



**Belarus president 'to visit' Pakistan on November 25**

The visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and exploring new avenues of cooperation in diverse fields between both countries. During the visit Pakistan-Belarus Trade Roadmap will be signed, the source said. During stay in Pakistan, President Lukashenko is scheduled to meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and military leadership.



**Govt's timely efforts put economy back on track: Fin Min Aurangzeb**

Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb says the economy has been showing signs of improvement lately due to the sincere efforts of the incumbent government. Addressing a press conference in the capital on Sunday, the finance minister said inflation had come at the single digit - seven percent - from 38 percent as the PM himself had been spearheading the efforts in this regard.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Meeting**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Central Apex Committee of National Action Plan.



Photo: File

**PM Shehbaz to chair meeting of Apex Committee today**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Apex Committee on the National Action Plan (NAP) will be held on Monday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The meeting, to be held at the Prime Minister's House, is expected to approve significant decisions aimed at ensuring internal security.

Sources indicate that the meeting will be attended by Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, the Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and heads of other intelligence agencies. Attendees will receive brief-

ings on counter-terrorism efforts and the overall law and order situation.

The meeting's agenda includes reviewing the implementation of the National Action Plan, improving coordination between the federal and provincial governments, and enhancing the effective sharing of intelligence information.

The increasing incidents of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan will also be reviewed, along with the results of intelligence-based operations. The meeting is expected to approve important decisions to strengthen internal security.

**India hails 'historic' hypersonic missile test flight**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Nuclear-armed India has tested its first hypersonic missile, the defence minister said Sunday, publicising the super-fast high-tech weapon days after rival China showcased its latest military aviation powers.

Hypersonics are the new frontier in missile technology, because they fly lower and are harder to detect than ballistic missiles, can reach targets more quickly, and can be ordered to change target in mid-flight.

The United States, Russia, China and North Korea have all tested hypersonic missiles, and several others are developing the technology.

"India has achieved a major milestone by successfully conducting flight trial of long



range hypersonic missile," Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh said in a statement.

The test flight comes days after rival and neighbour China showcased its expanding aviation capabilities at an airshow, with the J-35A stealth fighter jet and attack drones displayed.

That, according to China's state media, included the debut of the HQ-19 surface-to-air missile system, designed to intercept ballistic missiles and hypersonic glide vehicles.

India's missile blasted off from Abdul Kalam Island off the east coast on Saturday.

**'Nothing to hide' in IMF mission's Pakistan visit: Finance Minister Aurangzeb**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: There was nothing to hide in the International Monetary Fund mission's visit to Pakistan, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Sunday as the global lender concluded its trip on Friday.

"I have welcomed this visit because we have an ongoing dialogue as mutual trust and dialogue is made by dialogue," Aurangzeb said in a live address which was aired on PTV News. He spoke about the IMF team's visit to the South Asian country a few days back.

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.

The crisis-wracked South Asian

country has had 22 previous IMF bailout programs since 1958.

Aurangzeb, a former banker, said that the two sides discussed reforms in taxation, energy, and state-owned enterprises. Privatisation and public finance were also on the agenda. He added that all such things were already known to the people.

The finance czar went on to add

that the national fiscal pact and right-sizing of the federal government were the structural benchmarks in September that were achieved.

The Fund urged Pakistan to end the state intervention in the economy and enhance competition, which would help foster the development of a dynamic private sector.

In the "constructive discussion", the two sides agreed on the need to continue prudent fiscal and monetary policies, and revenue mobilisation from untapped tax bases, while transferring greater social and development responsibilities to provinces.

He stressed the need for the right-sizing of the federal government to improve public financing. The government also working on the agriculture income tax, he added.

Aurangzeb thanked all chief ministers of the province for their support.

"This is an ongoing dialogue. Some of this is going to continue to happen virtually," the finance minister said and added that he "would welcome every possible opportunity to meet face-to-face."

Aurangzeb appreciated the IMF team for the visit to conduct "stock-taking" and hold discussions with them.

According to the finance minister, discussions with the IMF were constructive. While speaking about the revenue and taxation, he said: "We are going to be very firm on compliance and enforcement because as a country our hand has been forced. We cannot continue to go back to the same for more, whether it is salaried class or manufacturing sector."

Continued on Page 8

**Hafiz Naeem urges political parties to sit together to establish peace in country**

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem urged all the political parties to unite in order to establish peace in the country.

He was addressing a press conference in Karachi on Sunday.

The JI emir strongly condemned the killing of party's general secretary of Bajaur chapter.

"It is the responsibility of federal and provincial governments to ensure security of the citizens. Jamaat-e-Islami is the largest political party of Bajaur," said Hafiz Naeem.

He said that Pakistan should avoid to fight any

proxy war in the region. The Afghan government should also play a responsible role to achieve peace in the region, he added.

Also Read: Hafiz Naeem proposes to mediate Pakistan-Afghanistan talks.

The JI emir also highlighted the need to address the issues in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "All the political parties should sit together and resolve the country's problems collectively," he said.

Hafiz Naeem also grilled the government for its handling of the economy and national issues.

The deteriorating law and order situation is also affecting our economy badly, he added.

**London's High Court declares ex-PM Nawaz Sharif's son Hasan bankrupt**

**Spokesman Report**

LONDON: Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's son Hasan has been declared bankrupt by London's High Court, according to the court papers which were reported in the Pakistani media on Sunday.

The bankruptcy stems from a tax and liability case initiated by the UK government's tax authority.

Hasan, residing at Flat 17 Avenfield House, 118 Park Lane, was declared bankrupt in case No. 694 of 2023, filed on August 25, 2023, the official UK Gazette order said.

The bankruptcy order was issued on April 29, 2024, following a claim by creditors for non-payment.

The civil case was brought forth by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, with Hasan being represented by Kaur Maxwell.

Under UK law, a bankruptcy order is a formal declaration of personal insolvency issued by the court. Such orders are only published in the London Gazette after being processed by The Insolvency Service.



Once declared bankrupt, an individual cannot serve as a director or manage any company unless they receive permission from the court. Despite this, Hasan remains a director of several companies in the UK.

In March this year, an Islamabad accountability court in Pakistan acquitted Hussain Nawaz and Hasan in three corruption cases linked to the Panama Papers.

In 2018, the court had declared Nawaz's sons proclaimed offenders

after they failed to participate in the investigations concerning the Avenfield Apartments, Al-Azzia, and Flagship Investment cases filed by the National Accountability Bureau.

In an old interview, Hasan said: "The Park Lane apartments in London are ours, two offshore companies, Nielsen and Nescoll, own these flats and I am the beneficial owner of these companies, working under a trust held by my sister Maryam Nawaz Sharif."

**Fazl condemns anti-human rights legislation following 26th amendment**

**Bureau Report**

PESHAWAR: JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has expressed concerns over laws enacted after 26th amendment, claiming they undermine the essence of the constitution and human rights.

Speaking to media, he mentioned that his visit to offer condolence for the passing of Ilyas Bilour.

He criticised the government for prioritising politics over citizen's safety amid ongoing security challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He highlighted that the post amendment laws enable authorities to detain individuals for up to 90 days without charge, leading to widespread human rights violations and misuse of power.

# Karachi schools could be closed for six days for IDEAS 2024

Khurram Jaffrani

KARACHI: The Karachi administration is preparing for IDEAS 2024, the 12th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar, scheduled for November 19-22, 2024 at the Expo Centre. In anticipation of the event, a six-day school closure is expected. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is slated to inaugurate the event, organized

by the Defence Export Promotion Organisation (DEPO). IDEAS 2024 is anticipated to draw significant international participation from leaders, officials, and experts in the global defense industry. Organizers have indicated a wide range of modern and conventional defense equipment, weapon systems, and vehicles will be showcased. The exhibition will attract a

diverse crowd, including local and international representatives, security experts, exhibitors showcasing their latest innovations, and high-level policymakers and strategists. Due to heightened security measures implemented by the government for IDEAS 2024, schools located along Shahrah-e-Faisal and Habib Ibrahim Rehmatullah Road in Karachi are likely to be closed

from November 19th to 22nd. This temporary closure aims to ensure public safety. If schools in these areas close for four days, they would likely reopen on Monday, November 25th, accounting for the weekend. However, final decisions regarding school closures in specific areas will be made by authorities after reviewing the complete security plan.

## Appreciation

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Photographer Sultan Bashir awarded the best photographer in Lok Mela 2024 organized by Lok Versa.



Photo: Spokesman

# Saigol's nomination as KPT acting chief honor for PIAF



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations

Front (PIAF) leadership has greeted its chairman Faheem Rehman Saigol for his nomination as the Acting Chairman of the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Board, stating that it is honour for the PIAF, as its chairman has been chosen to head this prestigious post for the first time in the history. In a reception, hosted in honour of newly-nominated chairman of the KPT Board, the whole leadership of PIAF, including Patron-in-Chief Mian Anjum Nisar; Senior Vice Chairman, Nasrullah Mughal; Vice Chairman, Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry; former Chairman, Muhammad Ali Mian; former Vice Chairman, Khawaja Shahzeb Akram; and other senior members, congratulated the PIAF Chairman for assuming the charge of the country's very important slot. While addressing the reception, they stated that Faheemur-Rehman Saigol nomination as Chairman of the KPT Board is a testament to his hard work and is a matter of pride for PIAF. He has previously served as the Vice President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce, and as part of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers and various standing committees of the Lahore Chamber, he has contributed significantly to the business community. Faheem Saigol will continue to fulfill his responsibilities as Acting Chairman of the Karachi Port Trust Board until a permanent chairman is appointed.

# Shahbaz Aslam elected new Chairman of FRIA

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Ferozpur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) has elected Shahbaz Aslam as a new chairman and Shafiq Butt as senior vice chairman unopposed for tenure of two years. The decision in this regard was taken by the FRIA executive committee, who met here today. FRIA leadership as well as several other prominent personalities congratulating the newly-elected chairman of FRIA, hoped that the new chairman along with his body will utilize their best abilities to serve the traders attached with this business. While issuing a press statement, the new chairman Shahbaz Aslam urged the government to take up the issues of business community on priority basis.

# Adopting cleaner technologies can reduce impact of smog: PRGMEA

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Dr. Ayyaz ud Din ask govt, businesses, academia to invest in new tech to cut reliance on fossil fuels and check smog. The Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA) has called for adopting cleaner technologies to reduce the impact of smog, as the government, businesses, academia and donors should invest in newer technologies to cut the reliance on fossil fuels with a view to control the smog in the country.



The PRGMEA North Zone Chairman Dr. Ayyaz ud Din warned that smog in Pakistan is a critical issue that affects not only the environment but also public health. The country can no longer afford to ignore the growing air pollution problem. Learning from successful international examples, implementing stricter regulations, and adopting cleaner technologies can significantly reduce the impact of smog. The key to tackling this crisis lies in multi-sectoral collaboration, stricter enforcement of environmental policies, and widespread public awareness. It is time for Pakistan to take action for the well-being of its citizens and the health of the planet.

# PHMA concerned over notices for gas disconnection, extra payment

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: While expressing serious concerns over the threats of gas supply termination and notices of additional security payment by the SNGPL the Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA) has urged the government to withdraw these notices and ensure smooth gas supply to the export-oriented value-added textile industry so that the exports could not be suffered, which have just started to show a positive trend after a long time.



PHMA North Zone Chairman Abdul Hameed, in a letter to Commerce and Textile Minister Jam Kamal, has argued that at a time when the exports data have showed some growth the government agencies, instead of taking business-friendly measures, are creating hurdles for the exporters. He quoted the latest exports data and said the exports of readymade garments rose 23.17pc by value in the first quarter and 16.16pc by quantity, while knitwear rose 14.13pc by value and 2.17pc by quantity while bedwear posted a growth of 13.31pc in value and a growth of 14.55pc in quantity, which is an encouraging sign. The government should extend its full support to continue this positive trend of exports growth through uninterrupted gas supply to the captive power plants at affordable and competitive rates.

# Smog drops from hazardous to unhealthy in Lahore for first time in two weeks

City Desk

LAHORE: The air quality in smog-choked city of Lahore on Sunday fell below the threshold considered "hazardous" for humans for the first time in two weeks.



The AQI index reached a daily average of 243, still "very unhealthy" but below the highest level of 300 considered "hazardous". The level of PM2.5 particles was also more than 10 times higher than the level deemed acceptable by the World Health Organization. The city of 14 million people close to the border with India peaked at a record AQI of 1,110 on November 14. Punjab, home to more than half of Pakistan's 240 million people, closed schools in its major cities on November 6, and on Friday extended the closure to November 24. It has also banned all outdoor sports in schools until January, and cracked down on polluting tuk-tuks, barbecues and construction sites in pollution hot spots across Lahore. Seasonal crop burn-off by farmers on the outskirts of the city also contributes to toxic air the WHO says can cause strokes, heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory diseases. Over 1.93m seek hospital care for respiratory diseases. Smog has severely impacted the health of sensitive citizens across Punjab, with approximately 1.93 million people visiting hospitals over the past 30 days for respiratory and related illnesses, state-run APP reported on Sunday. Hospitals in Punjab received 124,660 asthma patients, 62,908 cases of ischemic heart disease, 5,953 stroke patients, and 12,694 cases of conjunctivitis, according to the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, in the last month. The department further reported that 452,567 respiratory disease cases, 31,707 asthma cases, 13,768 ischemic heart disease cases, 1,695 strokes, and 47,224 conjunctivitis cases were treated in the past seven days alone.

# 'The Rights of Sindh in Moments of National Awakening'

**1. The Purpose of Parliament, Judiciary, and Institutions – Serving the People or Protecting the Elite?**  
The primary purpose of national institutions like parliament and judiciary is to safeguard citizens' rights, uphold the rule of law, and ensure the nation's prosperity. Unfortunately, these institutions have veered far from these ideals, prioritizing the interests of the ruling elite. Sindh, as a key province, has faced severe neglect under this unjust system. Issues like education, healthcare, employment, and resource distribution have been overshadowed by incompetence and vested interests.

**2. The Role of Parliament and the Basic Rights of Citizens**  
Parliament is considered the cornerstone of democracy, where public aspirations should be honored. However, does today's parliament genuinely protect Sindh's rights? The people of Sindh remain deprived of clean water, quality education, and essential healthcare. Elected representatives seem more invested in personal gain than addressing public grievances, turning parliament into a tool for elite agendas rather than a

solution for public issues.

**3. Judiciary – A Pillar of Justice or a Helpless Institution?**  
The judiciary is expected to act independently and fairly, but its performance in Sindh raises significant concerns. Justice is delayed or entirely absent, further alienating the people. Courts either remain silent on key issues or respond sluggishly, causing widespread disappointment and a demand for a more proactive role.

**4. Powerful Institutions – Public Service or Safeguarding Interests?**  
Institutions established to serve the public now protect the interests of the powerful. Instead of prioritizing equitable resource distribution and addressing public needs, these institutions cater to elite agendas. Sindh, despite being a crucial economic hub, is deprived of its rightful share in resources, an injustice that exacerbates the province's struggles.

**5. The Role of the People – Breaking**

**Silence, Time to Wake Up**  
Sindh's people have a legacy of fighting for their rights. In the current political, judicial, and administrative climate, they must unite and organize to reclaim their due. Silence solves nothing; only a collective, determined effort can compel leaders and institutions to deliver.

**6. Law and People's Power – How to Secure Rights?**  
The law grants citizens the right to raise their voices for justice. Sindh's people must embrace lawful and peaceful struggle, resisting any suppression. Protecting their rights requires unwavering resolve and organized efforts.

**7. National Awakening – Sindh's Last Chance**  
This is a crucial time for Sindh to unite and assert its rights. Failure to act now will only lead to further neglect and backwardness. A vigilant and active community is the only way to safeguard the future.

**8. Protests, Resistance, and the Power**

**of the People**  
Protesting is a basic right, but it should go beyond slogans and demonstrations. A multifaceted approach involving legal, political, and social activism is essential. Holding representatives accountable and challenging institutional failures is key to achieving progress.

**9. A Message to the Rulers – Beware of People's Power**  
The people of Sindh were not born to remain silent. They must awaken to demand their rights and compel leaders to prioritize public service over self-interest. Without significant change in attitudes, the power of the people could become a formidable challenge for the rulers.

**Conclusion**  
The people of Sindh must realize their rights and responsibilities. This is the time to harness collective strength and fight for justice. By compelling institutions like parliament and judiciary to focus on public service, Sindh can pave the way for a brighter future. A united, determined, and aware community is the key to reclaiming rights and achieving true progress.

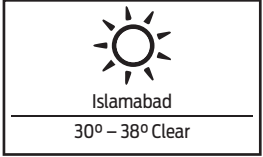


Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

# Rawalpindi Metro Bus driver and staff arrested after child's death

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested the driver and staff of a Metro bus following the death of a four-year-old boy who was run over at the Liaquat Bagh Metro Bus Station. A case has been registered against them for negligence and recklessness. The incident occurred when four-year-old Rehan, who was traveling with his family, became trapped between the bus and the station gate. Sources say the absence of a Metro guard at the gate contributed to the accident. According to the First Information Report (FIR), filed by the child's mother at Waris Khan Police Station, Rehan, a resident of Nathiagali, was visiting his grandmother in Rawalpindi with his mother. While disembarking the Metro bus, Rehan got stuck in a gap alongside the gate. The bus driver allegedly started the bus before the station door was fully closed, causing the child to fall onto the track and under the wheels. The FIR states that the child's cries for help went unanswered. The case highlights alleged negligence on the part of both the bus driver and the Metro bus administration. Police have registered a case and taken the accused into custody.



**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 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

# Education is central route to development: Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for Education and Professional Development, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said, education is the sole path to Development of the country. He was addressing as the chief guest at the convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Sindh Chapter, held in Karachi.

The Minister warned that if we fail to align ourselves with the demands of the present era and do not strive to change ourselves, external forces will impose their changes upon us.

The Federal Minister for Education and the Vice-Chancellor distributed degrees and gold medals amongst graduated students.

Congratulating the graduates, the Federal Minister emphasized that their success is a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the quality education provided by Allama Iqbal Open University, along with the efforts and competence of its teachers.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nasir Mahmood mentioned that AIOU has 10 regional campuses in Sindh, with around 44,000 students currently enrolled. He revealed that approximately five million students have graduated from the university to date,



claiming that there is hardly a household in Pakistan without a student or graduate of AIOU.

Dr. Nasir highlighted that AIOU's educational scope is no longer confined to Pakistan, with students from 36

countries pursuing education at this prestigious institution.

He congratulated the graduates,

saying, "This university is yours, and you are our pride. Let us contribute to the progress of this nation."

**Khairpur Police's Outstanding Action**

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

KHAIRPUR: Under the directives of SSP Khairpur Touheed Rehman Memon, SHOs of B-Section Police Station, Shaheed Murtaza Mirani, and Kumb, along with their teams, carried out successful operations.

The police team recovered stolen and snatched motorcycles and returned them to their rightful owners, namely Waseem Kookhar, Nabi Bux Mehra, Ali Murad Baloch, and Khalid Ahmed.

It is worth mentioning that a few days ago, unidentified suspects had stolen and snatched these motorcycles from various police station jurisdictions.

The owners expressed their gratitude to SSP Khairpur and the SHOs for their swift action and appreciated the performance of Khairpur Police.

## Learning Festival

ISLAMABAD: Students taking part in the last day of 3 Day Pakistan Learning Festival at Islamabad College for Boys G-6/3 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Devsinc Empowers Women to Shape Their Tomorrow



**City Desk**

LAHORE: Devsinc has inaugurated a state-of-the-art lab at the Government Associate College For Women in Mustafabad Dharampura, Lahore, reaffirming its commitment to digital empowerment and female education. This new facility, branded with the inspirational message, "For the Women Who Dream, Lead and Inspire Change—This Space Is Yours," marks a significant step towards nurturing future women leaders in technology and beyond. Usman Asif, the CEO of Devsinc, highlighted, "Empowering women with access to technology is truly transformative. For me, it's about ensuring that no one is left digitally disabled. This is our way of saying—we believe in you and we're committed to supporting your journey." This initiative aligns with Devsinc's broader strategy to contribute meaningfully to community development, encouraging other corporations to prioritize education and women's empowerment. The lab is envisioned as a beacon of hope, inspiring countless young women in the region to pursue their ambitions and lead with confidence.

## Hakeem-ul-Umat presented a complete roadmap for nation-building: Gen Naeem Lodhi

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Organized by Rooth Forum, a discussion session was organized under the title "Practical Diplomacy of the Values of Uswah e Hasna in the Light of Hikmat Iqbal". A large number of intellectuals, academicians and dignitaries of the city participated in the discussion. Lieutenant General (R) Naeem Khalid Lodhi, highlighting the possibilities of leadership through educational institutions in the crisis faced by the nation, said that Pakistan is a country rich in manpower and resources. Hakeem-ul-Umat has presented a complete roadmap for nation-building. The dream of a welfare society can be realized by connecting organizations like Rooth Forum and Abrooy Millat. President of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association North Punjab, Abrar Ahmed Khan, while paying tribute to Rooth Forum in connection with the promotion of Hikmat Iqbal, said that by introducing the tasteful method of teaching Quran and Sunnah through Hikmat Iqbal in the prevailing educational institutions. Brig Muneer Ahmed appreciated the efforts of Rooth Forum and Amble School for promoting the values of Uswah e Hasna and the wisdom of Iqbal in the basic education of schools.

Naeem Qureshi, Psychologist Ms. Ayesha, Hamid Butt and Persian and Arabic teacher Mujahid Kazmi expressed their views to be a part of the mission of Rooth Forum and Amble School regarding revival of values, Fiqr Iqbal, Director of KIPS Education System, Zeeshan Ahmed emphasized the need for uniform education system, uniform curriculum and uniform teacher training to educational institutions through a joint forum. Well-known biographer Dr. Wahaj stressed the importance of making the new generation ambassadors by devoting love and following the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The host of the event, Rooth Forum Director Col. Murtaza Ali Shah (retd.) said that Rooth Forum and Amble School along with modern sciences, useful knowledge i.e. Quran and Sunnah and wisdom of Iqbal to educate the students with the consciousness of life and the purpose of life.

## Delegation of educationist meet MPA Malik Abrar

The Joint Action Committee of Private Schools and Colleges Associations met Member National Assembly Malik Abrar Ahmed under the leadership of Chaudhry Nasir Mehmood regarding the closure of educational institutions. Representatives of Pakistan Chamber of Education, Apsma, IFC, Private Schools and Management Association, Private Educational Society, Rawalpindi Association of Private Schools participated in the meeting, and expressed deep concern over Punjab government's closure of private and public educational institutions of Rawalpindi division for another week due to smog and demanded Malik Abrar Ahmed to play his role. Malik Abrar Ahmed assured the delegation that he will make every possible effort to solve the problems of private educational institutions. In this regard, I will also ask the members of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab to raise this issue on the floor of the Punjab Assembly that the special conditions of Rawalpindi Division should be taken into consideration while making a policy for the remedy of smog etc.

## Cougar Clothing brings a Revolution in Fashion with a brand-new Kids Wear Collection Launch!

**City Desk**

LAHORE: An iconic western street wear brand, known for setting trends with fashion that captures the spirit of urban life—fresh, stylish, and designed for those who live boldly and after successfully inspiring young customers, Cougar has expanded by launching Cougar Kids ready to welcome the next generation of valued customers, offering the same level of comfort and style they have come to expect.

The launch for the new collection, held on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at the signature Cougar Outlet in Y-Block DHA Phase 3 Lahore, was nothing short of spectacular! The exclusive reveal event by Elysium, attracted a host of socialites, influencers, entrepreneurs, fashion enthusiasts, media



personalities and kids, all eager to have a firsthand experience of the new revolution in fashion for street wear. Talking to the media, Mr. Khalid

Pervez C. E. O. Cougar expressed his views: "With 30 strategically placed outlets, we cater to a broad customer base and are continuously expanding. Our success stems from a strong focus on design and quality, with in-house manufacturing. We uphold the "Made of Pakistan" spirit by offering affordable, high-quality products made in-house, proudly enhancing our customers' style and satisfaction nationwide."

Cougar started as a sweater manufacturing and wholesale business in 1997. Today, it's a well-known brand among urban youth in casual wear. Over the years, Cougar has become a key name in men's and women's casual fashion, known for its commitment to quality, a growing retail network, and a strong focus on meeting the needs of style-conscious customers.

## Police, business community agree on measures to improve law and order in Islamabad

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: To improve law and order in Islamabad, the police and the business community have agreed to mutual cooperation and measures to enhance the city's security, combat crimes and drug abuse, and curb theft and robbery incidents. For consultation and decision-making, an 8-member committee comprising City Circle Police Islamabad and market presidents will be formed. This agreement was reached during a meeting of the business community chaired by Chairman Clean and Green Islamabad Movement, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President All Traders Welfare Association Blue Area, Raja Hassan Akhtar, and Group Leader Yousaf Rajput. The meeting was attended by SP City Khalid Awan, SDPO City Khan



Muhammad Baloch, Haji Naeem, Atique Khan, Chaudhry Imran, Sarfraz Shah, Zubair Kayani, Imran Shahid, Tahmas Butt, Hameed Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry, Saif-ur-Rehman, and other traders. SP City assured the business community of full support from the police, stating that patrolling in Blue Area and other commercial hubs would be increased. Strategies will be devised in collaboration with traders to prevent mobile snatching and other crimes. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari highlighted that Islamabad's business community has always been proactive in improving law and order. He remarked that police and security play a fundamental role in the development and prosperity of

any region. He appreciated the collaboration between traders and police, considering it crucial for ensuring secure and stable commercial activities in the city.

Raja Hassan Akhtar stated that Islamabad's business community would play an active role in crime prevention alongside the police. He welcomed the increase in police patrolling as a positive step. Yousaf Rajput emphasized that ensuring the security of the business community is a critical need of the hour and proposed establishing a permanent framework for collaboration between police and traders to ensure sustainable peace in the city. Haji Naeem noted that all stakeholders would work together to enhance Islamabad's law and order, providing a safe and peaceful environment for citizens.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**  
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**  
 Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**  
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
 Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.  
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com  
 Phone: +92 51 2227123,  
 WhatsApp +92 346 5008408  
 Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,  
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390  
 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com  
 Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.  
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

# Honoring the Exceptional Contributions of the Pakistani Military to UN Peacekeeping Efforts

The Pakistan Army has a proud tradition of participating in UN peacekeeping missions, reflecting its commitment to promoting global peace and security. However, this noble endeavor has come at a cost. Pakistani soldiers, serving as peacekeepers in some of the world's most conflict-ridden regions, have made the ultimate sacrifice in their pursuit of peace. Their bravery, valor, and dedication deserve recognition and remembrance. Pakistani peacekeepers have served in various missions around the globe, including in countries like Congo, Somalia, and Sierra Leone, where conflict has severely impacted civilian populations. In the face of danger and adversity, they have exhibited unwavering courage and resilience, standing firm in their commitment to upholding peace and protecting innocent lives.

Tragically, many Pakistani soldiers have lost their lives while serving in UN peacekeeping missions—whether due to military operations, targeted attacks by armed groups, or accidents during humanitarian duties. These brave individuals have laid down their lives in the service of humanity, serving as a poignant reminder of the human cost of peacekeeping and the dangers faced by those on the frontlines of conflict. The legacy of Pakistan Army martyrs in UN peacekeeping missions is one of honor, selflessness, and dedication to the cause of peace. Their names are forever remembered in history as heroes who embodied the highest ideals of duty, honor, and sacrifice. Their families, friends, and fellow soldiers hold them in reverence and pride, cherishing their memory

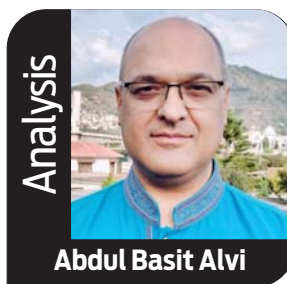
and honoring their legacy of service. It is essential to support the families of Pakistan Army martyrs who have made the ultimate sacrifice in UN peacekeeping missions. Offering them the care, assistance, and recognition they deserve is a solemn responsibility and a heartfelt expression of gratitude for the sacrifices of their loved ones. Additionally, acknowledging the contributions and sacrifices of Pakistani peacekeepers on both national and international stages is crucial for ensuring their legacy endures and inspires future generations.

Lieutenant Colonel Haroon Islam, affectionately known as the "Martyr of Peace," was a courageous officer who lost his life while serving with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) in 1994. During the Rwandan genocide, he displayed remarkable bravery and compassion in protecting innocent civilians from violence and persecution. Despite facing overwhelming odds, he remained steadfast in his commitment to the principles of peace and humanity until his untimely death. Naik Saif Ali Janjua, another valiant son of Pakistan, made the ultimate sacrifice while serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in 1985. He bravely defended his position against a militant attack, refusing to retreat despite imminent danger. His selfless act of valor and devotion to duty exemplified the highest ideals of military service,

earning him posthumous recognition for his bravery. The Pakistan Army has consistently demonstrated its commitment and dedication wherever it is deployed, gaining worldwide recognition for its remarkable contributions to global peace. Pakistani peacekeepers in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) were recently honored for their exceptional service in rescuing nearly 300,000 residents from devastating floods in Bentio, the capital of Unity State. During a ceremony at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the 272 peacekeepers from the Pakistani unit, known as the Blue Helmets, received United Nations medals for their tireless work in building and maintaining dams to redirect floodwaters, protecting internally displaced persons camps housing millions.

Thanks to the efforts of the Pakistani peacekeeping force, surrounding areas, infrastructure, and essential services were safeguarded from the floods. At the conclusion of this mission, the Pakistani unit was awarded a certificate of commendation for outstanding performance, and 23 soldiers received the prestigious 'Force Commander Commendation Card.' The Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, Lt. Gen. Mohan Subramaniam, praised the dedication and efficiency of the Pakistani unit, highlighting their significant contributions to important engineering projects completed on time and within budget. Their genuine efforts reflect their strong professional commitment. A press release noted, "Despite facing complex challenges such as climate disasters, food crises, conflicts, and disease outbreaks, the dedication of Pakistani peacekeepers has remained steadfast." Thanks to their work, the residents of Bentio felt hopeful and empowered to pursue a normal life. Their actions highlight the crucial role of UN peacekeeping missions in addressing environmental and humanitarian crises. As the unit prepares to welcome the next group of Pakistani Army Engineers, they are leaving behind a legacy of safety and resilience in Bentio, the statement added.

In an era characterized by global challenges and uncertainties, Pakistan stands out as a responsible and constructive player on the international stage. From its commitment to peace and security to its initiatives for promoting sustainable development and cooperation, Pakistan has consistently showcased its role as a responsible member of the global community. Through diplomatic engagements, contributions to peacekeeping missions, and socioeconomic development efforts, Pakistan reaffirms its dedication to fostering stability, prosperity, and peace both regionally and globally. The bravery, enthusiasm, and professionalism of the Pakistan Army have instilled a sense of pride in the nation. The army's efforts in both internal and international peacekeeping are highly appreciated, and the entire country stands united in supporting the Pakistan Army in its mission to present Pakistan as a peace-loving nation.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Khalistan Referendum demanding liberation from India

Over 37,000 Sikhs exercised their right to vote in the Khalistan Referendum held here for the creation of an independent Sikh state of Khalistan within India.

The independent Punjab Referendum Commission (PRC) is conducting the referendum. Dr Bakhshish Singh Sandhu, the President of Council of Khalistan and founding member of Sikhs For Justice, announced that the total votes cast were over 37,000. The referendum was held in Auckland's Aotea Square on Sunday, where thousands of Sikhs thronged to the venue to cast their votes, prompting the organizers to extend the voting time by one hour.

"The Indian govt had lobbied against the voting and had asked New Zealand to ban Sikhs from taking part in the voting but the local authorities approved the referendum and clarified instead that New Zealand is a country committed to freedom of expression. Throughout the day, thousands of Sikhs chanted slogans for the creation of Khalistan and accused the Indian govt of being involved in Sikh genocide and transnational oppression against Sikhs. They have shown how much love there is for Khalistan in the hearts of Sikhs", Dr Bakhshish Singh Sandhu told thousands of supporters of Khalistan in his speech.

Over 37,000 votes in New Zealand Khalistan Referendum demanding liberation from India

After the Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) announced the event in New Zealand, the matter was raised by S Jaishankar, India's minister of external affairs, with NZ Foreign Minister Winston Peters during their meeting on the sidelines of the Raisina Down Under conference in Canberra on 6 November.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the Counsel General of SFJ, told the audience at the conclusion of the referendum that Sikhs had terrified the Indian state through peaceful voting process and the Hindutva state has resorted to terrorist means to punish Sikhs for seeking their homeland. "No other option is acceptable to Sikhs other than liberation from India. It's either freedom or martyrdom."

The Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) chief announced a bounty of 1 million dollars for anyone who shares intelligence on Union Home Minister Amit Shah's foreign trips – and held him responsible for authorising the "terror campaign" against Sikhs. He said that Sikhs have decided to take on the Hindutva violent ideology by all means possible and the campaign to do so has started from Ayodhya, the birthplace of violent Hindutva ideology.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun said: "Sikh Sangat in their thousands have cast their votes today to liberate Sikhs from the Indian occupation. This is a democratic way of seeking freedom but the terrorist Modi govt is trying to stop Sikhs through bullets and terrorism. Shaheed Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar was martyred in Canada inside the Gurdwara on orders of the Indian govt.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awcat)

## 70 Years of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship

Founded in 1954 under the name China Cultural Foreign Relations Association, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) is marking its seventeenth year, advancing global cooperation through the bonds of friendship. Despite these modifications, CPAFFC still upholds its primary goal of promoting Global Development Friendship through facilitating cultural exchange and promoting diplomatic dialogue. China believes in prioritizing the collective welfare over individual country interests to achieve worldwide success and urging nations to come together for a shared objective, aiming to attain global prosperity and peace through collaboration rather than rivalry. By consistently upholding these beliefs, the CPAFFC plays a crucial role in China's global dedication and represents its long-standing dedication to a more interconnected and fairer world.

Chinese concept of a "shared future for humanity" goes beyond just being an ideological notion—it urges all countries to set aside their differences and prioritize the overall welfare of everyone. It supports a fresh worldwide solidarity that goes beyond political and economic agendas. The progress of humanity relies on the progress of every nation.

In a technology ruled by virtual technologies, go-cultural communicate has emerged as less difficult and extra complicated. China's ongoing efforts to engage with different international locations—whether or not through government diplomacy or civil society exchanges—are important for fostering global peace and mutual know-how. Initiatives like the Confucius

Institutes, which teach Chinese language and lifestyle, and China's energetic participation in worldwide cultural exchanges, show off its dedication to human beings-to-people diplomacy.

Central to the CPAFFC's undertaking is the perception that international relations need to move past governments and contain everyday humans. As President Xi Jinping has emphasized, "The human beings are the creators of history." It is those human connections—whether thru educational exchanges, commercial enterprise collaborations, or network partnerships—that power actual trade. People-to-people international relations has accordingly emerged as a key awareness of China's foreign policy in recent years.

The seventieth anniversary celebration underscored the significance of strengthening ties between China and the world. Programs along with sister cities, youngsters' exchanges, and academic partnerships help construct these relationships. For example, the sister town community enables neighborhood governments to collaborate on a wide variety of issues—from city planning to environmental safety, cultural exchange, and education. These neighborhood-stage connections are often the inspiration for broader national cooperation.

The anniversary additionally highlighted the significance of enticing more youthful generations in worldwide international relations. The CPAFFC's ongoing efforts to increase teens applications and global exchanges ensure that mutual know-how and friendship will keep growing in the coming decades.

At a time of rising geopolitical tensions and protectionism, China's method to international relations remains rooted in openness and inclu-

sivity. Unlike different countries that are trying to find to impose their very own fashions, China respects the right of all international locations to determine their own paths to improvement.

In practice, this means jointly tackling shared challenges—climate change, poverty, inequality, and conflict. It means providing development assistance without conditions normally imposed by other powers. For instance, BRI does not prioritize asserting Chinese sovereignty but rather emphasizes forming mutually beneficial partnerships among all parties.

Amidst global challenges such as climate change, political instability, and economic inequality, the 75 years at the CPAFFC serve as a testament to the importance of friendship in international relations. In a time of frequent conflict and rivalry, the importance of human connection is crucial. An example is the Chinese saying, "True and honest communication results in long-lasting friendships."

China's dedication to cultivating this profound and significant bond has influenced its foreign policy for the last 70 years—and will have a lasting impact for years to come. The idea of a "society for the shared future of mankind" is not a dreamy vision, but a realistic blueprint for global interactions to come. By collaborating, nations can address current issues and establish a future founded on peace, advancement, and mutual regard. Looking ahead to the next 70 years, CPAFFC's ethos of camaraderie and unity will keep motivating individuals globally. China's contribution to promoting global connections—through culture, education, trade, and diplomacy—will be vital in building a fair, prosperous, and peaceful world for everyone.

(The author is Secretary-General Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province & was member of APCEA delegation to Conference His email syeed.gilani@gmail.com.



Analysis

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

## GB festivals - a manifestation of rich cultural values

Saif Ali

Gilgit-Baltistan nestled in the majestic mountains of northern Pakistan is a land rich in diverse cultures, languages and traditions. This region home to various ethnic groups, hosts unique festivals highlighting its cultural heritage. Pakistan's cuisine

From blooming of Spring to the thrill of winter sports, each festival offers a glimpse into the lives and history of local communities as these festivals are not only highlight their culture but also a source of income for local people.

Takhum Rezi (Spring Festival), May Fung, Shandur Polo, Nasalo and Winter Sports are known festivals of the region attracting hundreds of thousands local people and visitors during cool springs, pleasant summers and chilly winters. Takhum Rezi, the Spring Festival also locally known as Bo or Bee Ganik, ushers with the onset of Spring season across Gilgit-Baltistan, particularly in district Ghizer. Celebrated in March in a colorful manner, this festival marks the start of sowing season.

The rules are unconventional, making the sport even more dynamic, with players wearing colorful uniforms and crowds cheering enthusiastically. Beyond polo, the festival includes traditional dances, music, handicraft exhibitions and activities like camping and hiking.

Set against a stunning landscape, this event draws thousands of visitors, offering a must-see experience for those seeking to witness cultural vibrancy of Gilgit-Baltistan.

"Shandur Polo festival is one of the highlights of my life," remarked a young polo player Ahmed Raza from Gilgit, as he had been competing in Polo matches for five years. "Playing at this altitude is a challenge, but thrill of game, crowd's energy and sense of tradition make its every bit worth enjoying."

"For many of us, it's not just a sport—it's a way to connect with our heritage and people. Winning or losing doesn't matter; but the sense of pride we feel representing Gilgit," he said.

Nasalo Festival, another traditional heritage of GB people, is celebrated in November in Gilgit, Nagar and Ghizer and is a cherished tradition preparing for harsh winter. This festival is about slaughtering animals, preparing food from their meat and preserving it for winter.

The day beginning with prayers for families survival during winter is also marked by dances and music as Nasalo reflects close bond among the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, showcasing their resilience and communal spirit.

"As I walked through streets of Gilgit, I couldn't help to keep aloof of Nasalo's attraction. The air was filled with sweet odor of traditional food as laughter and music echoed through the valleys," stated Ali Ammar, a resident of Naltar, Gilgit.

Jamila Khan, another local resident says, "I love Nasalo as it is a time for us to come together, celebrate it and renew bonds of love and affection."

Though a modern addition to Gilgit-Baltistan's cultural calendar, winter sports festivals are becoming increasingly popular. Starting in Hunza, these festivals spread to Ghizer and Gilgit, offering competitions in ice hockey, skateboarding, skiing and much more.

Designed to promote tourism and encourage youth participation, these festivals draw adventurers and sports enthusiasts from all across to experience thrill of winter sports. They have quickly gained popularity becoming major events, attracting a mix of local and international visitors.

The festivals of Gilgit-Baltistan are not only cultural events but also a testament to warmth, resilience, and spirit of its people. Each event from ancient traditions like Nasalo and May Fung to modern winter sports, the region offers much to experience and enjoy.

## Xi meets Biden in Lima

Xinhua

LIMA: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday met with U. S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, Peru.

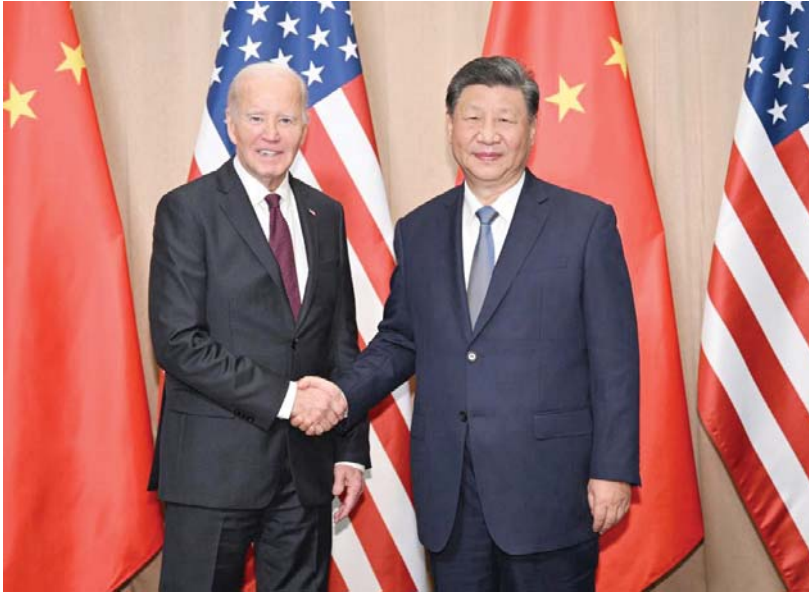
Xi told Biden that over the past four years, China-U. S. relations have gone through ups and downs, but the two sides have also been engaged in dialogue and cooperation, adding the relationship has remained stable on the whole.

Under the stewardship of the two presidents, the two teams have worked out through consultations a number of guiding principles for China-U. S. relations, and the two presidents have jointly brought China-U. S. dialogue and cooperation back on track, Xi said.

More than 20 communication mechanisms have been restarted or established, and positive achievements have been made in such areas as diplomacy, security, economy, trade, fiscal affairs, finance, military, counter-narcotics, law enforcement, agriculture, climate change, and people-to-people exchange, he said.

Xi stressed that it is worthwhile to review the experiences of the past four years and draw inspirations from them. He listed the following:

First, it is important to have a



correct strategic perception. The Thucydides Trap is not a historical inevitability. A new Cold War should not be fought and cannot be won. Containing China is unwise, unacceptable and bound to fail.

Second, it is important to match words with actions. A man cannot establish himself without credibility. China has always honored its words. If the U. S. side always says one thing but does another, it will be detrimental to its own image, and undermine trust

between China and the United States.

Third, it is important to treat each other as equals. As two major countries, neither China nor the United States should seek to remodel the other according to one's own will, suppress the other from the so-called "position of strength," or deprive the other of the legitimate right to development so as to maintain its leading status.

Fourth, it is important not to challenge red lines and paramount prin-

ciples. Contradictions and differences between two major countries like China and the United States are unavoidable. But one side should not undermine the core interests of the other, let alone seek conflict or confrontation. The one-China principle and the three China-U. S. joint communiques are the political foundation of China-U. S. relations. They must be observed. The Taiwan question, democracy and human rights, China's path and system, and China's development right are four red lines for China. They must not be challenged. These are the most important guardrails and safety nets for China-U. S. relations.

Fifth, it is important to conduct more dialogue and cooperation. Under the current circumstances, common interests between China and the United States are expanding rather than shrinking. Their cooperation is crucial not only for the economy, trade, agriculture, counter-narcotics, law enforcement and public health, but also for handling global challenges of climate change and artificial intelligence (AI) as well as addressing international hotspot issues. The two sides should expand the list of cooperation and make a bigger pie of cooperation to achieve a win-win result.

## Belarus president 'to visit' Pakistan on November 25



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko is set to visit Pakistan on November 25, citing diplomatic sources.

The visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and exploring new avenues of cooperation in diverse fields between both countries.

During the visit Pakistan-Belarus Trade Roadmap will be signed, the source said. During stay in Pakistan, President Lukashenko is scheduled to meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and military leadership.

Expanding collaboration in modern farming techniques and equipment, enhancing trade ties and boosting bilateral commerce, security and defence relationship will also come under discussion between both sides. Pakistan has expressed keen interest in cooperation in the tractor manufacturing sector, highlighting Belarus's expertise in agricultural machinery.

Several agreements are expected to be signed between the two countries, fostering collaboration across multiple sectors and paving the way for stronger economic and strategic ties, the source said.

The visit is seen as a significant step in enhancing relations between Pakistan and Belarus, with both nations eager to build a robust partnership.

## SHARP Pakistan Celebrates 25 Years of Partnership with UNHCR and Dedicated Service

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Society for Human Rights & Prisoners' Aid celebrated the 25 years of commitment and partnership with UNHCR for the rights of vulnerable communities, honoring the resilience of the people and communities we serve and the dedicated efforts of our staff, partners, and well-wishers.

The milestone event was graced by country representative of UNHCR in Pakistan, Philippa Candler, Country Head of IOM, Mio Sato, Chief Commissioner Afghan refugees Abbas Khan, Former Spokesperson to the President of Pakistan, Farhat Ullah Babar, Former NAB Chairman Qamar Zaman Chahudhary, Commissioner Afghan Refugees KPK, Representatives from UN agencies and Embassies (U.S. Swiss, German, Netherlands, Romania), partners from national and international NGOs, government officials and media.

The event began with a SHARP documentary, followed by welcome remarks from Liaqat Banori, Chairman of SHARP-Pakistan. He emphasized SHARP's ongoing commitment, stating, "SHARP has been dedicated to serving vulnerable communities across Pakistan, focusing on human

rights, advocacy, and legal assistance. This celebration marks not only our journey but also the unwavering support of UNHCR and like-minded organizations whose collaboration has been vital to our success."

In her address IOM- Chief of Mission Mio Sato stated "As a partner of SHARP in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), and Punjab, IOM is pleased to celebrate the silver jubilee of SHARP. Together, IOM and SHARP have been able to support displaced Afghan nationals with vital protection services across Pakistan. While the achievements have been noteworthy, the needs remain high, and IOM remains committed to supporting displaced Afghan nationals with vital protection services, with key partners such as SHARP."

In his address, the esteemed guest of honor, Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees Abbas Khan, congratulated the Society for Human Rights and Prisoners' Aid (SHARP) on its Silver Jubilee. He remarked, "Through its long-standing collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), SHARP has made significant contributions to the protection, rights, and welfare of refugees in Pakistan for 25 years.



## NDMA dispatches 19th shipment, 17 tons of aid to Gaza

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) dispatched its 19th shipment of aid on Sunday to Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, carrying 17 tons of essential supplies such as tents, food, milk, clothing, and hygiene kits in collaboration with the Al-Khidmat Foundation.

The aid supplies, including rice buckets, powdered milk, canned food, family packs, sleeping bags, and medical support kits, were dispatched on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif via a chartered flight from Jinnah



International Airport in Karachi to Damascus, Syria.

The send-off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by MPA, Ali Khurshedi, Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, senior officials from NDMA, and

Al-Khidmat Foundation.

Ali Khurshedi emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected population, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities. He reaffirmed the Govern-

ment of Pakistan's commitment to supporting the brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration between welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts.

This 19th consignment was dispatched for the people of Syria and refugees from Lebanon, before this, the Government of Pakistan sent 12 aid consignments to Palestine and 6 shipments to Lebanon, with a total volume of 1722 tons. The Government of Pakistan continues to send relief supplies based on the needs of the war-affected populations of Lebanon and Palestine.

## Pakistan to showcase handmade carpets at Turkiye show

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) will showcase handmade carpets at a global exhibition, to be held in Turkiye in January next year.

In the global exhibition, 15 stalls will be set up and more than 50 people associated with the carpet industry will also participate.

PCMEA Chairman Mian Atiqur Rehman and Vice Chairman Riaz Ahmed disclosed this in a meeting held here at the association office on Sunday. Patron-in-Chief Abdul Latif Malik, Chairman of Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Ejazur Rehman, Senior Leader Usman Ashraf, Major (retd)



Akhtar Nazeer, Saeed Khan, Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Akbar Malik, Saad-ur-Rehman, Faisal Saeed Khan, and others were present. The meeting focused on advance planning for participation in global exhibitions to be held in various countries next year.

## By 2040, Farmer Field Schools will reach 40 million Farmers Globally

Bureau Report

HYDERABAD: In a landmark event, the first-ever seminar on the review of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) implementation in Sindh, Pakistan was held in Sindh Agriculture University. This two-day seminar brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including FFS practitioners, public extension services, academia, civil society organizations, and farmer groups from across the province. The event aimed to evaluate the progress of Farmer Field Schools, share lessons learned, and identify opportunities for scaling its impact to build more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agrifood systems.

The seminar, organized in partnership with the Sindh Agriculture

University, is part of a broader initiative to review and advance FFS practices globally.

In a virtual address to the participants of the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) seminar at Sindh Agriculture University, Secretary of Agriculture Sindh, Mr. Rafique Ahmed Buriro, highlighted the pivotal role of FFS in equipping farmers to face the evolving challenges of climate change.

James Robert Okoth, Head of FAO in Sindh Province, expressed optimism about the potential impact of the seminar, stating, "The insights gained from this two-day workshop are expected to shape the future of Farmer Field School programming in Sindh and across Pakistan. Vice Chancellor; Sindh Agricul-

ture University, Dr Fateh Marri said climate change was having impacts on the agricultural sector evidently, requiring farmers to empower themselves to quickly adapt to those changes.

Ms. Anne-Sophie Poisot, Leader of the Futuring Farmer Field Schools Unit at FAO, delivered a keynote address on the transformative potential of the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) methodology.

Ms. Poisot stressed the importance of scaling FFS to reach a global audience, with a goal to engage 40 million farmers by 2040.

A key theme throughout the seminar is the promotion of gender-transforming approaches in FFS. Ms. Poisot highlighted the role



of FFS in ensuring equal opportunities for men, women, and youth in farming communities, with a focus on inclusive

development. The seminar is part of FAO's broader strategy to scale the impacts

of FFS worldwide, contributing to the development of fairer, more sustainable agrifood systems.

**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

# Pak-Syria direct flight land in Lahore on November 18th

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Pakistan, Dr. Ramez Alraee on Sunday said that the direct flight between Pakistan and Syria will start from tomorrow, November 18th and the first flight will land in Lahore tomorrow morning.

Earlier, Syrian Air Line had started its flight operations from Karachi since 2019 and tomorrow this will be the first flight of Syrian Airline to Lahore, for which the Foreign Affairs Ministries and Embassies of both countries have made great efforts.

Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Pakistan, Dr. Ramez Alraee told APP here.

The Ambassador said that tomorrow morning at 6:30 am, the first direct flight of Syrian Airline will land in Lahore, which will promote bilateral relations between

the two countries.

Pak-Syria direct flight to start from tomorrow, flight land in Lahore: Ambassador Ramez

He said that at this time, this direct flight will promote economic and trade relations between the two countries, and as the connections between the people of both countries will be established.

The ambassador said that with the start of flight operations, where the business communities of both countries will be facilitated, tourism will also increase and mutual economic and trade relations will be promoted.

Dr Ramez said that at this time, the business communities of both countries need to strengthen bilateral relations so that both sides economic relations can develop, and trade can increase.

He said that many people from Pakistan

go to Syria for Ziyhara and they will also get facilities after this flight operation and this will increase religious tourism.

Speaking to APP on the occasion, the President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Atif Ikram and the leadership of various chambers welcomed the direct flight from Syria to Lahore and called it important in promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries.

On this occasion, the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Atif Ikram, called the direct flight between Pakistan and Syria significant for promoting contacts between the business communities of the two countries and bilateral economic relations.

He said that Pakistan's economic relations with Syria will be further strengthened and prolonged with the flight from Syria to Lahore.



Meanwhile, the President of the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rana Muhammad Siddique, said that Lahore is an important business center of Pakistan, and the business community of Gujranwala will also benefit from the direct flight from Syria to Lahore.

He congratulated the authorities of both countries and described it as an excellent facility for the business communities of both countries.

## Wind power supply chain

Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi speaking at a Seminar on the High Quality Development of offshore Wind Power Supply Chain at Fuzhou, Fujian Province in China.



Photo: Online

## Iftikhar Ali Malik calls for stringent action against influential tax evaders

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former President Iftikhar Ali Malik, Sunday called for stringent action against all identified influential tax evaders without succumbing to any sort of pressure to strengthen the tax base.

In a statement issued here he further urged the government that fraudsters involved in the mega tax scandal of Rs 529 billion detected by the Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jah should also be taken to task including corrupt tax collectors of the Federal Board of Revenue. He emphasised the

recovery of outstanding tax liabilities from powerful evaders is essential to broaden the tax network and reduce the undue burden on existing taxpayers. He highlighted that



the persistent culture of tax evasion by affluent mafia not only undermines the national exchequer but also discourages honest taxpayers, ultimately hampering economic growth.

He urged the government to adopt a transparent and impartial approach in dealing with tax defaulters, ensuring that no one is exempt from accountability, regardless of their social

or political status. He also stressed the importance of utilizing modern technologies and systems to track unreported income and assets, thereby improving tax compliance. He appreciated the investigation conducted fearlessly into tax scandal by Almas Ali Jovindah, Advisor Legal to FTO.

Iftikhar Ali Malik underlined the need to create a more equitable tax structure, which would encourage broader participation and reduce reliance on loans and foreign assistance. He argued that addressing tax evasion would not only boost revenue collection but also help the government invest more in infrastructure, education, and health sectors, fostering sustainable development. He concluded by urging policymakers to prioritize reforms that promote fairness and efficiency in the taxation system.

## Only clear, robust strategies can improve economic growth: BMP

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has called upon the government to announce clear and robust economic strategies, as the country has stuck in low economic growth situation, where double-digit policy rate for the last few years has diminished capacity to increase domestic production, and exports, negatively impacting domestic resource mobilization.

FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that the government will have its work sharply cut out as far

as the economic challenges are concerned. Coming at the back of the fast-unfolding climate change crisis that pushed millions into poverty with little fiscal capacity of government to provide anywhere near close to what was needed in stimulus spending. Then there is acute debt distress, and seriously high inflation at the back of global aggregate supply shock, and accentuated by a world of rising conflicts, mainly in Ukraine, and the Middle East.

They emphasized that such transparency from the government is crucial, as the country has had trouble raising enough money to cover its expenses.

## Chitral furniture popular globally for its rustic look and durability: Mian Kashif

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said handmade Chitral furniture, known for its historic and traditional designs, has become highly popular worldwide due to its unique style and lifelong durability.

Talking here today to a delegation of furniture manufacturers from chitral valley led by Gul Rehmat he said this furniture reflects the rich cultural heritage of the area. Each piece is crafted by skilled artisans who have inherited their techniques through generations, making the furniture not only beautiful but also a testament to the craftsmanship of the past. He said the designs often feature intricate carvings, with patterns inspired by the natural beauty of the region, such as floral motifs, geometric shapes,

and symbolic figures. These designs are carefully hand-carved into high-quality wood, like walnut and cedar, which are chosen for their strength and longevity. Due to the use of traditional methods and tools, every piece is unique and has a rustic charm that appeals to those who value authenticity and heritage in their home décor.

He said in addition to its aesthetic appeal, Chitral furniture is known for its durability. Crafted to withstand generations, it is not uncommon for pieces to be passed down as family heirlooms. This combination of artistry, tradition, and durability has propelled Chitral furniture onto the global stage, where it continues to captivate international collectors and admirers. He assured the delegation that they will be facilitated for furniture exports through good offices of the TDAP.

## Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry and Pakistan Alternative Energy Association signed MoU

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry and Pakistan Alternative Energy Association yesterday. On behalf of Pakistan Association, Former founder Chairman Khurshid Barlas, Vice Chairman Kashif Waheed, Shamraz Iqbal, Hira Amir and on behalf of Pakistan Alternative Energy Association Abdul Nasir Rahman, Senior Vice Chairman, Abdul Salim Khan, Executive Director, Mir Ahmad Shah Secretary, General attended the meeting. The MoU was signed by Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Vice Chairman Kashif Waheed and Pakistan Alternative Energy Association Senior Vice Chairman Abdul Saleem Khan and documents were also exchanged. In the memorandum

of understanding, it was reiterated to increase trade and economic cooperation. The purpose of the agreement is to facilitate business interaction by organizing exhibitions, business conferences, and business-related events.

In view of the need to develop this reliable, practical and beneficial relationship between the two organizations, an effective and cordial relationship between the two organizations was initiated through increased cooperation between the business people of the two organizations. The parties agreed to this That the Parties will organize direct (B2B) meetings with delegations on the improvement of trade, business, friendly policies and contact for exchange of information and cooperation and proposals. The parties shall ensure participation of each other's business community in national and international confer-



ences. Both parties shall take appropriate measures to publicize events related to their activities

## Saudi Arabia shown keen interest in high-quality food products from Pakistan: Shahid Imran



**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Saudi Arabia has shown keen interest in high-quality food products from Pakistan, especially snacks that meet international standards.

On his return here Sunday from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia after participating 3-day Halal Food Expo, convener Pakistan Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Regional Committee on Food Shahid Imran said this interest reflects the growing demand in the Saudi market for diverse and premium food items, where Pakistani products have proven to be highly competitive. Pakistan's food industry, known for its quality ingredients and adherence to global standards, has made a mark in the Middle East, with snacks being particularly popular among Saudis. He said Saudi businesses have invited Pakistani companies to expand their supply of these sought-after products. Pakistani snacks, including chips, Nimko biscuits, and other convenience foods, align well with Saudi people's tastes and have been recognized for their superior quality and flavor. The invitation for Pakistani companies to scale up exports indicates the potential for a deepened trade relationship, benefiting both countries economically.

Shahid Imran said this opportunity allows Pakistani companies to not only boost their export revenues but also enhance their presence in the international market. As Pakistan ramps up production to meet Saudi Arabia's demand, both Muslim countries are set to benefit from strengthened economic ties and an increased flow of high-quality Pakistani products into the Saudi food market, he concluded.

# Aaqib Javed appointed head coach of Pakistan Cricket Team

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has appointed Aaqib Javed as the new head coach of the national cricket team, ahead of a three-match ODI and three-match T20I series against Zimbabwe.

Sources within the PCB indicate Javed's appointment stems from his experience coaching the Lahore Qalandars' development squad during their tour of Zimbabwe, as well as his previous role as the national team's bowling coach.

The appointment follows the resignation of Gary Kirsten as head coach prior to the Australia tour. Following Kirsten's departure, the red-ball head coach,



Jason Gillespie, was given additional responsibility for the white-ball team.

Reports suggest Kirsten's resignation was due to disagreements with the PCB and selection committee member Aaqib Javed. Tensions between Kirsten and the PCB had been brewing for some time, reportedly stemming from a dispute over Kirsten's ability to bring in his preferred support staff.

This announcement comes a day after former Test cricketer Mohammad Yousuf parted ways with the PCB, leaving his coaching position at the National Cricket Academy.

Pakistan is scheduled to play Zimbabwe from November 24th to December 5th, followed by a tour of South Africa from December 10th to January 7th, encompassing three T20Is, three ODIs, and two Test matches.

# Pakistan baseball team showcased an outstanding performance

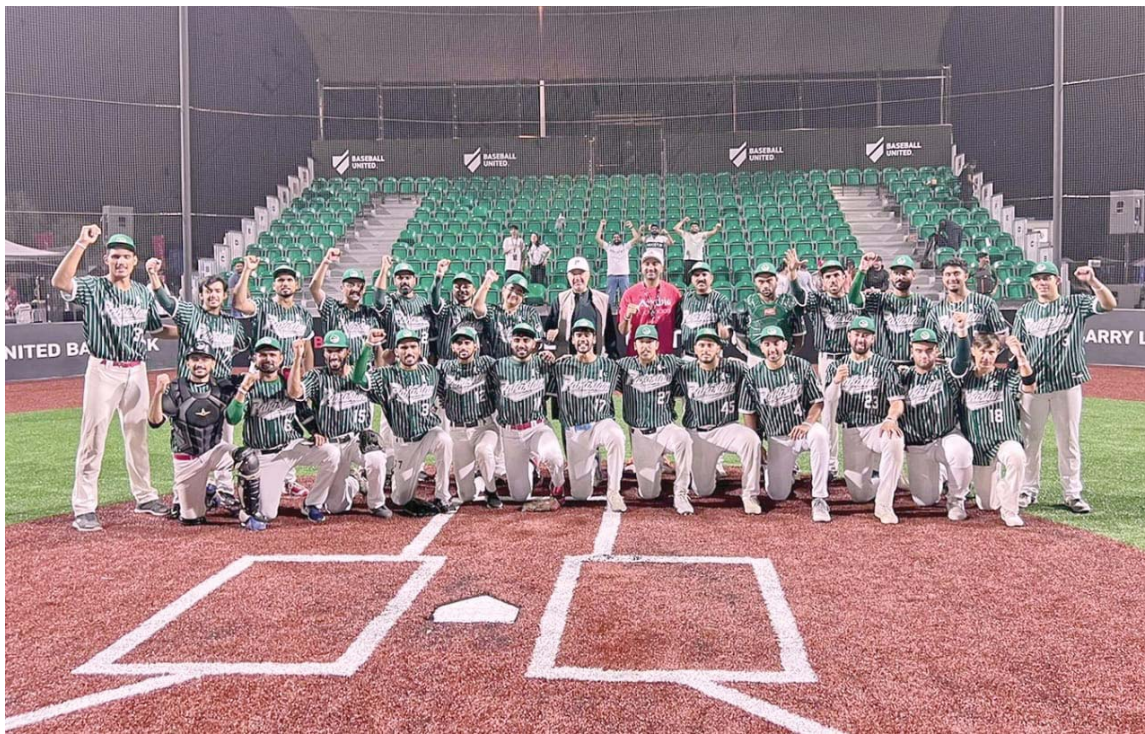
**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Pakistan Triumphs Over India with a 12-0 Victory in the United Arab Classic, Advances to Knock-out Stage

The Pakistan baseball team showcased an outstanding performance in the United Arab Classic, defeating India 12-0 to secure their third consecutive win and advance to the knockout stage. In the ongoing tournament in Dubai, the Pakistani players displayed remarkable skill, leaving no opportunity for the Indian team and building a commanding lead with home runs in the second, fourth, and fifth innings.

Pakistani pitcher Syed Mohib Shah kept the Indian batters under pressure from the start, preventing any scoring. Following him, Syed Ali Shah and Faisal Hayat continued to excel on the mound, effectively shutting down India's chances to score.

In the first inning, Pakistan's batting lineup adopted a cautious approach but soon took control, delivering powerful hits against the Indian team. Key contributors to the victory included Romail Khan, Muhammad Younis, Zain Sharif, Jibran Murtaza, and Muhammad Hussain, who all played instrumental roles.



Team manager Syed Fakhar Ali Shah noted that although the players are fatigued after three consecutive matches, he is confident they will

maintain their strong performance in the upcoming games. On this occasion, Executive Director Moazzam Khan Klair congratulated the team on their

third successive victory, adding that the Pakistan baseball team has made the nation proud with their dedication and passion.

# ICC Champions Trophy makes its way to Khanpur

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 tour on Sunday was displayed at the Khanpur Dam, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa serving as the backdrop for this significant event on Sunday.

The trophy, a symbol of cricketing excellence, was displayed at the dam, attracting cricket fans and local residents who came to celebrate this special moment.

The event featured a photo shoot and video session at the dam, with one of the highlights being a shoot on a traditional boat in the reservoir. Cricket fans and the

public were also invited to take photos with the trophy, creating an enjoyable and inclusive atmosphere.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) team, along with DSP Khanpur Circle Uzair Khan and Hassan Nisar, CEO of Metrix Pakistan, attended the event.

The prestigious silverware will journey across the eight participating nations during the tour, providing unique experiences for fans.

After Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the tour will also head to other iconic cities and venues in Pakistan before leaving the land of defending champions to embark on an extensive international tour.



# End of an era as Rafael Nadal aims for winning Davis Cup farewell

*Nadal, 38, has battled injuries over the past few years*

**AFP**

Spanish superstar Rafael Nadal is aiming to cap his emotional farewell from tennis with another Davis Cup triumph in Malaga next week.

Nadal, 38, has battled injuries over the past few years and the extent to which he can compete for his country is unknown, but all eyes will be on the 22-time Grand Slam winner.

The veteran led Spain to victory in Madrid five years ago – the last time they won the trophy and Nadal's fourth.

However, he admitted Saturday that his role in Malaga may be limited to doubles rather than singles.

"First off, we'll have to see how I feel in training and, if I really don't feel I have a chance to win the singles, I'll be the first to not want to play," Nadal said

in comments to the Spanish Tennis Federation (RFET).

"If I don't feel ready, I'll be the first to speak to the captain (David Ferrer). I've already told him on a few occasions not to make any decisions based on the fact that it's my last week as a professional tennis player."

French Open and Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz will be Spain's leading player and his presence offers Nadal a real chance of retiring on a high note.

"Probably one of the most special tournaments that I'm going to play. Last tournament of Rafa, I'll be able to be next to him in the last moments on a tennis court for him," said Alcaraz who played alongside Nadal in doubles at the Olympics in Paris this year.

"I think it's most important for Rafa, for his last tourna-

ment. I really want him to retire with a title. It's going to be really, really emotional and a really special tournament for me."

Representing Spain, Nadal won singles gold at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and triumphed in the doubles at Rio 2016 alongside Marc Lopez.

But former world number one Nadal's injury setbacks in the twilight of his career have seen his ranking slump to 155.

The last of his 92 career titles came with his 14th French Open and 22nd major at Roland Garros in 2022.

He hasn't played a competitive singles match since losing to Novak Djokovic at the Olympics in July while in 2023 he played just four times.

Many are hoping for Spain and Alcaraz to meet world number one Jannik Sinner's Italy, the defending cham-

pions, in the final, as the two young stars continue to build on a gripping rivalry.

Record 32-time champions the United States have selected a strong team spearheaded by US Open finalist Taylor Fritz and are also among the most likely contenders.

Nadal clashed with Alcaraz in Saudi Arabia at the "Six Kings Slam" exhibition in October, losing in straight sets, but they will be fighting for the same goal in Andalusia.

The start of the Billie Jean King Cup was delayed because of a weather alert in the Malaga region, in the wake of devastating floods in the east of Spain.

Alcaraz, ranked third in the world, said the flooding in Valencia increased his motivation to help his country triumph.

"I'm here to give my grain of sand because playing for Spain



is the biggest thing that there is for me," he continued.

Tennis greats and stars from other sports are among those clamouring to watch Nadal's farewell, with career rivals Djokovic and Roger Federer among those expected to attend.

Spain face the Netherlands on Tuesday in the last eight, with the winner taking on Germany or Canada in the semi-finals.

Italy defence Italy ended a 47-year wait to

## Karachi Hockey Association announced free winter hockey camp 2024

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: The Karachi Hockey Association (KHA), in collaboration with the Youth Affairs and Sports Department, Government of Sindh proudly announces its Free Hockey Winter Camp 2024.

in which training will be provided to young and emerging players. The ten-day training camp will be held under the supervision of KHA coaches at the KHA Sports Complex, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, near Nipa Chowrang, in which players aged 8 to 25 years will be able to participate. Registration for the training camp is ongoing, the last date of which has been set for November 27. KHA Secretary Olympian Hanif Khan said in this regard that the training camp will be held from December 1 to 10, during which players will be trained daily from 3 pm to 6 pm and work will be done to improve their hockey skills. Players wishing to participate in the training camp They have been instructed to contact Imtiaz-ul-Hassan, Ausaf Rabbani, Faisal Ismail, Irfan Tahir, Sameera Naseem, Batool Kazim, Kashmala Batool and Momal Suqena for registration. Registration forms are available on the official Facebook page.

He further said that the aim of this training camp is to improve the hockey skills of young and emerging hockey players and start a journey to bring back the glory of Pakistan hockey. We are all very excited about this training camp and are ready to play a full role in bringing out the young talent of Karachi.

## Grand final of two-day National Championship 2024 held

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: The grand final of the two-day National Championship 2024 was held at Mahriya Enclave, Attock, with Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, as the chief guest. The Speaker distributed prizes among the clubs securing first, second, and third positions in the tent pegging competition. This was the largest tent pegging championship in District Attock, attracting a massive audience.

The event, organized by Mahriya Town Private Limited, was highly appreciated by the spectators, who praised Chairman Mahriya Town, Malik Javed Akhtar, for hosting such an exceptional and unique festival.

Several distinguished guests attended the event, including MNA Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, former Chairman Municipal Committee Attock Nasir Mehmood Sheikh, Health Committee Incharge PP-3 Malik Hameed Akbar Khan, spiritual leader of Jhamra Sharif Murshid Sakhi Shafiq Abbas Mashhadi, spiritual leader of Bagh Neelab Sharif Syed Sajjad Hussain Shah, former Chairman Sheen Bagh Malik Shameem Muhammad Khan, PML-N leader Sheikh Ajmal Mahmood, Sardar Shani Khan (chief of Madrutta), Mahriya Town directors Malik Atif Javed, Malik Ahmed Hassan, and Malik Rehan Khan, Chairman Attock Press Club Sheikh Faisal Javed, senior journalists Sheikh Javed Iqbal, Sheikh Zahoor Elahi, Bacha Khan, Qamar Abbas Jafri, Javed Kashmiri, Har Abbas, Malik Waseem Khan, Malik Saeed Khan, Sardar Moni Khan (chief of Salar), and others.

Around 110 clubs participated in the Mahriya Town tent pegging competition, which remained the center of attention for the public over three days. Men, women, children, and elderly individuals thronged the event, adding charm to the festivities. Chairman Mahriya Town Malik Javed Akhtar stated that providing the best recreational facilities to the public is a top priority. He highlighted that this was the first time a national-level tent pegging competition was organized in District Attock, which was highly appreciated by the public. He assured that similar events would continue to be arranged in the future to entertain and engage the community.

## Video of fans heckling Babar Azam in Australia T20 goes viral

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The video shows Azam fielding near the boundary when a section of the crowd began verbally abusing him and chanting for him to leave the team.



Despite the verbal attacks, Azam remained unfazed, ignoring the hecklers and focusing on his fielding duties.

The chants included calls for Azam's removal from the T20 team, citing his poor performance in the first two matches of the series where he only managed to score single digits.

The final match of the three-match series is scheduled for tomorrow. The incident highlights the intense pressure and scrutiny faced by high-profile cricketers.

him of blame in August.

Captained by Lleyton Hewitt, Australia were runners-up last year and are second only to the US in Davis Cup triumphs, winning the title 28 times.

The final takes place next Sunday with all matches held at the indoor hard-court Martin Carpena arena.

For the latest news, follow us on Twitter @Aaj\_Urdu. We are also on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

## Israeli aggression

A view shows North Gaza, amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas, as seen from Ashkelon, Israel, November 16, 2024.



Photo: Reuters

# Gaza civil defense says 30 dead after Israeli air strike

AFP

GAZA: Gaza's civil defense agency said 30 people were killed on Sunday, including children, and dozens were missing after an Israeli air strike hit a building in the Palestinian territory's north.

Israel's army told AFP that it had conducted overnight strikes and hit "terrorist targets" in the area. After the strike early Sunday, 30 bodies were pulled from the rubble of the five-story residential building in Beit Lahia, "including children and women," civil defense spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP, updating a previous

figure of 26.

Seven people were injured, Bassal added. Earlier on Sunday he said at least 59 people were missing.

"The chances of rescuing more wounded are decreasing because of the continuous shooting and artillery shelling," Bassal said.

AFP images showed men covered in dust scrambling to reach people under the rubble, as some of the bodies were taken away on a donkey-pulled cart.

Other AFP images showed the flattened building with broken concrete and twisted metal sticking out from the ruins as more bodies covered

in blankets lay nearby.

Vowing to stop Hamas militants from regrouping in already ravaged north Gaza, Israel on October 6 began a major air and ground assault that began in Jabalia and then expanded to Beit Lahia.

Israel's army said there were "ongoing terrorist activities in the area of Beit Lahia," adding: "Overnight, several strikes were conducted on terrorist targets in the area."

"We emphasize that there have been continuous efforts to evacuate the civilian population from the active war zone in the area," the ministry said in a statement.

Hamas, which runs the terri-

tory, accused Israel of committing a "massacre" which it said is "a continuation of the genocidal war and revenge against unarmed civilians."

Palestinian presidency spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh condemned the United States, Israel's biggest supporter, for "enabling this continued bloodshed."

In a statement issued from Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, he also demanded that "the United States force Israel to stop its aggression and comply with international law."

The Palestinian foreign ministry urged the international community to act to "immediately halt these atroc-

ities."

Earlier on Sunday, Gaza's civil defense said other Israeli strikes killed at least 20 people, including four women and three children, across the war-torn territory.

Gaza's health ministry on Sunday said the overall death toll in more than 13 months of war had reached 43,846.

The majority of the dead are civilians, according to ministry figures, which the United Nations considers reliable.

Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack that sparked the war resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures.

## PM felicitates newly elected President of Balochistan Bar Association

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday felicitated Mir Attaullah Lango on being elected as President of the Balochistan High Court Bar Association.

In a statement issued by the PM Office, he also congratulated other newly elected office bearers of the Bar.

The prime minister emphasized that the success of the Balochistan High Court Bar Association election will promote the welfare of the lawyers' community.

He lauded the commitment of the Bar Association to serving the Balochistan lawyers' interests, upholding the Constitution and promoting the rule of law in the province.

PM Shehbaz expressed the hope



that the newly elected team would work tirelessly to strengthen the legal profession and play a significant role in advancing justice and democracy in the country.

## Kh Asif visits Gurdwara, greets Sikh yatrees



Bureau Report

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif visited Gurdwara Babe Di Ber Sahib on Sunday and greeted the Sikh yatrees on the birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak.

A large number of Sikh pilgrims are coming from inside the country and abroad to participate in the 555th birth anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak. The minister said Sikh pilgrims had been provided a peaceful

environment to perform their rituals across the country. He said all minorities in Pakistan enjoyed full freedom to perform their religious obligations.

Group leader of Sikh pilgrims from Canada Sardar Jasbir Singh Boparai said arrangements by the government of Pakistan and Punjab were excellent.

The defence minister was presented a souvenir by Sardar Jasbir Boparai and caretaker Sardar Jaskaran Singh Sidhu on his visit to Gurdwara Babe Di Ber Sahib.

## ADB launches major initiative to build resilience to melting glaciers

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Sunday launched a new regional program, Glaciers to Farms, that will promote sustainable water use and food security in Central Asia, the South Caucasus, and Pakistan amid the catastrophic impacts of accelerated glacial melt due to climate change.

Supported by the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) Project Preparation Facility, ADB will conduct risk assessments of glacial melt in Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan,



and Uzbekistan—forming the scientific and technical

press release received here.

With temperatures in the region projected to rise by up to 6 degrees Celsius by 2100, the loss of glacial mass threatens the fragile balance of ecosystems, jeopardizing water supply for agriculture and hydropower, and risking the livelihoods of more than 380 million people.

COP29 President and Azerbaijan Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Mukhtar Babayev; Kazakhstan Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Yerlan Nyssanbayev; Kyrgyz Republic

Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision Melder Mashiev; Tajikistan Committee on Environmental Protection Chairman Bahodur Sheralozoda; and Uzbekistan Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change Aziz Abdulkhakimov signed a declaration of support for preserving glaciers with ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa and GCF Chief Investment Officer Henry Gonzalez.

"As melting glaciers change waterflows, disrupt lives, and destroy ecosystems, we must act now," said Asakawa.

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*'Nothing to hide' in IMF mission's Pakistan visit: Finance Minister Aurangzeb*

Continued from Page 1

He shared Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would share a homegrown agenda with the people soon. He did not share many details.

He urged everyone, including the Real Estate sector, wholesalers, and agriculture, to contribute to the country. "We have to do this. This is not a request," Aurangzeb said.

Without stating it explicitly, he raised the rising population issue in the country amid high stunting growth and out-of-school children. He also raised climate change issue.

"We have already dealt with 11 ministries and implementation is under way," Aurangzeb said while talking about the privatisation. "I will have a separate discussion on that also including the pension discussion."

## International community responsible for the continuation of massacres: Palestine

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates holds the international community responsible for the continuation of massacres, displacement and starvation that the Israeli occupation forces continue to commit against our people in the Gaza Strip in general and in the north in particular, as happened recently in Beit Lahia, Gaza City and elsewhere, which often leaves dozens of martyrs, wounded and missing under the rubble, in light of the complete destruction of all the necessities of life and the systematic starvation policy pursued by the Israeli government.

The Ministry calls for urgent international action to stop it immediately and to stop the war of extermination and displacement, and to force the occupying state to implement international resolutions and precautionary orders if the international community wants to preserve what remains of its credibility.



Our people are not only victims of the occupation, but also victims of international double standards and the general international failure to respect international law and United Nations resolutions.

## Govt. committed to end digital gender divide: Shaza Fatima

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Sunday said that the government was committed for ending digital gender divide.

"Women's access to technology and Internet is utmost necessary, as they can be empowered through the provision of digital devices and Internet", she expressed while addressing virtually a conference titled 'Digitalization and Women in Politics' in Doha, Qatar.

She said the government was taking steps to remove hurdles in using mobile phone and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) by women.

Socio-economic hurdles impede women entry in politics, she said, adding that women could be empowered and brought into mainstream politics through digitaliza-



tion. Shaza Fatima said work is going on Gender Digital Divide Policy to facilitate women in their access to digital economy.

She said the Prime Minister's Free Laptop Scheme was playing important role in enhancing access to digital tools. She said work is underway on the Smartphones for All Policy.

## CM Punjab introduces historic package for poor women of South Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: "Financial independence of rural women of Punjab is among my priorities," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while introducing a remarkable project of giving cows and buffaloes to widows and divorced mothers and sisters of South Punjab. She added, "Equal and rapid development and prosperity is the right of every woman of Punjab." She highlighted, "Rural women of 12 districts can apply

for the livestock project."

These districts include Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur, Layyah, Kot Addu, Multan, Khanewal, Lodhran, Vahari, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar and Rahimyar Khan.

Madam Chief Minister said, "Rural women will get employment opportunities from the livestock project." She added, "They will also be able to meet the growing demand of milk and meat by rearing cows and buffaloes of good breed."