for their unwavering support, underscoring the importance of solidarity in the TRNC's journey.

The anniversary served as both a celebration of past achievements and a platform to renew calls for interna-

tional recognition and justice. Turkish Cypriots remain resolute in their pursuit of a future founded on equal rights and mutual respect, reaffirming their commitment to sovereignty in the face of persistent challenges.

Photos by Ramzan Mughal

British HC marks His Majesty King Charles III's birthday with "Brilliantly British" celebrations

By Spokesman Report

KARACHI: British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, welcomed guests to celebrate His Majesty King Charles III's 76th birthday in Islamabad and Karachi.

In Islamabad, Ahsan Iqbal the Federal Minister for Planning, Development, Special Initiatives and Inter-Provincial Coordination, attended as Chief Guest, and Chief Minister Sindh, Murad Ali Shah in Karachi.

The UK's Honourable Artillery Company Regimental Band, the oldest surviving regiment of the British army, visited Pakistan for the occasion, performing in both cities and at the Pakistan Monument. Both events captured audiences with live performances, including by Gharvi Group, who went viral this year for their iconic 'Blockbuster' song.

British High Commissioner to Paki-



stan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said: "Brilliantly British captures everything we love about the UK, a powerhouse of creativity, diversity, and cultural vibrancy.

British films, TV dramas, songs and fashion is renowned across the globe, and it is one of the many things that connects the UK and Pakistan."

In Islamabad, rock band Khudgharz left crowds calling for more with their British and Pakistani covers set. In Karachi, the Acton House garden was home to "Actonbury", a festival featuring 5 artists: Maria Unera, Jermas Nacem, Alycia Dias, Hussain Dossa and the Honourable Artillery Company Regimental Band.

2024 marks a significant year for artistic and people-to-people exchanges between the UK and Pakistan. Key moments include the 90th anniversary of the creation of the British Council, a thrilling test cricket series, and the release of a previously undiscovered album by late Qawwali maestro Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, 'Chain of Light'.

Through music and art, the events celebrated the UK's creative sector, which generates over £50 billion in exports, shaping the global art and cultural landscape.

Taxing Tobacco is Vital to Reduce Consumption and Saving Lives; Experts

By Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a seminar believe in commitment to leveraging taxation as a critical tool for public health and economic sustainability. The seminar titled "Taxing Tobacco: A Path to Reducing Consumption and Saving Lives", was organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, served as a pivotal forum to address the critical need for a robust and sustainable tobacco taxation policy in Pakistan.

Syed Wasif Ali Naqvi, Senior Research Associate and Head of Policy Advocacy and Outreach at SDPI, reiterated that tobacco taxation is a proven tool for reducing tobacco use and generating revenue.

Dr. Waseem Iftikhar Janjua highlighted the irrationality in the tobacco taxation system of Pakistan and emphasized the necessity of a progressive taxation policy to reduce the affordability of tobacco products while aligning with global health standards.

Mr. Asif Iqbal stressed the importance of a



stable 3-5-year taxation framework to address the uncertainties and reactive measures that dominate annual budget cycles.

Mr. Khurram Hashmi, Senior Technical Lead, Vital Strategies, focused on countering the tobacco industry's narrative by highlighting stringent policies' health and economic benefits.

Bringing together policymakers, public health experts, economists, and civil society representatives, the event emphasized the urgency of evidence-based taxation measures to curb tobacco consumption and improve public health outcomes.

6th Global Ambassadors Awards Ceremony held

By City Desk

Diplomatic Insight Group hosted the 6th Global Ambassadors Awards Ceremony, celebrating the exceptional contributions of Ambassadors, Heads of International Organizations, and business leaders in strengthening Pakistan's bilateral and multilateral ties. Established in 2014, these awards recognize efforts in promoting diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations while fostering people-to-people connections across the globe. These awards are unique in presenting on behalf of People of Pakistan to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of the Ambassadors and Diplomats working in Pakistan. The ceremony was graced by Mr. Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Paki-



stan and Head of the Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU), as Chief Guest.

In his address, he highlighted Pakistan's growing role in global diplomacy and commended the awardees for their

tireless efforts in fostering stronger relationships with their respective countries and organizations.

Dr. Farhat Asif, Chairperson of the Diplomatic Insight Group, welcomed distinguished guests and underscored the organization's commitment to promoting global collaboration and diplomacy.

She emphasized the importance of recognizing those who have gone above and beyond to bridge nations, particularly in challenging times.

This year's honorees included Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ethiopia's first Ambassador to Pakistan, Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal, Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma, Chargé d'Affaires of Indonesia, Nader K. Alturk, Deputy Head of Mission for Palestine, Veeraya (Kate) Somvongsiri, USAID Mission Director, Florence Rolle, Food

and Agriculture Organisation, Country Representative in Pakistan, Dilşad Senol, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Argentina and Australia Ambassador Naela Chohan, Fahdel Sheikh, Honorary Consul of the Philippines, Masarrat Misbah, CEO of Depilex Group, Prof. Dr. Sayeda Zia Batool, Chairperson of PEIRA, Prof. Dr. Rauf-i-Azam, Vice Chancellor of Government College University Faisalabad, Faisal Manzoor, Chairman of the University of Sialkot, Prof. Li Xiguang of Tsinghua University and Prof. Dr. Atle Hetland were among the award recipients. Many Ambassadors, diplomats, and other important civil society leaders and personalities attended the ceremony.

CE British Council, Scott McDonald, concludes his visit to Pakistan

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Scott McDonald, Chief Executive of the British Council, has wrapped up his visit to Pakistan, which took place from 11-15 November, marking a significant occasion as the organization celebrates its 90th anniversary of fostering global connections. Throughout his visit, Scott engaged with various stakeholders, highlighting the British Council's enduring commitment to education, culture, and social development in Pakistan.

He attended a series of impactful events, including the launch of the second phase of the Pakistan UK Education Gateway,

aimed at enhancing collaborative educational efforts between the two nations. The event gathered numerous participants from higher education institutions across Pakistan, facilitating discussions on capacity building and improving the quality of teaching and research.

Going on ground with students was one of the first few activities and the Chief Executive played an active role in the administration of O Level, IGCSE, AS, A2, and A Level examinations at Dawood Public School in Karachi, overseeing the examination process and engaging with candidates and staff.

The visit was further enriched in the celebration of the Scotland

Pakistan Scholarship Scheme at Punjab University, honouring a decade of empowering young women and girls through education. The event highlighted the positive impact of the scholarship program, which has supported over 17,000 schoolgirls and more than 2,000 young women in universities since its inception.

Additionally, the visit included attending the British High Commission funded GOAL programme, Khilo Aur Barho event which aims to improve educational outcomes for vulnerable children in Pakistan. The visit also included a celebration of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) funded Aawaz II programme,

showcasing the successes of community engagement efforts in tackling issues such as child marriage and gender-based violence. The Chief Executive met with key stakeholders to discuss the programme's impact and future direction, further solidifying partnerships that enhance the rights of marginalized groups.

Reflecting on his visit, Scott McDonald stated: "This visit has deepened our resolve to enhance partnerships that open doors for young people, foster cultural understanding, and drive innovation. The British Council is dedicated to a future where education and opportunity are accessible to every generation of Pakistan."



As the British Council looks forward to the future, this visit is a testament to the organization's

ongoing dedication to strengthening ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, creating

lasting opportunities for collaboration in education, arts, and cultural exchange.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
94,763.64	94,191.89
Day's High	Day's Low
95,278.26	94,431.18
Index Value	Change
20,728,709,043	+571.75
Percentage	Time
+0.61%	15 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,063.61	-7.58
Percentage	Time
-0.094%	15 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
43,423.28	-327.58
Percentage	Time
-0.75%	15 Nov, 1:38 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,642.91	+107.21
Percentage	Time
+0.28%	15 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

Indonesian Embassy hosts networking event to strengthen Pak-Indonesia economic ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad organized a high-profile Hi-Tea networking event at local hotel here Saturday to strengthen Indonesia-Pakistan economic collaboration following successful expos in Jakarta and CEOs Summit Bali 2024.

This gathering celebrated the success of three pivotal business events in Indonesia: the 39th Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI), the Indonesia-South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA), Tourism Bali and the CEO Summit 2024, held in Jakarta and Bali from October 7 to 16, 2024.

The event brought together distinguished Pakistani businessmen who had participated in these key events, alongside prospective traders eager to explore opportunities with Indonesia. Pakistan's cuisine

It served as a critical platform for

feedback, follow-up, and exploring ways to strengthen economic ties between Indonesia and Pakistan.

A central focus of the evening was the 39th Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI), which showcased Indonesia's leading products, innovations, and investment opportunities.

The event attracted a record 229 Pakistani participants, positioning Pakistan as the 9th-largest group of attendees, according to Indonesia's Ministry of Trade.

The Indonesia-South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA) brought together influential business leaders, policymakers, and investors to discuss trade, investment, and regional collaboration.



Mr Rahmat Hindarta Kusuma, Chargé d'Affaires of the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad, applauded the unprecedented participation of Pakistani delegates. "For the first time in TEI history, a significant number of Pakistani business representatives attended major events in Indonesia, highlighting a

new chapter of growth and collaboration. This is a testament to the strong and growing ties between our countries," he stated.

Mr. Kusuma also emphasized the importance of science and technology exchange in addressing shared challenges such as environmental issues. He shared insights from Indonesia's success in combating haze issues in Sumatera, through innovative palm

oil plantation management. Dr. Ijaz Nisar, President of the CEO Club Pakistan, expressed gratitude to the Indonesian Embassy for facilitating these engagements. He stressed the importance of structured, results-oriented efforts, with an eye toward the upcoming 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Pakistan in 2025.

Participants of the gathering concurred that the strengthening relationship between Indonesian and Pakistani business communities serves as a foundation for deeper and more impactful collaborations. These ties are expected to drive progress across diverse sectors, including trade, technology, and cultural exchange.

Many Pakistani businessmen who participated in the events praised the untapped potential of the Indonesia-Pakistan partnership, expressing optimism about future opportunities.

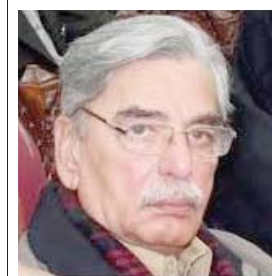
Press Conference

KARACHI: Director Coordination DEPO (IDEAS 2024), Brig Ali Adil, addresses a press briefing about presentation of International Defense Exhibition and Seminar.



Photo: Online

Iftikhar Malik condoles death of Ilyas Bilour



In a condolence message, the octogenarian trade leader of South Asia, Malik lauded Bilour's invaluable contributions to Pakistan's business community and his tireless efforts to strengthen the country's economy. He described Bilour as a visionary leader whose services as a senator and FPCCI president were instrumental in fostering trade and industry. He said Bilour's legacy as a dynamic entrepreneur and a steadfast advocate for economic reforms would continue to inspire generations. Extending heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family, Malik prayed for the departed soul's eternal peace and strength for the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former President Iftikhar Ali Malik, Saturday expressed profound grief and sorrow on the demise of Ilyas Ahmad Bilour, former senator, former president Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), and a leading industrialist.

PPL achieves third consecutive hydrocarbon discovery in Shah Bandar Block

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), a national leader in oil and gas exploration and production, proudly announces a remarkable discovery of gas and condensate from its exploration well Pateji X-1 in the Shah Bandar Block, District Sujawal, Sindh. This achievement is the third consecutive hydrocarbon discovery in the Shah Bandar Block under PPL's operatorship, solidifying the company's legacy of delivering consistent results and contributing to Pakistan's energy security.

PPL operates the Shah Bandar Block with a 63% working interest (WI) alongside its esteemed joint venture partners: Mari Petroleum Company Limited (32% WI), and Sindh Energy Holding Company Limited and Government Holdings (Private) Limited (each holding 2.5% WI).

The well was drilled and tested leveraging PPL's exten-



sive indigenous technical expertise, a testament to the company's unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence. After thorough geological and geophysical evaluations, Pateji X-1 was spud on October 11, 2024, and successfully drilled to a depth of 2,475 meters (measured depth) to target the hydrocarbon potential in the Upper Sands of the Lower Goru Formation.

Drilling results, coupled with state-of-the-art wireline log data, confirmed the presence of hydrocarbon-bearing zones. During testing, the well demonstrated an encouraging flow rate of 11.7 MMscfd gas and 198 barrels per day (bbl/d) of condensate under a

wellhead flowing pressure of 2,578 psig at a 32/64" choke from the Lower Goru Upper Sands (D-Sand).

This discovery highlights PPL's robust operational capabilities and reflects its dedication to harnessing Pakistan's indigenous resources for sustainable energy development. The addition of these hydrocarbon reserves will not only strengthen the country's energy infrastructure but also help mitigate the ongoing energy crisis, reduce reliance on expensive energy imports, and conserve vital foreign exchange reserves.

PPL remains steadfast in its mission to drive national energy self-sufficiency through responsible exploration and production. This milestone underscores the company's position as a trusted and dynamic leader in Pakistan's energy sector.

Photo caption: Rig at PPL-operated Pateji X-1, Shah Bandar Block, District Sujawal, Sindh

Significant drop in solar battery prices in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A notable decline in solar panel prices, the cost of lithium batteries in Pakistan has also dropped significantly as cooler weather sets in.

Reports indicate that battery prices have decreased by 20%, with further reductions anticipated in the coming months due to a decrease in the inflation rate resulting from effective government policies.

Previously priced at Rs400,000, lithium batteries are now available for Rs380,000.

Similarly, the price of tubular batteries has fallen by Rs15,000, bringing it down to Rs55,000 from Rs70,000.

The trend of decreasing solar panel prices continues, with the cost per watt now reaching a record low of

Rs28. This decline over the past year can be attributed to various factors, and local suppliers are hopeful for additional price drops.

Federal Minister Owais Laghari recently announced that Pakistan imported 8,000 megawatts of solar panels in the past year, which



is equivalent to 30-35% of the electricity generated by the world's largest hydropower project, the Three Gorges Dam.

Given the expanding solar market, some companies are planning to establish manufacturing plants for solar inverters in Pakistan, which would help save foreign exchange by increasing local production of solar systems.

Atif Ikram Sheikh: 'We have run out of chemicals' due to petroleum act amendment

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that Mr. Abdul Ali Khan, Director General of Explosives, has visited FPCCI Head Office and met with the representatives of chemical importers, traders, industrialists and trade bodies. We have been receiving complaints from importers for the past many months that after the amendment carried out in the Petroleum Act 1934 on August 5, 2023 - introducing Clauses A, B and C pertaining to categorizing

petrochemicals - there have been numerous anomalies, discrepancies and misunderstandings in the appli-

cable category of chemicals, he added. Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, stressed that due to unnecessary and complicated conditionalities in licensing, storage and transportation of petrochemicals, there is a growing concern of shortage of chemicals used industrial raw materials.

SVP FPCCI said that FPCCI recommends that the introduction of Clause B & C Chemicals through last year's amendment in Petroleum Act should be withdrawn or suspended - until and unless the issue has been resolved.

Mr. Abdul Ali Khan, DG Explosives, said that he has visited FPCCI Head Office and have tried to address

the concerns of chemical importers and industrialists. We will facilitate through whatever permissible mechanism and leverage is available at our disposal.

DG Explosives stated that the chemical traders should collectively raise their voice under the umbrella of the apex body, i.e. FPCCI; and, he will ensure that his central and regional offices accommodate the genuine concerns. Additionally, explosives department will also help get necessary approvals or exemptions on the recommendation of FPCCI from other government offices like Deputy Commissioner, Customs, etc. However, he suggested, FPCCI



should write to them directly as well, he added.

Check now as Rs1,500 prize bond winners list for November 15 draw released

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The government has announced winners of the Rs1,500 denomination national prize bond draw held on November 15, 2024, in Rawalpindi, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

It was this year's fourth draw for an Rs1,500 prize bond, shows the central bank data. Many people have invested in lottery bonds.

A lucky person holding bond number 633542 won the first prize of Rs3,000,000 while people holding bond numbers 163958, 589006, and 881670 won the second prize of Rs1,000,000 each.

Moreover, Rs18,500 each was awarded to 1,696 prizes. Below is the list:

Earlier this year, the federal government imposed a fixed tax of up to 20% on winnings from prize bonds and lotteries. According to media reports, a fixed tax rate of 15% would be applicable on winnings from prize bonds or crossword puzzles.

It has also imposed a 20% tax rate on winnings from raffles, lotteries, and prizes won from quizzes conducted for promotion of sales.

Gold prices take a dive in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Gold prices took a hit in Pakistan as the cost of 24-karat gold per tola dropped by Rs300, selling at Rs 267,400 on Saturday, according to the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association. This marks a significant shift from the previous price of Rs267,700.

In a notable shift for gold buyers, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold fell by Rs258, settling at Rs229,252, down from Rs229,510. Similarly, 10 grams of 22-karat gold saw a decrease to Rs210,148 from Rs210,384. While gold experienced a downturn, silver prices remained stable, with per tola silver holding at Rs3,250 and 10 grams at Rs2,786.

ICC announces Champions Trophy tour itinerary

Silverware will journey across the eight participating nations during tour

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: will be treated to a content series titled 'Champion on Tour' that would document the Trophy Tour's journey around the world. Photo via Facebook/Pakistan Cricket Team

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Saturday the schedule of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 trophy tour beginning from Islamabad on November 16 (today) and culminating in India. The trophy will return to the host country on January 27.

"We are delighted to launch the Trophy Tour with DP World ahead of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy, where another action-packed programme of activity is available to fans across the world," ICC Chief Commercial Officer Anurag Dahiya said.

The silverware will journey across the eight participating nations during the tour.

The landmarks where the trophy will



be displayed on the opening day of its tour in Islamabad are Daman-e-Koh, Faisal Mosque, and the Pakistan Monument where it will be accompanied by Pakistan cricket icon Shoaib Akhtar.

After Islamabad, the tour will head to iconic cities and venues in Pakistan

such as Karachi, Abbottabad, and Taxila before leaving the land of defending champions to embark on an extensive international tour, where it would showcase the vibrant cultures evident across competing nations.

Fans will be treated to a content series

titled 'Champion on Tour' that would document the Trophy Tour's journey around the world.

While expressing his pleasure at the launch of the event, Dahiya said: "The silverware, which will be showcased across all participating nations, will allow the sport's passionate fanbase to enjoy the unforgettable experience of being up close with the iconic trophy."

Dates of the trophy tour:

November 16 - Islamabad, Pakistan
November 17 - Taxila and Khanpur, Pakistan

November 18 - Abbottabad, Pakistan
November 19 - Murree, Pakistan
November 20 - Nathia Gali, Pakistan

November 22 - 25 - Karachi, Pakistan
November 26 - 28 - Afghanistan
December 10 - 13 - Bangladesh

December 15 - 22 - South Africa
December 25 - January 5 - Australia
January 6 - 11 - New Zealand

January 12 - 14 - England
January 15 - 26 - India
January 27 - event start - Pakistan

Australia beat Pakistan Cricket Team by 13 runs in 2nd T-20 Match and win the 3 match series

Asim Tanveer

SYDNEY: Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan once again opened, but Babar Azam could only score 3 runs, followed by Sahibzada Farhan, who managed 5 runs. Mohammad Rizwan scored just 16 runs off 26 balls. Salman Agha went for a duck. Pakistan was 44 for 4 in 9.3 overs when Usman Khan and Irfan Khan added 58 runs for the fifth wicket, taking the score to 102 for 5. At 15.1 overs, Pakistan needed 46 runs from 29 balls.

Australia once again got help from pacer Johnson, who took the wicket of Usman Khan, who had scored 52 runs off 38 balls. Pakistan then lost 4 wickets within 10 balls for just 5 runs. At 107 for 8, Irfan Khan stood alone and launched a counter-attack. To give you an idea, Abbas Afridi scored 4 runs, while the rest—Shaheen, Naseem, and Sufyan—were dismissed for ducks.

Pakistan needed 15 runs in the final over with just one wicket remaining, but Haris Rauf was run out after scoring 2 runs. Irfan Khan Niazi remained unbeaten with 37 runs off 28 balls. The team was bowled out for 134 in 19.4 overs, losing by 13 runs.

For Australia, Spencer Johnson took 5 wickets for 26 runs, while Adam Zampa claimed 2 wickets.

"Batters are unfairly criticized," Rizwan defended the team after the defeat.

Earlier, Australia won the toss and elected to bat first, making a rapid start. Their openers scored 52 runs in 3.2 overs, but once the first wicket fell, Australia's batting collapsed. The turnaround was initiated by Haris Rauf, who was later joined by Sufyan Maqem, leading to a flurry of wickets for Australia.

After reaching 86 runs with four wickets down, Australia lost their fifth wicket at 95 and their sixth at 115, slowing the scoring rate further. Despite this, the Australian team managed to play their full 20 overs, finishing at 147 for 9.

Aaron Hardie scored 28 runs, while Glenn Maxwell contributed 21, and opener Jack Fraser added 20. Matthew



Short played an impactful innings, scoring 32 runs off 17 balls. Australia set Pakistan a target of 148 runs.

For Pakistan, Haris Rauf delivered an excellent performance, taking 4 wickets

for 22 runs in his 4 overs. Abbas Afridi bowled tightly, conceding just 17 runs in his 4 overs while claiming 3 wickets.

Sufyan Maqem also impressed, giving away only 21 runs in 4 overs and taking

2 wickets.

Pakistan's batting lineup flopped, as even a small target felt like a mountain in Sydney. Australia clinched the T20 series. The breaking news in cricket is that Pakistan's batting lineup failed again. This question was raised to Mohammad Rizwan after the previous match's loss, where he defended his batters, but today at the Sydney Cricket Ground, against Australia's second-string bowling—yes, it was a second-tier bowling attack, as their top bowlers were not part of the team—Rizwan XI stumbled badly while chasing a target of just 148 runs.

Big names like Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan failed miserably. Usman Khan played a fifty-run innings to add some excitement to the match, but once he got out, Pakistan's wickets fell like leaves.

With a 13-run victory, Australia sealed the three-match T20 series 2-0. The third match is scheduled for November 18 in Hobart.

NUML Triumphs in HEC Intervarsity Volleyball Championship Zone-E 2024-25



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Intervarsity Volleyball Championship Zone-E 2024-25 concluded today at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Gymnasium, with NUML emerging victorious in a thrilling final match against the Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST).

NUML clinched the championship title with a decisive 3-0 win, securing their place in the upcoming All Pakistan Intervarsity Volleyball Championship at the Pakistan Sports Complex on November 20, 2024.

A total of seven teams participated in the Zone-E tournament, representing NUML, Arid Agriculture University, COMSATS, HITEC University, CUST, Air University, and



the University of Kotli, A.J.K. The three-day event, held from November 13-15, saw top-notch volleyball action and enthusiastic support from fans who gathered at the NUML Gymnasium.

The final match was graced by Brigadier (Retd) Mazhar

Masood, Director Administration at NUML, as the chief guest. He commended all participating teams for their sportsmanship and competitive spirit, emphasizing the value of sports in building character, resilience, and unity. Brigadier Mazhar presented

the championship trophy to NUML and recognized CUST as the runner-up.

NUML's successful hosting of the HEC Intervarsity Volleyball Championship reflects the university's commitment to promoting sports and student engagement.

Faisal Sports Super Eight T20 to be held from November 18-27

Asad Hashmi

RAWALPINDI: Faisal Sports Super Eight T20 Cricket League will start from November 18 at Government Jamia School Rawalpindi. 6 cricket clubs of Rawalpindi are participating in the cricket league, which has been divided into two groups. Group A includes West Indies Cricket Club, Victory Cricket Club, Haideri Cricket Club and Al Noor Cricket Club, while Group B includes XI Star Cricket Club, City Cricket Club, New Pindi Gymkhana Cricket Club and Pothohar Cricket Club. The chief organizer of the tournament is Raja Ashfaq Abbasi, Patron Chief Raja Aurangzeb Satti and Deputy Organizer Faisal Islam Khattak. The opening match of the tournament will be played on Monday, November 18 at 9 am between the teams of West Indies Cricket Club and Haideri Cricket Club. While the second match will be played between XI Star Cricket Club and City Cricket Club at 12:30 pm. According to the chief organizer of the tournament, Raja Ashfaq Abbasi, two matches will be played daily in the tournament. The semi-final of the tournament will be played on November 27 between the top team of Group A and the second-placed team of Group B. While the second semi-final will be played between the second-placed team of Group A and the top team of Group B.

Denning Law University Claims throwball Girls' Category Title

Tahir Amin Malik

KARACHI: Organized by the Pakistan Throwball Federation (PTF) from November 6-9, 2024, at the Pakistan Sports Board in Karachi, the championship saw tough competition across various categories.

Results Summary:

Grade 4-5 Girls:

1st Position: DHA CSS-4

2nd Position: Muhammadi School

3rd Position: Habib Girls School, Best Player: Hoorain Imran (DHA CSS-4) Grade 4-5 Boys:

1st Position: Academy School-A, 2nd Position: Muhammadi School

3rd Position: The Academy-C

Best Player: Dilwat Abbas (Academy)

Grade 6-7 Girls:

1st Position: Shah Waliayat School-2

2nd Position: Muhammadi School

Grade 6-7 Boys:

1st Position: TFS School-B, 2nd Position: TFS School-A, Grade

8-9 Girls: 1st Position: City School DK, 2nd Position: Habib Girls School, Grade 8-9 Boys: 1st Position: TFS School, 2nd Position: Karachi Grammar School

O-Level Girls: 1st Position: Habib Girls School, 2nd Position: CJM School, A-Level Girls: 1st Position: Habib Girls School,

A-Level Boys: 1st Position: Highbrow College

2nd Position: Wheel College, 3rd Position: Credo College

University Level Girls:

1st Position: Denning Law University

2nd Position: IOBM University, 3rd Position: Greenwich University

Best Player: Zahra Mazhar (Deng Law University), Closing Ceremony: Special guests distributed trophies, medals, certificates, and awards to winners, runners-up, third-position teams, outstanding players, and best coaches across 12 categories.

Guests included Evan Federick, Adnan Tareen, Ms. Narmeen Naz, Denning Law University Sports Coordinator Kashif Ahmed Farooqi, Ms. Durkhan Ahsan, Ms. Rashida Gul, Ms. Khalida Rafiq, Haji Ghulam Muhammad (NBP), Arshad Khan, Abdul Samad, Mehmoood Zai, Ahmad Arshad, and Hamood Rehman.

Maqbool Arian, General Secretary of PTF and President of WTF, announced that position-holding teams would have the opportunity to participate in the Asian School Throwball Championship, Asian Throwball Championship, and International Student Games 2025.

Zone-VII Blues Moved into Semi Final after beating Zone-VI Blues in the last Group "D" match by 65 runs in the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at KCCA Stadium.

After the end of the Match Mazhar Ali Awan President Zone-VII give away the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Ajlal Tariq of Zone-VII Blues.

Earlier Zone-VII Whites already qualify for Semi Final from Group "A". The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies.

Scores in Brief:
Zone-VII Blues 158/8 in 40 overs.
Osama 42 4x4, Hamza Durrani 23,
Ajlal Tariq 22. Faiq Haider (sla) 3/18, Mustufa Hussain (mf) 3/24.

In reply Zone-VI Blues 93 all out in 34.2 overs. Mustafa Imran 21, Ali Raza 17. Ajlal Tariq (rls) 3/2, S.M. Jarrar (sla) 3/16, Shahbaz Hussain (ob) 2/17.

Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Centuries by Waqab Johar, Javed Mansoor and Irfan Rehmat.

Sports Desk

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

Highlights of the days play was brilliant Centuries by Waqab Johar 107, Javed Mansoor 101 and Irfan Rehmat 101 all for Agha Khan Gymkhana.

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

Agha Khan Gymkhana beat Shino Sports by 310 runs at Agha Khan Gymkhana. Agha Khan Gymkhana 437/6 in 40 overs. Waqab Johar 107 13x4 3x6, Javed Mansoor 101 15x4 1x6, Irfan Rehmat 101 13x4 1x6, Meer Afzal Baig 76 10x4 2x6 not out. Hammad Ejaz 2/84.

Shino Sports 127 all out in 20.5 overs. Shehzada Waqas 21, M. Adnan ul Haq 18. Muhammad Ayaz 4/33, Hamid Khan 2/46.



KARACHI: Mazhar Ali Awan President Zone-VII gave away the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Ajlal Tariq of Zone-VII Blues.

Meeting

Pak NDMA Chairman, Lt General Inam Haider Malik, held a sideline meeting with Mr. Jin Liqun, President and Chair of the Board of directors at COP29, in Baku, Azerbaijan on Saturday.



Photo: PID

NDMA chairman discusses climate challenges, resilience with Jin Liqun at COP29

Spokesman Report

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik, on Saturday discussed crucial issues related to climate change and disaster resilience with Jin Liqun, President and Chair of

the Board of Directors, during a meeting on the sidelines of COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. NDMA chairman discusses climate challenges, resilience with Jin Liqun at COP29. During the discussion, both leaders emphasized the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

They highlighted the need for robust support for resilient infrastructure to withstand the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters. Lt General Malik and Liqun also talked about the climate impact on the financial resilience of countries, particularly those most vulnerable to climate change. They

underscored the urgency of releasing funds from the Loss and Damage Fund to support nations in their recovery and rebuilding efforts. A key point of the meeting was the creation of an enabling environment that encourages the inclusion of the private sector. Both leaders agreed that increasing

private sector investment in disaster-resilient infrastructure is crucial for sustainable development and long-term resilience. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to strengthen collaboration and enhance global efforts in building resilient communities.

Those resorting to protest won't succeed, says Nawaz Sharif

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and others left for Pakistan on Saturday. Dr. Adnan and Junaid Saifdar have also been accompanying with them.

Before his departure for Pakistan talking to media, Nawaz Sharif said that those resorting to protest will not succeed.

Nawaz Sharif had arrived in UK on October 26. He left for US after two days of his arrival in Britain.

The former prime minister with daughter Maryam Nawaz returned to London



from their Europe visit on November 12. Nawaz Sharif talking to media said, "we would bring

improvement if our government not interrupted". "PTI did nothing except bringing disrepute to Paki-

stan," he said. "What didn't commit by the PTI's founder against us in collaboration with Qamar

Bajwa and Faiz Hameed," he questioned.

"An elected prime minister was removed from office in connivance with the judiciary," Nawaz Sharif said.

"We have suffered worst atrocities and victimization," he added.

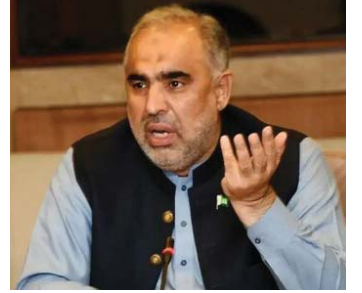
Former prime minister in an earlier media talk said that indicators show that Pakistan's economy is recovering. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif left no stone unturned to steer the country out of quagmire of economic crisis, he added.

The PML-N chief said his party knew the economic woes of the people of Pakistan and it would provide them relief from inflated power bills and inflation.

Asad Qaiser presents PTI's four key demands for restoration of democracy and constitutional rule

SWABI: 16th November 2024: PTI central Leader Asad Qaiser, addressed a large gathering in Swabi, where he voiced deep concerns over the escalating constitutional crisis in Pakistan.

He stated that the country was currently facing an unprecedented constitutional breakdown, with the suspension of the constitution rendering Pakistan a nation without proper governance. Asad Qaiser emphasized that the constitution has effectively been put on hold, leaving no real authority for either Parliament or the judiciary. He described



the situation as dire, pointing out that the government had undermined the institutions meant to ensure the rule of law.

ANP leader Ilyas Ahmed Bilour passes away at 84

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Ilyas Ahmed Bilour, a prominent leader of the Awami National Party (ANP) and former senator, has passed away at the age of 84 in Peshawar.

His brother, Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, confirmed that Ilyas had been battling kidney disease and had received treatment in a local hospital for several months before his death, which occurred at 4am.

The ANP announced his passing on social media, noting that Ilyas was the brother of Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour and the late Shaheed Bashir Ahmed Bilour, as well as the father of former senator Ghazanfar Bilour. His funeral is scheduled for Sunday



at 2pm in Peshawar's Wazir Bagh, where he will be laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard.

Ilyas Ahmed Bilour served in the upper house of parliament from 2012 to 2018 and was a longstanding member of the ANP.

He had stepped back from active politics after his son joined the rival Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

PTA announces 'easier' VPN registration process for freelancers

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has announced a 'simplified' VPN registration process for freelancers and organisations.

Now, software houses, call centres, banks, embassies, and freelancers can easily register their VPNs via PTA's official website.

Members of the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) can also benefit from this facility, according to a press statement issued by the PTA.

To complete the registration, it is

essential to fill out an online form that includes the CNIC, company registration details, and taxpayer status. Freelancers must provide proof of their affiliation with a project or company, such as a letter or email.

The approval process for this registration is completed within 8 to 10 hours, and so far, over 20,000 companies and freelancers have successfully registered their VPNs through this system.

Individuals wishing to use VPNs for commercial purposes must provide the required details and relevant proof from their employer.

AJK President to visit Kotli from Nov 20 on mass contact drive



Bureau Report

MIRPUR: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry will visit Kotli district of AJK on Wednesday, November 20, for two-days on mass-contact drive across the AJK to meet the southern area population of the city of Mosques.

The decision to this effect was taken during a meeting at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Saturday.

The meeting was attended by Presidential Adviser Chaudhry Muhammad Mehboob Advocate and others.

During his two-day visit, Barrister Chaudhry would address a reception ceremony being hosted in his honour by Mayor of Kotli

Chaudhry Muhammad Taj.

He is also scheduled to address a ceremony being held under the auspices of District Bar Association Kotli on Thursday, November 21 at 11 am and later at 12 noon, the president would address the fifth annual convocation of the University of Kotli.

President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry will also meet various public delegations during his visit to southern city.

Meanwhile, senior leader Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Sardar Qamar Zaman had a detailed meeting with the President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry. During the meeting, they discussed in detail the issues of mutual concern.

Daska horror

Zahra's father says daughter's body was chopped into 25 pieces

Bureau Report

DASKA: The father of Zahra Qadeer, a seven-month pregnant woman who was reportedly brutally murdered by her in-laws in Daska, said that her body was chopped into 25 pieces before being dumped in sewerage drains.

Shabbir Ahmed, a police inspector himself, told ARY News that four suspects have been taken into custody and admitted to murdering his daughter, aged 31.

"My daughter was smothered with a pillow and her body was chopped into 25 pieces with a sharp-edged knife and a meat cleaver," the father of the deceased woman said.

Inspector Shabbir Ahmed said that the body parts were packed into different bags and dumped in sewerage drains.

Zahra Qadeer, a 31-year-old from Gujranwala's village Kot Mand and mother of one, was married to Qadeer of Kotli Marlan four years ago. Her husband works abroad and has not been reachable by police.

The incident took place in Kotli



Marlan village, where the mother of one and 7-month pregnant woman was murdered by her in-laws while she was offering prayer.

Speaking during ARY News programme 'Ba Khabar Sawera' on the disturbing Daska incident District Police Officer (DPO) Sialkot Rana

Umar Farooq said that the prime suspect Sughra Bibi along with her daughter Yasmeen and two other male relatives killed Zahra Qadeer who was seven-month pregnant.

The police officer said that the suspects dismembered the body, burnt her head to prevent identification, packed parts of the body into bags, and dumped them into a canal to conceal the crime.

"The suspected women had learnt the skills to carry out the heinous crime after watching Indian movies."

Sughra Bibi, the prime accused, has been arrested along with her daughter yasmeen, grandson Abdullah and their other relative Naveed. The case has been registered on complaint of the father of the deceased.

The DPO said that the police initially received a complaint from the suspects stating that Zahra had run away with someone she loved. However, upon investigation, it was discovered that she had been murdered. The case has been registered on complaint of the father of the deceased.