**Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Putin issues warning to United States with new nuclear doctrine

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday lowered the threshold for a nuclear strike in response to a broader range of conventional attacks, and Moscow said Ukraine had struck deep inside Russia with U. S.-made ATACMS missiles.

IDEAS 2024 begins in Karachi under strict security measures

The 12th edition of Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 17, Wednsday, November 20, 2024





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## Apex Meeting

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



## Apex committee approves comprehensive military operation against terrorist groups in Balochistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The federal apex committee of the National Action Plan has approved a comprehensive military operation against active terrorist organisations in Balochistan

According to the communiqué on Tuesday, the operation would target terrorist organisations operating in Balochistan including the banned outfits "Majeed Brigade, BLA, BLF and BRAS who are targeting innocent civilians and foreign nationals to scuttle Pakistan's economic progress by creating insecurity at the behest of hostile external

Pakistan has seen an increase in militancy since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in 2021, with the Pakistani chapter of the movement carrying out government officials attended

attacks mostly targeting secu- the meeting.

In the recent past, terrorists have attacked civilians and Chinese nationals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and

Last week, seven security personnel were martyred in an exchange of fire with terrorists who attempted to attack a security forces' post in the general area Shah-e-Mardan of the Kalat district in Balochistan.

Earlier this month, a suicide attack near the Quetta Railway Station killed at least 27 people and injured more than 50 people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presided over the committee's meeting. Federal cabinet members, provincial chief ministers, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and senior

The agenda of the meeting focused on the Reinvigorating Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Campaign'. Officials briefed participants on the evolving security landscape and the measures being taken to counter terrorism and other critical challenges, including general law and order situation, actions against efforts to stoke sub-nationalism, religious extremism, tackling the illegal spectrum and crime-terror nexus, subversion and disinformation campaigns, among other

The committee highlighted the necessity of a "unified political voice and a cohesive national narrative to effectively address"

such multifaceted challenges. It was emphasised that political support across party lines and complete national consensus

the national counter-terrorism campaign under the framework of 'Vision Azm-e-Istehkam'.

They also agreed on NACTA's revitalisation and the National and Provincial Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centre's establishment. "A whole-of-system approach

was adopted, incorporating diplomatic, political, informational, intelligence, socio-economic, and military efforts to address these issues comprehensively," it added.

Specific emphasis was placed on strengthening collaboration between federal and provincial governments and between relevant institutions and ministries to ensure seamless execution of the CT campaign.

It was decided to establish district coordination committees under the provincial apex

are "critical" to reinvigorating committees to ensure the implementation of directions received from federal and provincial governments.

The forum demonstrated political resolve to dismantle the ecosystem of illegal spectrum and crime-terror nexus.

At the meeting, COAS Munir reiterated the Pakistan Army's "unwavering" resolve to eliminate all threats to national security and provide "robust" support to the government's initiatives aimed at ensuring peace and stability.

PM Shehbaz directed all stakeholders to pursue the outlined initiatives with vigor, ensuring their timely implementation. He underscored the importance of sustained, coordinated efforts to protect the country's sovereignty, ensure the safety of its citizens, and reinforce economic and social

## *Fustice* Mohsin Kayani's cause list



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday cancelled the cause list of the court of Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani due

The cause lists of cases for single member bench

However, the speech of abad High Court Bar Asso-

## Those who hinder army's work will face consequences, says COAS Munir

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir has warned against obstructing the army's counter-terrorism efforts in Pakistan as the country deals with an uptick in terrorist attacks.

"Anyone who obstructs Pakistan's security efforts and hinders their work will face consequences," he said in his address to the apex committee said and stressed the need for meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday.

"The Pakistan Army and law enforcement agencies are continuously addressing governance shortcomings, sacrificing the lives of their martyrs in the process," the army chief said.

in the war against terrorism, of both internal and external whether in uniform or not," he security on all citizens.



unity in the fight against the

"We must all come together to confront the scourge of terrorism," the army chief said and urged that the Constitution of Pakistan is "paramount" for everyone. He reiterated that the Constitu-Every Pakistani is a soldier tion places the responsibility

#### **Interior Minister meets** Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman to discuss matters of national interest



S City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the residence of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman on Tuesday.

The two leaders engaged in discussions on matters of mutual interest and the overall political and economic situation of the country.

During the meeting, Minister Nagyi asked about Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman's health and conveyed his best

He also expressed gratitude to the JUI chief for his pivotal

Islamabad police requests massive numbers of men

and munitions to deal

with PTI protest

**Waseem Khokhar** 

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) protest on November 24.

the capital administration

extended Section 144, banning

political or religious gather-

ings for 10 days, for another

While reports suggest

ongoing back-channel talks

between the government and

the PTI to avert the protest,

the police are preparing for the

worst-case scenario. According

to media reports, police offi-

cials have requested 22,000

security personnel and 1,200

containers to counter the

two months.

This request comes as

role in the historic approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

"Maulana

hman has consistently prioritized Pakistan's interests," said Naqvi, commending the JUI leader's contributions to the nation. Pakistan's cuisine

Fazl-ur-Re-

Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman reiterated his commitment to serving the country, stating, "Our priority is Pakistan and its people."

The meeting was also attended by Senator Kamran Murtaza, highlighting the significance of the gathering amid the country's ongoing political developments.

## Rana Sanaullah urges PTI founder to come to table talk



Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah Khan, reiterated the government's readiness to engage in political negotiations, urging Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan to come to the table to find a way forward.

Bukhari Ke Sath", Rana

supports political dialogue and suggested that even if a committee for negotiations is formed, its members would remain unknown for now.

"Negotiations require mutual space and compromise," he stated, adding that discussions can encompass all issues. He noted that the Prime Minister has already extended an olive branch for political dialogue, underscoring the importance of resolving political matters through democratic means rather than confrontation.

Rana Sanaullah stressed that PTI has no viable alternative but to engage in dialogue with political stakeholders. "Imran Khan must Speaking on the Dunya sit at the table with political News program "Dunya Mehr parties, devise a roadmap, and set the rules of the game. Sanaullah underlined that There is no other option," he dialogue remains the corner- said. Rana Sanaullah reitstone of resolving polit- erated that reconciliation is ical disputes. He revealed the only path forward for the that the establishment country's political stability.

# Ali Muhammad says Khan will negotiate with establishment

👺 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan has made it clear that anyone wishing to negotiate should speak directly with him before November 24, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawmaker Ali Muhammad Khan said on Tuesday. But the ex-PM's lawyer and sister have stated otherwise.

"It is need of the hour that establishment stays away from politics," Ali told reporters outside the Adiala Jail. "The 'call' made by the PTI founder for November 24 is final. This is an important day for PTI supporters."



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

Ruling coalition leaders have slammed the PTI for causing unrest in the country with such protests. In reaction, the PTI founder set four

demands for ending the protest. They are related to the recent steps taken by the government like the 26th Constitutional Amendment. According to former information minister Fawad Chaudhry, Khan's demands "are not wrong."

"November 24's protest aims to uphold the rule of law and the Consti-

> remains steadfast in their support for the PTI founder," said and reiterated that anyone wishing to dialogue must do so directly with the PTI founder before the protest

tution. The public

# cancelled

to his sickness

and division bench, too were cancelled due to no availability of Justice Kiyani.

Justice Kayani to Islamciation was also cancelled.

#### ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have requested a largescale deployment of anti-riot gear, including thousands of tear gas canisters and rubber bullets, from the government in preparation for a planned

protest. The deployment will require substantial funding for food and transportation for both local and incoming security forces.

The police's request includes

40,000 tear gas canisters (both short and long-range), 50,000 rubber bullets, and 2,500 firearms. They have also requested 5,000 anti-riot kits to bolster the anti-riot unit. The requested personnel include 22,000 officers from Punjab and Sindh police, along with the Frontier Constabulary and

## Women Entrepreneurs Day held in Multan at State Bank of Pakistan Auditorium

MULTAN: Women Entrepreneurs Day was celebrated at the State Bank of Pakistan Auditorium in Multan, similar to other events across the country. The ceremony saw the enthusiastic participation of hundreds of businesswomen, representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Women's Chamber, Women University, students, and representatives from various banks.

During the event, loans were distributed to women entrepreneurs, and banks providing the most loans to women were awarded prizes. The ceremony was inaugurated by Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan President Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh, Mrs. Romana Tanveer, and Mrs. Farah

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Manager of the State Bank of Pakistan empowering women enables them to become productive members of society, creating opportunities for economic and social development while eliminating deprivation. He highlighted that only 23% of women currently have a bank account.

He stated that the first entrepre-



her address that providing women

with every possible opportunity will

lead to positive change and economic

prosperity. She emphasized removing

barriers to enable women to emerge as

The event also featured speeches

by Deputy Chief of the State Bank of

Pakistan Multan, Adeel Khan, GM

Habib Bank Nasser Mehmood, and

Shehzad Murtaza, while Kiran Amjad

and Faheem Arshad served as stage

successful entrepreneurs.

neur in Islam was the esteemed Hazrat of Commerce, Farah Saqib, stated in Khadija (RA), who serves as a role model for women. The guest of honor, President of the Multan Chamber of Multan, Javed Iqbal Marth, stated that Commerce and Industry, Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh, remarked that Pakistan is a resource-rich country and does not lack human resources. Men and women make up 50/50 of the population, and if both sectors work together, many of our problems can be resolved.

President of the Women's Chamber

Women entrepreneurs, including Mehwish Jillani, Ayesha Yaseen, and Javeria Imran, shared their successful and inspiring stories under the State Bank's initiatives. Awards were presented to banks that provided the most loans to women entrepreneurs. Souvenirs were distributed to guests, and loan checks were handed over to women entrepreneurs during the cere-

The event was attended by Vice President of the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Azhar Javed Baloch; Convener of the Women's Wing, Mrs. Romana Tanveer Sheikh; Secretary General of the Chamber, Muhammad Shafiq; Vice Chancellor of Women University, Professor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha; Vice President of the Women's Chamber, Nadia Wasim; former Presidents of the Women's Chamber, Seerat Fatima and Masooma Sibtain; and representatives from the All Pakistan Women's Association, including Tahira Najm, Abida Ashfaq, and Tahmeena Munir.

Additionally, representatives from various universities, banks, and a large number of female students were also present at the event.

#### Peaceful Assembly and Public Citizens Ordinance 2024 implemented



Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALAKOT: Commissioner Poonch Division Sardar Waheed Khan has said that the recent ordinance issued by the government, which has been named Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Ordinance 2024, has actually been implemented for the protection of citizens. Some people are misleading the citizens by misinterpreting it. Now that the court has also declared it correct, no one can be allowed to deprive the rights of citizens. Action will be taken against anyone who violates the law. He was holding a press conference here at the Commissioner's Office on Tuesday. DIG Poonch Division Shehryar Sikandar was also present on the occasion. He said that even in Act 74 of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, where civil liberties or human rights are mentioned, it has been made conditional. Legislation through amendments to the constitution or ordinances is the job of the government. If someone does not like the law, they can approach the competent forum, but it cannot be allowed for any person or persons to obstruct the personal freedom of others by blocking roads and intersections.

#### Noman Ali shares his bowling tips with young cricketers in *Attock*



ATTOCK: Precision, practice, and passion- Noman Ali winning tips to young cricketers

Pakistan left-arm spinner Noman Ali who was named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for October has utilized the off season to help young cricketers learn the technical side of the game during his maiden visit to Dr Skiandar Hayat Khan cricket stadium Hassanabdal on Tuesday. Cricketer Faisal Akhtar, President PPP district Attock chapter Sardar Ashar Hayat Khan, President PPP Hassanabdal chapter Zulfiqar Hayat Khan Advocate and Professor Tahir Durrani, President, Sir Syed Education Foundation were also present on this occasion.

"Precision, practice, and passion are key to shine in the field of cricket" urged left-arm spinner Noman Ali while revealing best bowling tips to the players during a strenuous training session. The 38-year-old Noman Ali named among ICC Men's Player of the Month nominees for October thanks to 20 wickets at an average of 13.85 across his two Tests against England in Multan and Rawalpindi. He said that it felt great imparting knowledge to the uncoming cricketers. He said that the purpose of visiting cricket academies at district and regional bases was to ensure increased participation of people and finding talent from a larger pool. He hoped that the young players would form the backbone of regional based cricket structure.

## All Possible Steps Will Be Taken to Promote Tai Bando Karate

Shahzad Anwar Amrohi

MULTAN: All possible steps will be taken to promote Tai Bando Karate. Newly elected officials express their views after taking oath. Mussrat Ali Khan Dasti, Muhammad Naeem Khalid, Umtisal Chaudhry, Noman Younis. And Muhammad Kishwar Shafiq. Malik Tariq Noonari. Member Punjab Bar administered the oath to the officials

The oath-taking ceremony of the elected members of the Punjab Tai Bando Karate Association was held in which the elected officials from all over Punjab were administered the oath by the special guest Malik Tariq Noonari. Member Punjab Bar Council. Pakistan Bando Federation President Muhammad Kishor Shafiq attended the ceremony on the instructions of Supreme Grand Master M. A. Tai, winner of the Presidential Award. The newly elected Eididarans expressed their views on the occasion. And expressed their determination to take all possible steps to promote Bando and to benefit the youth from martial arts. Mussrat Ali Khan Dasti, President Punjab Bando Association, announced the Multan vs. DG Khan Championship in DG Khan and Fort Monroe in December. Muhammad Naeem Khalid. The Secretary General announced that the South Punjab Tai Bando Karate Championship will be held in Khanewal next month. In January, the Lahore Division vs. The Multan Division Championship will be held in Multan. Muhammad Kishor Shafiq announced that the South Punjab Tai Bando Karate Championship will be held in Multan in March. Umtisal Chaudhry Chairman and Tanveer Anjum Associate Secretary announced that the All Punjab Tai Bando Championship will be held in Pir Mahal in May. And Muhammad Kishor Shafiq also announced that the All Pakistan Tai Bando Karate Championship will be held in Multan in September 2025. On this occasion, the chief guest announced that a sports festival will be organized in Khanewal under the organization of Tai Bando, which will be held between the lawyers and session judges of Khanewal and D. G. Khan



## Cotton arrivals in Pakistan factories for 2024-25 season: PCGA

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has released data on cotton arrivals at factories. According to the report, by November 15, 2024, a total of 4,893,948 bales of cotton had arrived at the country's ginning factories. In comparison, by November 15, 2023, 7,370,624 bales had been received at 34.53%. In Sindh, 2,649,068 bales factories. This marks a decrease of 2,476,676 bales compared to the same period last year, reflecting a decline of

In Punjab, 2,244,880 bales of cotton have arrived at factories this year, which is 1,184,035 bales less than the 3,428,915 bales recorded during the same period last year.

In Punjab, the decline rate was



of cotton were received at factories, which is 1,292,641 bales less than the 3,941,709 bales recorded during the same period last year. The decline rate in Sindh stood at 32.79%.

By November 15, 2024, a total of 4,506,779 bales of cotton were processed into lint. Across the country, 515 ginning factories are operational. Exporters and traders purchased

38,000 bales of lint cotton during the current season, while the textile sector procured 4,139,582 bales. The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has not made any purchases during the 2024-25 cotton season.

In Punjab, 283 ginning factories are currently operational.

A total of 2,068,575 bales of lint cotton were produced. By November 15, 2024, the following quantities of cotton had been received at factories:

- Multan District: 43,826 bales - Lodhran District: 60,103 bales
- Khanewal District: 139,713 bales
- Muzaffargarh District: 54,717 bales - Dera Ghazi Khan District: 198,366 - Rajanpur District: 15,394 bales
- Layyah District: 96,485 bales - Vehari District: 142,510 bales

- Sahiwal District: 110,406 bales - Rahim Yar Khan District: 301,915
- Bahawalpur District: 362,947
- Bahawalnagar District: 557,300
- bales In Sindh:
  - Sanghar District: 1,209,449 bales - Mirpur Khas District: 55,300 bales
- Nawabshah District: 51,699 bales Naushahro Feroze District: 199,700 bales
- Khairpur District: 223,800 bales - Sukkur District: 328,212 bales
- Jamshoro District: 37,380 bales
- Hyderabad District: 127,363 bales In Balochistan, 149,900 bales were received at factories.

The unsold stock includes 716,366 bales of both cotton and lint.

## Convocation 2024 of CUI Wah Campus

**E** City Desk

of COMSATS University Islamaon Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at Jinnah Convention Center, Islamato 925 graduating students of Wah Campus at undergraduate and graduate levels in the discipline of Management Sciences, Electrical & Comput-Science and Mathematics. 33 grad-

and Campus level on account of their Programs and future plans, including excellent academic performance. 13 ISLAMABAD: The Convocation graduates were awarded with the PhD degrees in the disciplines of Electrical bad (CUI), Wah Campus was held and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and Management Sciences.

Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, bad in which degrees were conferred Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, graced the event as the Chief Guest.

On this occasion, the Director Campus, CUI, Wah Campus, Prof. er Engineering, Civil Engineering, Dr. Muhammad Abid, T. I., presented Mechanical Engineering, Computer a comprehensive campus report. He highlighted the Campus achieveuates were awarded with gold, silver, ments, establishment of Department and bronze medals at the Institute of Humanities, launch of Master

ongoing developmental projects such as the installation of a solar energy system, the construction of sheds for the transport parking area, and the completion of the mega project Academic Block-I. Dr. Mukhtar, in his address,

congratulated all the graduating students and their parents on achieving this significant milestone. He urged the graduates to work diligently and contribute to the country's development. He emphasized that the youth must harness their skills and energies to help overcome the challenges facing the nation. He

also commended the teaching faculty of the university for their pivotal role in shaping the graduates' success, acknowledging that their efforts are as vital as the support provided by the students' families.

The Rector of COMSATS University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, advised the graduates to stay prepared for rapid technological advancements and to equip themselves for future challenges while contributing to the country's economic development. He also recognized the significant contributions of the faculty and staff in making this convocation a success and in advancing the university's mission.







## **Namaz Timings**

#### **EMERGENCY**

EIMEIVOEI16 I	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 8	<u>&amp;</u> 16
Emergency Ambulance 112	22 &
& Rescue Services 445	1122
Motorway Police9266	044
Motorway Police9270601	l-20

### **Women Police**

Stati	ions
Islamabad	9222590
Rawalnindi	9270601-20

#### **ENOUIRY**

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

#### HOCDITAL C

HUSFIIALS		
CMH	5611111	
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	

#### **DEDARTMENTS**

PLIANI	VILITIO
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropo	olitan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224

#### **AKUH Hosts Diabetes Awareness** Session on World Diabetes Day

#### 跨 City Desk

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) organized a public awareness session to mark World Diabetes Day, offering valuable information and resources to help manage and prevent diabe-

The three-hour session featured expert talks, interactive activities, demonstrations, and a Q&A w AKUH specialists. The panel emphasised the critical role of exercise, a balanced diet, and routine check-ups in managing diabetes-a condition that increases the risk of several serious health complications. They highlighted how regular consultations and tests can aid in early detection and treatment.

Guests availed themselves of free health screenings, including blood glucose, cholesterol, HbA1c, blood pressure, and measurements of BMI, waist circumference, and body fat. Engaging interactive booths offered games, quizzes, and demonstrations of the latest diabetes management tech-

This initiative reflects AKUH's commitment to supporting individuals living with diabetes and related health challenges, while consistently delivering excellence in healthcare across its hospitals and services.

# Ethiopian Ambassador lauds Governor Sindh for youth empowerment initiatives

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker enormous business, trade and invest-Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambas- ment opportunities in its major sador Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on Tuesday called on H. E. Kamran Khan Tessori and discussed different means to enhance bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Both sides discussed matters of common interest including needful initiatives to increase bilateral cooperation in aviation, economic, education, health, science and technology sectors.

H. E. Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula briefed the Governor Sindh about the second phase of Home Grown Economic Reforms Programme of Ethiopia, which is aimed at addressing macroeconomic imbalances, increasing productivity, creating ease of doing business, and also a conducive environment for Foreign Direct Invest-

The Ambassador also highlighted economic sectors including agriculture, agro-processing, manufacturing, mining, tourism and ICT.

H. E. Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker lauded the role being played by the Governor Sindh for empowering the youth of Pakistan by equipping them with modern technologies that enabled them to become global citizens.

On the other hand, the Governor Sindh briefed the Ambassador about the courses and trainings of modern skills being imparted to the youth in the Governor House for enabling them to get respectable and profitable livelihoods.

The Governor Sindh said the Government of Pakistan is committed to the Look Africa and Engage Africa policy, appreciating the Ethiopian Airlines role in connecting his country with the whole continent of Africa with ment through domestically designed a market of over 1.4 billion people.



## Attention for concerned authorities

ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jam at Islamabad Highway in day hours in the federal cap-



## **NUML Literature Fest Showcases** Pakistan's Rich Culture and Artistic Spirit

#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The English Literary Society (ELS) of the National University of Modern Languages hosted the annual Literature Fest 2024; full of vim and vigour, celebrating Pakistan's rich cultural heritage and literary brilliance. The event brought together students, faculty, and distinguished guests for a colourful display of creativity, unity, and patriotism, leaving an ineradicable impression on all attendees.

At the outset, Dr. Muntazar Mehdi, Head of the English Department, welcomed the audience, emphasizing the importance of literature and culture in shaping identities. "Through events like the NUML Literature Fest, we aim to reconnect our students with their roots, noting that such efforts play a vital role in promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage".

The event was attended by Pro-RectorAcademics, Dr Safeer Awan, Head of English Department Dr. Muntazar Mehdi along with a renowned literary critic, short-story and fiction writer Muhammad Hameed Shahid (Tamgha-



celebrated the unfaltering spirit of Pakistan's traditions and literature.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Hameed Shahid highlighted the festival's significance: "This event is more than a celebration; it is a call to remember who we are and where we come from. of their rich traditions.

e-Imtiaz) as a Chief Guest; the festival Through literature and arts, we can keep our culture alive and inspire the next generation to contribute to Pakistan's vibrant identity."

He commended the performances presented by the students, adding that such events help to keep the youth aware

## STZA and Telenor Pakistan Sign MoU to Drive Innovation and Youth Empowerment in Pakistan's Tech Ecosystem

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) and Telenor Pakistan have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to accelerate innovation, promote digital inclusion, and advance youth empowerment across Pakistan. This strategic partnership aims to strengthen the country's technology sector by nurturing young talent, supporting local technology companies, and enhancing Pakistan's digital infra-

structure in line with STZA's mandate. The MoU was signed by Mr. Aamer Saleemi, Executive Director Zones & Zones Developer/Member at STZA and Ms. Areej Khan, Chief People



a ceremony attended by key leaders STZA; Ms. Cynia Ejaz, Head of Corpofrom both organizations, including Khurrum Ashfaque, CEO of Telenor Pakistan; Mr.

Hamza Saeed Orakzai, Chief Market Development Officer at STZA; Ms. Officer at Telenor Pakistan, during Iqra Musaddaq, Chief Legal Officer at

rate Innovation at Telenor Pakistan; Mr. Imran Bhanbro, Director Zone Developer Enablement at STZA; Ms. Farah Samuel, Manager of Corporate Innovation at Telenor Pakistan; Mr. Usamah Naveed, Associate of Strategy

& Partnerships at STZA; Ms. Humaira Parveen, Manager of Marketing Operations at STZA.

Mr. Aamer Saleemi, Executive Director at STZA, remarked: "This MoU represents an important milestone in strengthening Pakistan's digital

Khurrum Ashfaque, CEO at Telenor Pakistan, commented, "This collaboration underscores our commitment to empower local technology innovators and promote a culture of innovation in Pakistan.

Mr. Hamza Saeed Orakzai, Chief Market Development Officer at STZA, emphasized: "This partnership with Telenor Pakistan aligns with our mission to create a robust technology

## Virtual University of Pakistan started "Introduction to Computer Basics for the Visually Impaired" workshop

LAHORE: The Digital Transformation Center-Pakistan (DTC-Pakistan), in partnership with the ST Foundation, started the first train-thetrainer edition of the "Introduction to Computer Basics for the Visually Impaired" (ICBVI) course at the Virtual University of Pakistan (VU). The event, supported by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), marks a significant step in empowering visually impaired individuals with digital skills.

The workshop, which runs till November 29, 2024, at the Raiwind Road Campus, Lahore, aims to equip participants with essential computer skills to enhance their digital literacy. Deaf Tawk, an organization bridging communication gaps for differently-abled individuals, is also a key partner, ensuring both sighted and visually impaired trainees can fully participate.

Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti (S. I., T. I.), Rector of the Virtual University of Pakistan, was the Chief Guest at the inauguration. In his address, Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti emphasized the importance of inclusive education and digital literacy in creating equal opportunities for all. He commended the efforts of the international trainers and partners in driving this important initiative.

Renowned trainers, Prof. Dr. Cristian Bernareggi from Italy and Mr. Sada Kane from Senegal, led the inaugural sessions. Their expertise in technology-based education for the differently-abled ensures that participants gain the skills needed to thrive in a technology-driven world.

This initiative highlights DTC-Pakistan's commitment to fostering digital inclusivity and empowering differently-abled individuals with the tools to actively participate in the digital economy.

## Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi's "Awami Theatre Festival," presents "Aas Ke Tinke" on its 11th Day

#### 跨 City Desk

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi continues its successful 21-day "Awami Theatre Festival," captivating audiences with a variety of impactful plays. On the 11th day of the festival, the thought-provoking drama "Aas Ke Tinke" was presented, written and directed by M. Jameel Rahi. The cast included Tayyab, Mehmood, Shameer Rahi, Kamal Idrees, Aamir Rambo, Abdullah Lala, Faiza Malik, Sehr Ghazal, Azmat Ali, and others. The play revolves around the emotional story of a family torn apart by misfortune. It follows a widow who is cast out of her home by her in-laws after her husband's death, losing custody of her son, who is taken abroad. Left alone with no support, she marries a man who also has a son. The story takes a dramatic turn when her son, now grown and returned from the U.S., resents her for showing affection toward her stepson. Fueled by vengeance, the son's actions lead to unforeseen consequences. Unaware of their true relationship, their union brings calamity as an earthquake strikes, leading to tragic deaths. The widow, unable to bear the loss, descends into madness, while the stepson also meets a grim fate. The play concludes with the original couple's reunion in the afterlife, leaving the audience with a poignant message about family, love, and forgiveness. The emotionally charged narrative was met with widespread acclaim from the audience, who appreciated its impactful storytelling and dramatic performances. The play highlights the fragility of family ties and delivers a moral lesson on the importance of compassion and understanding within relationships.

#### ICCI Signs Landmark MoUwith CCPIT Liaoning to Strengthen Pakistan-China Economic Ties

#### **Sommerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has forged a historic partnership with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Liaoning Sub-Council, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focused on enhanc $ing\ bilateral\ economic\ cooperation.\ This\ strategic\ initiative\ is\ expected\ to$ create new opportunities for businesses in both nations, fostering mutual growth and prosperity.

ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi underscored the critical role of technology transfer in transforming Pakistan's manufacturing capabilities and increasing exports. Highlighting Pakistan's extensive reserves of precious gems and stones, he emphasized the importance of joint ventures in sectors such as automobiles, aviation, pharmaceuticals, and mining. According to Qureshi, addressing Pakistan's urgent need for foreign exchange earnings hinges on adopting internationally competi-

tive manufacturing practices. Chengzhi Ma, Chief Representative of CCPIT Liaoning, assured support for transferring essential technologies to local investors. He also announced the near completion of a Gems and Jewels Display Center in Islamabad, which will serve as a hub for exporting value-added products

and providing training for local entrepreneurs and workers. In a virtual session, Haseeb ur Rehman, representing Fuji Foundation and Askari Bank in Beijing, highlighted the importance of enhanced connectivity to fully realize the potential of this collaboration.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

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) AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad. Head Office:

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

Asim Nazir Ahmad

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

### World Children's Day: survival' of millions of children in Gaza and Lebanon

orld Children's Day should be a day of celebration and a day of reflection. For those children in Gaza and Lebanon, their day is around survival, not celebration," UNICEF spokesperson James Elder said on Tuesday.

World Children's Day this year for millions of children around the world is not about celebration but survival, according to a UNICEF spokesman, who told Anadolu that conflicts, climate crises and systemic neglect continue to devastate young lives.

"World Children's Day should be a day of celebration and a day of reflection. For those children in Gaza and Lebanon, their day is around survival, not celebration," said James Elder.

Five 5 million children are affected in Sudan, with 1 million under the age of 5 displaced by violent upheaval, he said. "In Ukraine, we've seen attacks have escalated heavily."

"It will be a very, very heavy day," he said on the eve of the internationally celebrated day.

From wars to mental health crises to climate, "those who pretend to be leaders have a huge amount to do," he said, underlining the

World Children's Day, established by the UN in 1954, is observed annually on Nov. 20 to promote international togetherness, awareness of children's rights and actions to improve their welfare. It also marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

This year's observance, however, comes under a dark cloud, highlighting the plight of children caught in the crossfire of global

Elder urged world leaders to uphold their commitments under international humanitarian law and treaties to protect children and prioritize their well-being.

"Spend 10 minutes on World Children's Day, to reflect on if it was their 7-year-old daughter or their 15-year-old son who was enduring these horrors, and how they would then respond and maybe use their positions of influence to respond accordingly," he stressed.

While crises in the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Sudan dominate the headlines, UNICEF stressed the importance of addressing all children's struggles globally.

"There are children living in poverty in South Africa, orphans in Malawi, children enduring labor in Bangladesh, and mental health crises in Sydney. A child is a child, no matter where they are," said

He added that people with influence in those settings and local government families need to stay, take a step on World Children's Day and see what else they can do to improve the children around

Regarding the challenges the media and international organizations face ensuring balanced attention to children in need globally as new conflicts overshadow the previous crises, he said: "The evidence and data are there, but the news cycle is often more hysterical than substantial. If we have serious hopes for a better coming 10 or 20 years, then psychological and physical investments have

# Trump's Bureaucracy Cuts: A Daunting Task

USA elections surprised both Democrats and Republicans alike. Trump's unprecedented victory was accompanied by Republican wins in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Before the 2024 elections, Democrats controlled the Senate with 51 seats to U.S. to pursue higher Republicans' 49, while Republicans held a narrow majority in the House with 220 seats to Democrats' 212. After the elections, Republicans gained control of the Senate with 53 seats, and in the House, they retained their majority with 220 seats Zip2, an online business to Democrats' 213, with 2 races undecided. This outcome resulted in unified Republican control of both chambers of

This has emboldened President-elect Donald J. Trump to undertake one of the boldest policy and administrative decisions in U.S. history, which could be a potential game changer. Mr. Trump has established the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), to streamline federal operations by identifying wasteful spending, reducing regulatory burdens, and restructuring or potentially abolishing certain agencies to enhance government efficiency.

His vision includes reducing the federal workforce by up to 75%, abolishing redundant agencies, and implementing eightyear term limits for unelected federal employees to prevent the entrenchment of power. He supports rescinding Executive Order 11246 to shift to a merit-based system and advocates utilizing Schedule F to streamline the removal of "deep-state" actors. These reforms aim to streamline government operations, reduce costs, and

he stunning results of the ensure a more responsive and meritocratic system.

> Like Vivek, Elon Musk is a visionary entrepreneur, engineer, and inventor, known for founding and leading several transformative companies. Born on June 28, 1971, in Pretoria, South Africa,

Musk moved to the education. He earned degrees in physics and economics from the University of Pennsylvania. Musk co-founded directory, and PayPal, a digital payments platform, before venturing

into ambitious projects like SpaceX, Tesla, Neuralink, and The Boring Company. Through these ventures, Musk has revolutionized industries such as space exploration, electric vehicles, artificial intelligence, and infrastructure, earning a reputation as one of the most influential and innovative leaders of the 21st century.

Qamar Bashir

Elon Musk has consistently called for a drastic reduction in federal bureaucracy, advocating for the elimination of redundant agencies and unnecessary regulations. In a November 2024 interview, he proposed cutting the number of federal agencies from 428 to 99, effectively reducing the government by 77%. The proposed slicing include several agencies, including the Department of Education, FBI, ATF, IRS, CDC, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Musk has criticized overlapping responelements, often referred to as the "deep

regulation to having more referees than players in a game, he emphasizes the need for a streamlined, responsive government that fosters progress.

According to the concept, reducing

federal bureaucracy by 70% to 77% can promote self-governance, efficiency, and potential tax reductions. By decentralizing power to state and local governments, it would foster greater accountability and responsiveness while empowering communities to address their unique needs.

Moreover, streamlining operations eliminates redundancies will enhance decision-making agility, and will integrate modern technologies to reduce costs. Savings from reduced expenditures can lower taxes, address national debt, and boost public investment in critical areas like infrastructure and social welfare. morale among remaining employees, This leaner structure would encourage economic growth, reduce dependence on centralized systems, and builds trust in a fiscally responsible government, benefiting both individuals and the private sector.

In an hypothetical scenario, if the civil and military bureaucracy is reduced by 77%, it would generate savings of approximately \$815.24 billion, and economic growth would add another \$260 billion. the total additional funds available would be \$1,075.24 billion annually.

If this amount is used to reduce taxes sibilities and entrenched bureaucratic for the common people, it could result in a tax reduction of approximately \$3,239 state," which he believes hinder efficiency per person annually, significantly easing

and innovation. Comparing excessive the financial burden on households across the United States, besides the higher growth rate would amplify the benefits of deregulation and tax cuts, driving economic dynamism, fostering business expansion, and enhancing government revenue through increased overall economic activity.

Though the concept and ideal looks great on paper and while reducing bureaucracy would promise cost savings, improved efficiency, and enhanced self-governance, its practical implementation most likely would face significant challenges.

Political resistance from entrenched interests, legislative hurdles, and opposition from the bureaucracy itself could impede progress. Downsizing risks substantial job losses, economic disruption, and potential service gaps in critical public functions, including national

Administrative complexities, such as restructuring workflows and maintaining add further difficulties. The anticipated economic growth from deregulation and tax reductions may not materialize quickly, and regional economies dependent on federal jobs could suffer. Legal and ethical concerns, including labor lawsuits and equity issues, also pose significant risks.

To succeed, such reforms would require a phased, strategic approach, stakeholder engagement, and meticulous planning to avoid unintended consequences and ensure sustainable outcomes.

Author is former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC



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

## Public Exploitation and Mind-set Formation

country stray from justice and devise plans to plunder the national treasury, their first priority is to gain control over the media. The media, which serves as a vital tool to inform the public and hold leaders accountable, becomes a violated and their needs ignored, skepmeans for these rulers to further their

own agenda. Through media control strategies, rulers use the media to promote specific narratives that obscure their mistakes and corruption. This tactic diverts public attention from real issues to trivial matters, enabling the leaders to manipulate

public opinion and conceal their incom-

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

petence and corruption. In this context, renowned linguist and political thinker Noam Chomsky has extensively studied media management and authored several books on the subject. His writings highlight how media is used to serve governmental agendas. According to Chomsky, the media is often employed for "manufacturing consent," where it is portrayed as a platform for free expression but, in reality, is used to shape public opinion to align with specific

In our district level emphasis on showpiece projects is another significant facet of public exploitation. These projects, designed primarily for display, often fail to address the root issues plaguing society. While they may provide temporary political gains or enhance the image power, and excessive negative propaganda progress in the right direction.

of the ruling class, they do little to improve the quality of life for the average citizen. Fundamental problems such as inadequate healthcare, poor education, and lack of infrastructure remain unaddressed, leaving the public disillusioned.

This entire process leads to the erosion of public trust. As citizens see their rights ticism toward both politicians and the

> bureaucratic system grows. The glorification of minor achievements, combined with widespread corruption and inefficiency, alienates the public from the very institutions meant to serve them.

In our country, politicians hold no real

power; they are mere puppets controlled by the establishment and bureaucracy. Behind the scenes, there are highly capable and cunning minds who, in collaboration with politicians, deftly exploit the nation's wealth. Often, politicians remain unaware of these schemes. Our bureaucracy cleverly exposes minor scandals involving politicians and bureaucrats to portray itself as honest while depicting politicians as corrupt. However, they never support action against major scandals. A village clerk might be sent to jail for corruption worth a few hundred thousand, yet no legal action ever reaches the court against the corruption of an SP (Superintendent of Police) or an Assistant Commissioner.

The public is shown faces of individuals involved in minor corruption or abuse of

against them is broadcast in the media. Meanwhile, major corrupt politicians, bureaucrats (both civil and police), and skilled players of white-collar crimes are shielded. This strategy is called media management and mindset formation. By highlighting small crimes and a few failed government projects, the media conceals significant shortcomings. When a narrative is repeated frequently, the public starts believing it.

This cycle of manipulation highlights an urgent need for the public to adopt an independent and critical approach to information. Blind acceptance of media narratives only serves to perpetuate the current power dynamics and hinders societal progress. Citizens must strive to understand the underlying facts, question the motives behind media reports, and analyze events critically. By fostering a mindset that values evidence over propaganda, society can begin to hold all levels of power accountable, including the establishment, bureaucracy, and media itself. Only through collective awareness and vigilance can we break free from this cycle and pave the way for genuine progress and justice.

Mindset formation is a potent tool used to maintain the status quo, but it is also a challenge that the public can overcome through critical thinking and informed decision-making. It is only when society begins to question the narratives fed to them that true accountability and transparency can emerge. There is an urgent need for people to maintain an independent mindset, critically analyse media propaganda, and strive to understand the facts. Only by doing so can society

## **Electoral Reform for National Cohesion in Pakistan**

**M Azam Tariq** 

a subject of contention, yet it remains largely unaddressed despite its profound impact constituency-based electoral framework, while functional in forming governments, raises serious concerns about fostering national cohesion. This system allows individuals to be elected based on ethnic, religious, or ideological identities rather than prioritizing national or collective should be mandatory, ensuring that party members are interests. As a result, both national and provincial assem- chosen through transparent and fair processes. These steps blies often become arenas of hostility and

stability of the state. One of the critical flaws of this system is its tendency to favor traditional politicians who prioritize preserving their familial legacies over fulfilling genuine legislative responsibilities. Many such politicians hail from families deeply entrenched in the political landscape, often with strong ties to the military or bureaucracy. Their

divisiveness, undermining the unity and

primary objective appears to be the consolidation of their tics and reduce the dominance of wealthy elites in the politfamily's influence rather than addressing the issues faced by the general populace. This dynamic not only compromises the integrity of the legislative process but also perpetuates a cycle of elitism, patronage, and ineffective governance. It prevents the emergence of fresh, competent leaders who could bring meaningful change to the political system.

Addressing these issues necessitates a comprehensive evaluation of Pakistan's electoral framework. One potential solution lies in the implementation of Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution, which outline the qualifications and disqualifications of candidates. Although these provisions already exist, their enforcement remains weak. A more robust application of these articles could help ensure that candidates possess the integrity, competence, and commitment needed to serve the nation effectively. However, this alone is not sufficient; broader reforms are necessary to create an electoral system free from the flaws of the current framework.

Another option is to transition to a party-backed electoral system in which seats are allocated to party-nominated members based on the percentage of votes each

he electoral system of Pakistan has long been party receives in a given province. While this approach has its merits, it could still lead to an overrepresentation of members from specific cities or regions. To mition governance and state unity. The current gate this, political parties must first undergo internal reforms to become truly democratic. Parties must shift away from "family democracy" and embrace real democracy by inducting individuals based on qualifications and merit outlined in their manifestos. Intra-party elections

> could cultivate a pool of competent candidates who are better equipped to represent diverse interests in the legislature.

The success of such reforms depends on their interconnected implementation. Strengthening party democracy, enforcing constitutional provisions, and revising the electoral system must be pursued simultaneously to build a foundation for more effective governance. Additionally, measures to limit the influence of dynastic poli-

ical arena are critical. This can be achieved through stricter regulations on campaign financing, transparency in political funding, and initiatives that promote grassroots political participation. Encouraging youth and underrepresented groups to engage in politics can also help diversify the political landscape and break the stranglehold of entrenched elites.

In conclusion, while Pakistan's current electoral system facilitates government formation, it poses significant challenges to state unity and progress. By perpetuating ethnic, ideological, and familial divisions, the system undermines national cohesion and fosters alienation among the populace. Meaningful electoral reforms are essential to address these issues. A restructured electoral framework that prioritizes inclusivity, national interests, and genuine representation can pave the way for a stronger, more unified Pakistan. Implementing these reforms requires collective will and coordinated efforts, but the long-term benefits for the nation far outweigh the challenges of change.

Writer is student at University Of Sargodha. He can be approached at azamtariqalihaider@gmail.com.

# First plenary session of Uzbekistan Senate held in Tashkent

**Spokesman Report** 

TASHKENT: On November 19, Tashkent hosted the first plenary session of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev attended the meeting.

The event was opened by the Chairman of the Central Election Commission Zayniddin Nizamkhodjayev. The National Anthem of Uzbekistan was played.

To organize the plenary session's work, a secretariat and a group for monitoring electronic voting were established, and the agenda was approved. The Chairman of the Central Election Commission presented information on the election results to the Senate of the Oliy Majlis.

It was noted that this process was open and fair in accordance with the new version of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the improved national electoral legislation.

According to the Basic Law, members of the Senate were elected by secret ballot by deputies of representative bodies of state authority of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, districts, and cities at relevant joint meetings. Four people tional arena has also increased



tory. Nine additional senators the number of interparliamentary were appointed by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev addressed the plenary session, and sincerely congratulated the members of the new Senate on the high trust placed in them.

It was emphasized that the previous composition of the upper house made a worthy contribution to the country's development. Over the past five years, the Senate has heard 106 reports and sent 1,300 requests to executive bodies. The parliament's authority in the internawere elected from each terri-significantly. During this period,

friendship groups with foreign countries increased from 26 to 73. Constitutional reforms opti-

mized the Senate's composition, reducing its members from 100 to 65. At the same time, senators' powers and responsibilities increased frequently. In particular, the upper house of parliament's control functions and participation in forming several key state bodies have been expanded. The Senate also received the right of

legislative initiative. The President drew the attention of those gathered to the international situation and emphasized the importance of peace and unity.

will be able to ensure peace and development in our country only through strong will, unity, cohesion, and hard work. Esteemed senators and deputies of local

sibility", Shavkat Mirziyoyev said. He noted that the current situation requires everyone to assess their work and move to a new format critically.

In this regard, the urgent tasks facing the Senate were outlined. First. It is necessary to introduce new mechanisms for

discussing laws.

It is essential to widely involve local councils in the legisla-"In such a difficult time, we tive process and consider their

opinion on each law. Particular local level. attention should be paid to harmonizing local and national interests in legislative acts.

Second. Providing comprecouncils, I believe that you are hensive support to the activities deeply aware of this important of local councils should become a truth and your enormous responpriority task for the Senate.

Now, the heads of regional and Tashkent city councils are chairmen elected from among the deputies, not hokims. New mechanisms, such as the council's inquiry and investigation, will strengthen control over the activities of territorial executive bodies.

Third. Using new approaches, local councils should interact with subordinate structures of ministries and agencies, especially

Fourth. The Constitution imposes on the Senate the responsibility for ensuring that the decisions of local councils comply with the law. In this direction, an effective system that guarantees transparency and legality is

Fifth. Senate committees are the driving force of the upper house. It is time to consolidate the foundations of the institution of committee hearings at the legal

Sixth. Senators' participation in implementing poverty reduction and social protection programs is crucial.

Seventh. Strengthening parliadistrict and city divisions at the mentary control in the fight discussed issues.

against corruption and involving the whole society in this process is extremely important. The Senate must develop specific measures to increase the population's legal awareness and culture, form intolerance to corruption in society, and instill respect for the law, honesty, and hard work in young people.

Eighth. The introduction of a system of election of all members of the Supreme Judicial Council by the Senate aims to ensure the true independence of the judiciary. The Senate must approve candidates, get acquainted with their activities, and make appropriate conclusions.

Organizational issues were considered at the meeting. President Shavkat Mirzivovev, in accordance with Article 101 of the Constitution, submitted a candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis.

Tanzila Narbayeva was elected as Chairperson of the Senate by secret ballot. The First Deputy Chairman of the Senate Sodiq Safoyev and the Deputy Chairman of the Senate Amanbay Orinbayev were also elected.

Seven committees and one commission of the Senate were established. The senators made corresponding decisions on other

## Founder of Bondh E Shams, Inspires Action at COP29,

👺 City Desk

KARACHI: Hamza Farrukh, the founder and CEO of Bondh E Shams (Solar Water Project), delivered a powerful virtual address from Stanford University, California, to global leaders at COP29. With urgency and passion, Hamza called for immediate, scalable solutions to fight the interconnected challenges of climate change and water insecurity, urging the world to prioritize vulnerable communities.

change," Hamza emphasized. tion system that provides greenhouse gas emissions. "For billions, this crisis is not 10,000 liters of safe water With sufficient support, the an abstract issue—it's a daily daily battle for survival."

tating 2022 floods in Paki- water purification project local jobs. stan, which displaced 33 certified by Gold Standard million people and left titled "OASIS Box Sustainclean water, as a wake-up project is 100% additional; call for global action.



been making waves with its shining example of how clean innovative OASIS Box™, a technology can address water "Climate change is water solar-powered water filtra- insecurity while reducing

He pointed to the devas- Pakistan's first carbon-offset meaning this work would not Bondh E Shams, under be possible without carbon-

Hamza's leadership, has backed financing. This is a project could reach 140,000 tons of emissions, and create

Hamza challenged the current global funding millions without access to able Project (GS11721). This priorities to stress a more explore partnerships and realistic balance between supporting nascent carbon tive solutions to communitechnologies, ties in need.

which supply less than 3% of the global reductions, and already scalable carbon avoidance projects. He called for stronger public-private partnerships to bridges the funding gap for early-stage climate solutions, enabling projects like Bondh E Shams to scale and make a difference worldwide.

In his closing remarks, Hamza inspired hope and action: "Together, where could we go next? Kenya? Nepal? Brazil? If you, the policymakers and funders, help break down barriers. we, the implementers, are ready to deliver real change."

Global leaders, policy This innovation is part of people, prevent 250,000 makers, and investors are encouraged to connect with Bondh E Shams (Solar Water Project) at the Pakistan Pavilion at COP29 to expand these transforma-

# Livestock and Fisheries Development Strategies Launched to Drive Economic Growth in Sindh

**E** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Livestock and Fisheries Department, Government of Sindh, in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan, under its Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project, has launched a comprehensive set of strategies aimed at transforming the dairy, meat, leather, and foot and mouth disease control sectors. The potential of these strategies resilience and foster sustainable development.

This landmark event tivity, building robust value Development



tional markets. These strate- and Mouth Disease Control launch event, held in Karachi, gies are specifically designed Strategy. These strategies highlighted the significant to tackle critical challenges, were developed collaboencourage innovation, and tunities in Sindh's vital agricultural sectors. Key presentations during

marked a pivotal step in the event showcased the the region's development transformative potential of efforts, with a focus on the Dairy Sector Developenhancing sectoral produc- ment Strategy, Meat Sector

ment Strategy, and the Foot ratively by the Livestock economic advancement and sustainable progress.

The event was attended by notable dignitaries, including Sved Sardar Ali Shah, Minister for Education, and SME ecosystem.

Mr. Muhammad Ali Malkani, Minister for Livestock. Senior representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan, including Mr. Mario Ronconi, Head of Unit for South and Southeast Asia, also participated. underscoring the importance of international collaboration in these efforts.

The GRASP project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC), played a key role in shaping these strategies. GRASP focuses on enhancing the competitive to bolster Sindh's economic unlock new growth oppor- and Fisheries Department ness of small and medium and its partners, aligning enterprises (SMEs) in Sindh with broader objectives of and Balochistan, with a strong emphasis on inclusive and sustainable growth. The project aims to empower rural communities and create a more resilient and dynamic

## Sahiwal Power Plant honors for its role in uplifting Pakistan's energy sector Energy Pvt Limited, stands as a monu- for its exceptional role in creating over environment. Here, the steady hum of catering to diverse tastes, the dining its illuminated smokestacks and trans-

ISLAMABAD: The Sahiwal Coal-Fired and cross-cultural collaboration, driving Pakistan's energy sector toward a brighter future.

As one of the largest power plants in the country, it serves as a model for sustainable development, offering both economic benefits and a unique cultural environment. Located in the heart of Sahiwal, the plant is a symbol of how modern infrastructure and community-oriented design can coexist harmoni- Board (PPDB). ously, said a spokesman of the company.

mental achievement in Pakistan's energy sector. With a formidable capacity of Power Plant (SCFPP) represents a 1320 MW, the plant has not only remarkable fusion of industrial progress contributed to alleviating the country's energy needs but has also made extraordinary strides in fostering economic growth and community development in the nearby villages and the surrounding areas of Okara and Sahiwal. Since its inception, the plant has been a beacon of progress, particularly in terms of employment generation, and has been rightfully recognized for its contributions by the Punjab Power Development

Between 2017 and 2023, the Sahiwal The Sahiwal Power Plant, operated Power Plant was honored by the Punjab by Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Power Development Board (PPDB)

5,000 jobs. This achievement highlights the plant's commitment to supporting the local economy and providing substantial employment opportunities in regions that have long been in need of such developments. This significant contribution has had a ripple effect, positively impacting countless lives and invigorating the local economy.

According to the SCFPP spokesperson, the plant is strategically located along a major highway in Sahiwal's countryside, offering a distinctive blend of rural and urban appeal. A dramatic shift from the surrounding fields, the SCFPP's well-organized township showcases neat dormitories bordered by lush gardens, providing a warm and peaceful serene surroundings, symbolizing a balance of functionality and tranquillity.

The township combines modern amenities with natural beauty, offering robust infrastructure with 24-hour electricity and well-maintained roads. Residents benefit from local shopping areas and an on-site medical facility for timely healthcare. Ample recreational facilities, including sports complexes and community centers, promote relaxation and strengthen community bonds among employees and their families.

At the center of SCFPP's social life is the community dining hall, where employees gather to share meals and celebrate cultural events. With chefs

the power plant harmonizes with the hall fosters an inclusive atmosphere that combines local and international cuisine, deepening the cultural exchange between Pakistani and Chinese profes-

> The SCFPP cultivates a unique, cosmopolitan environment, where professionals collaborate across borders enriching local culture and contributing substantially to Pakistan's power grid. United by a family-like bond, the SCFPP community shares a vision of progress while respecting each other's cultural traditions. Together, they take pride in powering homes, businesses, and indusries across Pakistan.

As night descends, the SCFPP transforms into an industrial spectacle, with more connected and prosperous future.

mission lines casting a mesmerizing glow. Employees stroll along floodlit paths, enjoying a serene blend of innovation and natural beauty—a testament to SCFPP's role as both a powerhouse of energy and a beacon of cultural harmony.

The Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant stands as a shining example of how modern energy infrastructure, economic development, and cultural diversity can come together to create a thriving, sustainable community. By empowering both the local economy and the individuals who make it possible, SCFPP is not just lighting up homes across Pakistan—it is illuminating the path to a

## Corporate Philanthropy in Pakistan Reaches New Heights

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP)'s latest corporate philanthropy report reveals that business companies in Pakistan collectively donated PKR 23.65 billion for various social causes in 2023, marking a notable increase from PKR 16.76 billion in 2022. In recognition of the generous contribution of the business sector, PCP organized the Corporate Philanthropy Awards 2024 on November 19th in Islamabad. The event was chaired by Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Finance, Revenue, and Power. During his address, he acknowledged and encouraged the increasing importance of corporate philanthropy in supporting the government's efforts for social and economic development, particularly in times of crisis.

award ceremony included Mr. Zaffar A. Khan (S. I.), Chairman PCP Board of Directors, Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, Chairperson PCP Research Committee, Ms. Shazia Maqsood Amjad, Executive Director of PCP, and representatives from leading corporate firms and civil society organiza-

PCP's Executive Director shared the salient features of the report highlighting that Public Listed Companies (PLCs) contributed the largest share, amounting to PKR 17.69 billion, while Public Unlisted Companies (PUCs) and Private Limited Companies (PvLCs) also significantly contributed PKR 2.60 billion and PKR 3.36 billion respectively. She further highlighted that the corporate sector's philanthropic support escalated significantly during

The distinguished guests of the the 2022 floods, with Bank Alfalah Limited, Mari Petroleum Company Limited, and United Bank Limited standing out as lead contributors donating PKR 2,180 million, PKR 500 million, and PKR 468 million, respectively. The Minister of State for

> Finance, Revenue, and Power presented awards to the 18 companies, ranked the highest as per the volume of donation and the percentage of donations relative to Profit Before Tax (PBT). The Award receiving companies included Mari Petroleum Company Ltd; Pakistan Petroleum Ltd; Oil & Gas Development Company Ltd; Sanghar Sugar Mills Ltd; Ghani Value Glass Ltd; Ghani Glass Ltd; Yunus Textile Mills Ltd; Y. B. Pakistan Ltd; Novatex Ltd; Ghani Ceramics Ltd; IJARA Capital Partners Ltd; Green House Ltd; Barrett Hodgson Pakistan (Pvt.)



Ltd; U. S. Denim Mills (Pvt.) Ltd; Diamond Paint Industries (Pvt.) Ltd: Al-Riaz Agencies (Pvt.) Ltd: and Roomi Enterprises (Pvt.) Ltd.

In view of the increasing significance of reckoning the impact of philanthropic efforts, the event featured a panel discussion titled "Understanding and Measuring Social Impact of Nonprofits"

based on the information and lessons drawn from the Impact Assessment Handbook for Nonprofits, a collaborative research between PCP and the School of Education, LUMS. The panel highlighted how guidelines and steps to be followed from the Impact Assessment Handbook

their own impact assessment. thropy in the development land-This enables donors to identify and support organizations that demonstrate measurable outcomes, ensuring that philanthropic investments are directed and utilized effectively. The panel discussion was chaired by Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, Chairperson of the PCP Research Committee, joined by distinguished panelists including Mr. Ahmed Hayat Lak, MD & CEO of Oil & Gas Development Company Limited; Ms. Seema Aziz, Founder & Chairperson CARE Foundation: Mr. Syed Farhan Bokhari, Member PCP Board of Directors: Dr. Lubna Zafar, President of Hemophilia Patients Welfare Society; and Mr. Nasruminallah Mian, Head Program & Digital/ICT Sector, Asian Development Bank

(ADB), Pakistan. Both the sessions highlighted empower nonprofits to conduct the important role of philan-

scape of Pakistan, and propagated for the need to measure the social impact of nonprofits' work. Mr. Zaffar A. Khan, Chairman

of PCP Board of Directors, in his remarks, reaffirmed the importance of corporate philanthropy in supplementing the government and civil society's efforts for sustainable development. He noted that this year's survey report continues to shed light on the valuable contributions made by the business community towards various social investments in the

PCP annually conducts its corporate philanthropy survey to highlight the good practices of giving by the business community and this report is 19th in the series to document and recognize valuable contributions of corporate sector towards various social

## **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
95,856.66	94,995.67		
Day's High	Day's Low		
96,036.48	95,212.63		
Index Value	Change		
19,375,854,288	+860.99		
Percentage	Time		
+0.91%	19 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
8,099.02	-10.30		
Percentage	Time		
-0.13%	19 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT		
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change		
43,259.94	-129.66		
Percentage	Time		
-0.30%	19 Nov, 12:15 pm GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
	Change		
Index Value	Change		

**Percentage** 

+0.51%

**Time** 19 Nov, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

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
NewZealand \$	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

#### Cheezious Unveils New #AaRahaHuMeinFast Delivery Promise Campaign



#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Cheezious, A proud Pakistani brand is setting a new benchmark for delivery excellence with the official launch of its #AaRahaHuMein campaign. The brand is proud to announce its commitment to faster, more reliable delivery with the release of its new Digital Video Commercial (DVC), showcasing its operational upgrades.

With the launch of this campaign, Cheezious is reaffirming its commitment to delivering exceptional customer satisfaction. Customers can place their orders until 3 AM, and Cheezy Riders will deliver their food directly to their doorsteps with an assurance of efficiency and speedy delivery. This initiative underscores Cheezious dedication to staying ahead of consumer expectations in Pakistan's fast-paced food delivery market, ensuring a seamless and fast delivery experience for every order.

Head of Marketing Cheezious Zohaib Hassan said that "Aa Raha Hu Mein is not just a campaign; it's a promise to our customers that we are focused on delivering not only great taste but also the speed they deserve," He further said We are excited to share this evolution with our loyal customers, who continue to inspire our commitment to excellence."

The campaign is already seeing positive customer feedback, with prominent engagement highlighting the need for this customer centric approach in the market.

## IT Companies at risk of losses and closure due to VPN blockage and internet slowdown

#### Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Sajjad Mustafa Syed, Chairman of the Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) - the apex representative body of warned that the internet slowdown and blocking of virtual private network (VPN) services will certainly translate into an existential threat as it will result in unrecoverable financial loss, service disruptions, and reputational loss in the export of IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS). It is pertinent to note that IT industry exports clocked at \$3.2 billion in FY24, he added.

Sajjad further elaborated that even by conservative estimates the IT industry will suffer losses in tens of millions of dollars in the short term: and the reputational and intangible loses will be huge and devastating for the ter's Office (PMO). In addition to this, it will be

global competitive landscape evolving in this space. It will be a huge blow to one of the fastest-growing industries of Pakistan and will

also have domino effect on other sectors of the Information Technology industry – has the economy as IT has become an integral part of all industries, he added.

> Sajjad made it clear that domestic and international IT companies will be forced to close or significantly restrict their operations in Pakistan and it will be detrimental to the most flourishing industry of Pakistan vis-à-vis exports, skills development and employment generation. It will be an irreparable setback to the enabling and fruitful initiatives P@SHA is driving with the support of Ministry of

IT & Telecom (MoITT), Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC); and Prime Minis-

industry in the longer run, especially with the extremely demoralizing and discouraging for stan's IT and ITeS exports; which are heavily our IT companies, their workforce, start-up entrepreneurs, freelancers, and evervone involved in the sector - who are working very hard to bring Pakistan at the forefront of global technology destinations.

He clarified that the IT industry whole-heartedly stands with the state and the government against its fight with all forms of terrorism most of IT companies, Call Centers, BPO be it physical, psychological, financial or cyber terrorism due to the misuse of internet. However, we believe, the economic well-being and the exports of the country is indispensable to help overcome the unending crises of balance client systems through VPN is a global norm (CAD) and socio-economic issues - which stem from unemployment, poverty and lack of skills development, he added.

P@SHA Chairman apprised that Paki- cols by any private or public institution.

dependent on the use of internet and VPN; have been growing at an average of 30 percent per year, and are on the way to achieve \$15 + billion USD in the next 5 years - provided the government ensures continuity in the export, fiscal, financial, SME, infrastructure and IT policies.

He explained that if the VPNs are blocked Organizations of Pakistan will lose all the major Fortune 500 clients, as well as others - as data protection and cyber security are of paramount importance to our clients, and connecting to of payments (BoP); current account deficit and standard, and is a basic requirement and expectation of clients around the world. Additionally, no international company of any size tolerates any intrusion into their security proto-

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan H.E. Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater on Tuesday.



## PTCL Group Partners with Atlas Honda to Champion Road Safety through Bike Safe Riding Training Initiative



leading telecommunication services provider, has taken a step forward towards road safety with the signing of a  $Memorandum\ of\ Understanding\ (MoU)$ with Atlas Honda Ltd. This collaboration underscores PTCL's commitment to promoting safe commuting practices for motorcyclists and aligns with the Group's ongoing Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) initiatives.

The signing ceremony, held at the

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group, Pakistan's Atlas Honda Limited office in Lahore, Honda also exemplifies PTCL Group's with Taimoor Khan, Group VP HSE & Sustainability PTCL & Ufone 4G and Zafar Igbal, GM After Sales, Atlas Honda signing the MoU. The partnership introduces specialized "Training of Trainers" (TOT) sessions, led by certified trainers from Atlas Honda, aimed at instilling essential safety skills amongst PTCL's field staff, who rely on motorcycles for their daily commute.

Furthermore, the MOU with Atlas

commitment to its ever-growing employee well-being program by fostering sustainable activities that benefit employees and contribute to community welfare at large. PTCL employees participating in the TOT program will carry forward the message of safe riding, amplifying the initiative's positive impact. The event concluded with both parties expressing enthusiasm for the potential of this partnership to make roads safer for everyone. Ends

### Retailers urge govt to lift restrictions on markets as smog level eases



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) appreciates the proactive measures taken by the government to address the smog crisis that gripped major urban centers in recent weeks. As these efforts yield positive results and the smog levels recede, CAP urges the government to lift the remaining restrictions on markets and malls, allowing businesses to resume full operations and recover from substantial financial losses. No other country or region

the smog situation is under Farrukh pointed out

control, and cities like Lahore, Faisalabad, and Multan are beginning to breathe easier," said Asfandyar Farrukh, Chairman of the Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP). "Now is the time to support our businesses and the thousands of livelihoods dependent on them by reinstating retail timings to 10 PM instead of 8 PM at the minimum. Extending operating hours will provide the much-needed boost to retail and consumer activity as the crucial season for commerce has commenced.

As per The Urban Unit report and other research bodies, the contribution of commercial activity to air pollution is negligible. Whereas, heavy transport using low-quality fuel, the burning of waste and crop residue as well as non-compliant factories contribute to smog the most, not retail. "Thanks to the Punjab is shutting down markets Government's swift actions, to control air pollution,

### **SSWMB** Announces to **Make 2 Model Roads in** Site Industrial Area

#### S Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Managing Director of Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah has announced to make two roads of SITE industrial area as Model Roads in respect of cleanliness, garbage lifting and door to door garbage collec-

He was addressing members of SITE Association of Industry on the occasion of his visit the other day. He was accompanied by high officials of his department. Those present in the meeting included President of SITE Association, Chief Coordinator Saleem Parekh, Vice President Muhammad Riaz Dhedhi, former presi-Arbi, Abdul Rasheed,

Former SVP Saleem Nagaria, Hussain Moosani, Tariq Ali Nizamani (SSWMB), Saifullah (SITE LTD), Faheemuddin Shaikh (SITE LTD), Muhammad Kamran Lakhani, Abdul Rehman Fudda, Junaid-ur-Rehman, Ehtesham Rais, Muhammad Tahir Goreja and others.

The proposed Model Streets include Naurus to Dollar Road and NINA Street. Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah, while responding to a complaint from a member, announced to immediately start door to door garbage collection from industries. He clarified that MUCT is not the SSWMB tax and KMC has no role in cleaning of the area. On this occasion, he also gave statistics dents Muhammad Kamran of garbage collection from

## Pakistani Embassy and Federation of Belgian Chambers Host Webinar on "Trade and Investment Opportunities in Pakistan"

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

BRUSSELS: The Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels, in collaboration with the Federation of Belgian Chambers of Commerce and Belgian -Lumembourg Chambers Abroad successfully organized a webinar titled "Trade and Investment Opportunities in Pakistan" for Belgian and Luxembourg companies.

The webinar featured a distinguished panel of participants, including the Trade Commissioner trade and investment opportunities of Belgium in Islamabad, the Joint available in Pakistan. The presenta-

Facilitation Council (SIFC), and the President of the Pakistan-Belgium-Luxembourg Business Forum. Over 30 companies from Belgium and Luxembourg attended, showcasing strong interest in exploring Pakistan's economic and investment potential.

Muhammad Bilal, Trade and Investment Attaché at the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels, delivered an insightful presentation on the diverse

Secretary of the Special Investment tion highlighted key growth sectors such as manufacturing, technology, agriculture, and renewable energy, while also emphasizing Pakistan's strategic geographic location, modern infrastructure, and policies designed to attract foreign investment.

This webinar marks a significant step in enhancing economic ties and fostering mutually beneficial partnerships between Pakistan, Belgium, and Luxembourg. It underscored the shared commitment to unlocking new avenues for trade and investment collaboration.





## Ubaid takes 8-fer, Qasim, Bilal stroke centuries in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Lahore Whites' pacer Ubaid Shah ran riot with the ball as he took 8-79 against Larkana, registering his maiden first-class five-wicket haul, at the Marghzar Cricket Ground, Islamabad on opening day of the fifth round of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy

Ubaid, who bowled 19.4 overs for 79 runs, helped his team bundle out Larkana for 202 in 58.4 overs. At Stumps, Lahore Whites were 121-1.

At Gohati Cricket Stadium, Swabi, Qasim Akram (109, 87b, 18x4s, 2x6s) scored his fifth firstclass century against FATA to power Lahore Blues to 287 all out in 64.2 overs. FATA's Arshadullah bagged 5-89 in 22.2 overs. At the close of play FATA were 52-2 in

Abbottabad's Mohammad Bilal stroked a crucial century and Israrullah. At Charsadda, to help his team post 290 in 62.5 overs against Hyderabad at Diamond Cricket Ground, Islam- unscathed with 117 runs on abad. He also partnered with the board in 22 overs in reply skipper Usman Khalid (62, 76b,

wicket stand to lift his team from 139-6. In turn, Hyderabad were 59-1 at stumps.

Quetta's Jalat Khan bagged 5-28 in 27.4 overs as he ran through the DM Jamali batting line-up to bowl them out for 144 after Abid Ali top-scored with 67 off 176 balls. In turn, Danish Aziz took four wickets to reduce Quetta to 73-4 in 21 overs at the close of play.

Musa Khan (6-51) bagged his third consecutive first-class fivewicket haul as he helped Islamabad to skittle Faisalabad for 202 in 47.5 overs at the National Cricket Ground, Islamabad. In reply, Islamabad were 72-5 in 21

Elsewhere, at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Ground, Rawalpindi, Peshawar notched 351 runs for seven wickets in 93 overs with the help of half-centuries from Sajjad İbraheem, Zubair Khan Multan had a productive day against AJK, closing the day to AJK's 188 all out. Sialkot 9x4s 1×6) for an 88-run seventh- bundled out Karachi Blues for



171 before closing the day with 59 runs on the board for the loss of one wicket. Karachi Whites dismissed Bahawalpur for 248 in 72.3 overs as Mohammad Sheharyar top-scored with 95, before an early close of play.

Scores in brief (Day 1 of 4): Lahore Whites vs Larkana, Marghzar Cricket Ground, Pool

A- Larkana 202 all out, 58.4 overs (Faraz Aziz 36, Akbar-ur-Rehman 35, Mohsin Raza 35, Umar Waheed 26, Bilal Irshad 23, Mohammad Nawaz 22; Ubaid Shah 8-79). Lahore Whites 121-1, 26 overs (Attyab Ahmed 61 not out, Gauhar Hafeez 50 not out).

Islamabad vs Faisalabad, National Ground, Islamabad, Pool A- Faisalabad 202 all out, 47.5 overs (Atiq-ur-Rehman 61, Faheem Ashraf 39, Hammad Hamza 21, Mohammad Kashif 20; Musa Khan 6-51, Nusratullah 3-48). Islamabad 72-5, 21 overs (Faizan Riaz 25 not out; Faheem Ashraf 2-9, Shehzad Gul 2-31).

Abbottabad vs Hyderabad. Diamond Cricket Ground, Islam-

out, 62.5 overs (Mohammad Bilal 102, Khalid Usman 62, Khayam Khan 35, Shahab Khan 28; Mustafa Nasir 3-50, Mohammad Waqar 3-57, Shehryar Baloch 3-84). Hyderabad 59-1, 13 overs (Haris Khan 30 not out).

Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, Group B- Peshawar 351-7, 93 overs (Sajjad Ibraheem 73, Zubair Khan 69, Israrullah 62, Maaz Sadaqat 43, Mohamamd Haris 37 not out, Sajid Khan 33 not out; Mehran Faizan 2-49).

Bahawalpur vs Karachi Whites, Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Abbottabad, Pool B-Bahawalpur 248 all out, 72.3 overs (Mohammad Sheharyar 95, Muhammad Imran 60, Abid Ali 49, Mohammad Asif 4-88, Aftab Tabish Khan 1-13).

Ground Sirdheri, Charsadda, Group B- AJK 188 all out, 55.2 overs (Hasan Raza 82, Usman

25, Salahuddin

abad Pool A- Abbottabad 290 all Mohammad Ismail 2-59). Multan 117-0, 22 overs (Imamul-Haq 57 not out, Zain Abbas 56 not out).

Lahore Blues vs FATA, Gohat Cricket Stadium, Swabi, Pool C- Lahore Blues 287 all out, 64.2 overs (Qasim Akram 109, Peshawar vs Rawalpindi, Imran Butt 46, Umar Siddiq 29, Mohammad Saleem 24, Junaid Ali 21; Arshadullah 5-89, Afaq Afridi 2-72). FATA 52-2, 15 overs (Jamshed Ali 19 not out, Mohammad Usman 17 not out; Mohammad Abbas 2-17).

Karachi Blues vs Sialkot, Mumtaz 3-91, Mohammad Mirpur Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Group C- Karachi Blues 171 all out, 47.4 overs (Fawad Alam 60, Saifullah Bangash 33, Kashif Ali 28; Mohammad Ali 4-51, Amad Butt 3-33, Shoaib Akhtar 3-51). Sialkot 59-1, 14 overs (Azan Awais 23, Ashir Mehmood 17 not out;

Quetta vs DM Jamali, Railway Multan vs AJK, Ashfaq Cricket Cricket Ground, Haripur, Group C- DM Jamali 144 all out, 69.4 overs (Abid Ali 67, Taimur Ali 39; Jalat Khan 5-28, Najeebullah Qazi Achakzai 4-36). Quetta 73-4, 21 Muhammad Arbqan 23; Huzaifa overs (Abdul Wahid Bangalzai Ayub 4-64, Tahir Hussain 3-26, 22 not out; Danish Aziz 4-22).

## **Touchme Trophy** U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament"

Zone-VI Whites moved into Semi Final

**➣** Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VI Whites moved into Semi Final from Group" D "after beating Zone-IV Blues by 285 runs in their last group match in the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at KCCA Stadium.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Century 162 by Aaish Malik and deadly bowling by Durrani Khan $5/8\,\mathrm{and}$ Abdul Kabeer Awan 5/26

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

Scores in Brief: Zone-VI Whites beat Zone-IV Blues Whites 327/4 in 40 overs. Aaish Malik

162 15x4 2x6, Mudasser 78 5x4, M. Abdullah Jawed 21. M. Hassan 2/46. Zone-IV Blues 42 all out in 25 overs. Durrani Khan (rlb) 5/8, Darren Faraz

In the 2nd Match Zone-VII Greens beat Zone-I Blues by 4 Wickets at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-I Blues 112 all out in 29.5 overs. Jazim Ali Khan 35. Abdul Kabeer Awan (lls) 5/26, S. Zain Mashood 2/8.

Zone-VII Greens 114/6 in 23 overs. S. Zain Mashood 19. Ayan Darrain 2/20, M. Hashir 2/30.

After the end of the Match Mazhar Ali Awan President Zone-VII given the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Abdul Kabeer Awan of Zone-VII Green.

In the 3rd Match Zone-V Whites beat Zone-III Whites by 6 Wickets at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-III Whites 89 all out in 26.4 overs, S. Asim Shah 18 by 285 runs at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VI  $\,$  Muhammad Aqil4/22, M. Wasiq Khan 2/7. Muhammad Nihal 2/15.

Zone-V Whites 91/4 in 22 overs. Syed Daniyal 28 not out, Muhammad Aqil 24. Muhammad Qasim 2/22.

Later Former First Class Cricketer Babar Rehman gave the Medicam Man Later Aaish Malik of Zone-VI Whites of the Match Award to Muhammad Aqil received the Medicam Man of the Match of Zone-V Whites.



## Dream team bag Federal Basketball Tournament title

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Dream team clinched the Federal Female Club Basketball Tournament title here at the Hamidi Hall of Pakistan Sports Complex on Tuesday. Pakistan's cuisine

Dream team defeated Warriors Club by 30-20 in the final to win the tournament which was organized by Right to Play in collaboration with Alliance Française and held under the supervision of the Federal Basketball Association.



Maria Soratgar was a Humna Roohi contributed 8 with 10 points. standout player for the winning points. Noor Fatima was the team, scoring 10 points, while top scorer for Warriors Club, Nicolaos Galey, and his wife,

guests at the closing ceremony. Also in attendance were Ouj E Zahoor, General Secretary of the Federal Basketball Association, Ali Khayam, Country Director for Right to Play, and other dignitaries.

Camelia Galey, a former professional basketball player in Algeria and France, played an active role in the event. Not only did she kick-start the tournament, but also offered coaching tips to the participants during the competition.

Speaking at the event, The French Ambassador, Ambassador Galey highlighted the significance of the

Camelia Galey, were the chief tournament, saying, "This event allows us to promote the spirit of the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games here in Pakistan.

It is essential for us to contribute to the organization of a women's tournament. Gender equality and the promotion of women's rights are priorities for French diplomacy. Social equality and inclusion are equally important."

A total of eight teams from different areas of Islamabad participated in the tournament, which was held under the theme 'Equal Playing Field'. Pakistan's cuisine

## World Junior Tennis Championship Leg-2 continues

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: The ITF Pakistan PPL-Syed Dilawar Abbas World Junior Tennis Championship Leg-2 sponsored by Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) continued here at the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) Tennis Complex on

The event has brought together 80 junior players from around the globe, including 50 boys and 30 girls representing countries such as Pakistan, Japan, China, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Canada, Korea, Germany, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Singapore, USA, Belarus, and

Earlier in the opening ceremony Tariq Mehmood Murtaza Chairman of Islamabad Tennis Association, inaugurated the Championships.

The ceremony was also attended



PTF, Col. (R) Zia-ud-Din Tufail Secretary, PTF, Majid Bashir President ITA, Tufail Cheema Secretary ITA, Ali Noon, Chief Corporate Services PPL (Sponsor), Muhammad Arif Qureshi Supervisor of International Tennis Federation (ITF) London and other distinguished officials of Islamabad Tennis Association.

Tariq Mehmood interacted with the participants, especially the foreign by Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi President players. They also thanked the Islamabad Police for the provision of foolproof security coverage. In Boys Singles 1st

Round, Sion JI (KOR) beat Yota Nishikori (JPN) 6-2; Youngchae Oh (KOR) beat Hamza Roman (PAK) 4-6,6-4,7-6(4); Yeonmu Jung (KOR) beat Mohammed Ali (CAN) 6-2,6-3; Abubakar Talha (PAK) beat Andrew

Kaavinda Wijemanne (SRI) 6-0,6-3; Minwoo Kim (KOR) beat Teetawat Tavachehongsrl (THA) 6-1,7-6(5).

In Girls Singles 2nd Round, Dinara De Silva (SRĬ) beat Chaewon Moon (KOR) 6-2,6-2; A Hyun 30 (KOR) beat Phitchayapak Srimuk (THA) 6-4,6-4; Chaerin Lee (KOR) beat Paramee Tadkaew (THA) 4-6,6-3,7-5; So Yuna (KOR) beat Palina Huretskaya (RUS)

In Boys Doubles 1st Round, Bilal Asim (PAK), Ahmad Nael Qureshi (PAK) beat Patham Lacsakulporn (THA), Ariyaphol Leekul (THA) 6-2 6-2; Pudit Phapatsirikul (THA), Teetawat Tavachphongsri (THA) beat Minwoo Kim (KOR), Ho Jun Park (KOR) 2-6 6-4(12-10); Muhammad Haider All Rizwan (PAK), Abu Bakar Talha (PAK) beat Sion II (KOR), Yeomu Jung (KOR) 6-4,5-7 [10-5); Aahil Kaleel (SRI), Louis Eliah Knese (GER) beat Tchegoun Derosa (USA), Muhammad Talha (PAK) 6-3,6-3; Ahtesham Humayun (PAK), Hamza Roman (PAK) beat Abdul Basith Cader (SRI), Methika (SRI) 6-1,6-2; Yota Nishikori (JPN), Youngchae Oh (KOR) beat Chanapat Pisutharnonth (THA), Danthal Takong (THA) 6-0,6-4.

In Girls Doubles 1st Round, Tanisha Kantam (SGP), Leyla-Esther Knese (GER) beat Fatima Raja (PAK), Zainab Raja (PAK) 6-0,6-0.

#### Punjab's 16 badminton players selected for Quaid-e-Azam Games



Tahir Amin Malik.

The male and female badminton trials for the selection of Punjab team for Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games were conducted at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall on Tuesday.

Around 100 boys and girls appeared in the trials out of which 16 male and female players were selected for the Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games scheduled to take place at Islamabad in the last week of December 2024.

After the trials, the training camps will be set up for the top level training of selected players. A 374-member Punjab contingent will participate in the Quaid-e-Azam Games.

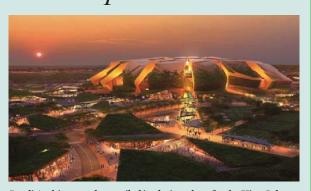
DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry tnessed the game of male and female players during trials Director Admin Dr M Kaleem and Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar were also present on this occasion.

Selected badminton players:

Women team: Romeesa Faisal, Khadija Manzoor, Hamna Irshad, Nibras Fatima, Roshanay Ihsan, Amna Akhtar, Tasmia Anoosh and Kanzul Eman.

Men team: Haris Fareed, M Ahmed, M Suleman, Hussain Shahzad, Khuzaima Shahzad, Hashim Talha Khan, M Umer and Sohaib Yasir.

## SArabia unveils 92,000-seater King Salman Stadium for 2034 Fifa World Cup



Saudi Arabia recently unveiled its design plans for the King Salman Stadium, a giant, 92,000-capacity facility, which will be constructed in Riyadh as the showpiece of the 2034 Fifa Men's World Cup.

The Saudi Ministry of Sports unveiled a promotional video made with computer-generated imagery to offer a first look at the state-of-the-art stadium which is scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2029, according to Sports Business Journal.

The stadium is set to serve as the main base of the Saudi national football team and will be part of the sports complex featuring an indoor sports hall, an Olympic-sized pool, and

Although not officially confirmed by Fifa, Saudi Arabia is almost certain to win the vote to host the 2034 Fifa World Cup, having been the only country to formally summit a bid before the deadline in late 2023.

The King Salman Stadium in Riyadh, designed by leading architectural firm Populous, is poised to redefine global sports and entertainment infrastructure.

The stadium is a flagship project of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 initiative, aimed at transforming the nation into a global hub for sports and culture.

Populous is also designing Prince Mohammed bin Salman Stadium, King Fahad International Stadium and Aramco Stadium, all of which figure to play a role in hosting the 2034 Fifa Men's World Cup in Saudi Arabia.

These stadiums are part of 11 stadiums that the country plans to build ahead of the tournament.

King Salman Stadium will also include a Royal Box, 300 VVIP seats, hospitality suites and lounges (circling the seating bowl), and another 2,200 VIP seats.

The stadium will be connected to the surroundings through green walls and roofs and include gardens and a walking path on its roof with panoramic views of the surrounding King Abdu-

# THE SPOKES MAIN Wednsday, November 20, 2024



## PM expresses satisfaction over implementation of MoUs on \$2.8 bln Saudi Investment

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, emphasizing the significance of cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the two countries, the prime different sectors, expressed satisfaction over the implementation of recently signed for always supporting Pakibilateral MoUs for Saudi investment worth \$2.8 billion in Pakistan.

The bilateral ties were Minister of Saudi Arabia, investment cooperation. who is on an official visit to

Sharif, according to a PM Office press release.

Recalling the historic and fraternal relations between minister thanked the Saudi leadership and government stan and said both sides were strengthen Pakistan-Saudi Abdul Aziz Al Saud. Arabia ties into mutually discussed as Deputy Interior beneficial economic and

on Prime Minister Shehbaz Interior Minister to Pakistan and wished him a successful visit.

He also conveyed his greetings and best wishes to The Custodian of Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia working together to further Mohammed bin Salman bin

Discussing the situation in Gaza and the broader due to Israel's genocidal Middle East, the prime actions. The prime minister minister recalled the recent

Riyadh, and appreciated the leadership of Saudi Arabia for holding the event and also the stance of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the issue of Palestine.

Prime Minister Shehbaz lauded the leadership role of Saudi Arabia and the efforts of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in unifying the Ummah to collectively seek an end to violence in Gaza

Emphasizing the signif- warm welcome.

Pakistan, paid a courtesy call welcomed the Saudi Deputy Arab-Islamic Summit held in icance of bilateral cooperation in defence and security sectors, he said that the visit of the Saudi deputy interior minister and his delegation would help bring both sides closer in terms of cooperation in these specific areas.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also reiterated his invitation to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience as the people of Pakistan were waiting to accord him a very

## Malaysia, Pakistan conclude Harimau Markhor exercise after successful conclusion

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: On 15 November 2024, the Closing Ceremony of Exercise Harimau Markhor Series 2/2024 was successfully held at the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pakistan. The event was attended by Malaysia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, His Excellency Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, who highlighted the exercise's success in fostering closer defence ties between Malaysia and Pakistan.

of the 2nd Infantry Divi- Intikhab Alam. sion Malaysia (2 Div), Major General Dato' Hj Fazal Hj



jointly by the Commander Major General Muhammad

The two-week joint exer-Abdul Rahman, and the November 2024, focused on and challenging terrain. Commander of the 23rd Divi- Counter-Terrorism Opera-

The ceremony was officiated sion of the Pakistan Army, tions in jungle environments. It facilitated the exchange of tactics, techniques, and procedures, along with valuable cise, which ran from 4 to 15 insights into Pakistan's diverse

2nd

cantly strengthened the military-to-military relationship between Malaysia and Pakistan, and developed greater understanding through the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and operational skills.

The exercise involved five (5) officers and 13 personnel from the 5th Battalion of the Royal Ranger Regiment (5RRD), along with a Doctrine Evaluation Officer from the Headquarters of Army Training and Doctrine Command (MK PLDTD). The Pakistan Army was also represented by five (5) officers and 28 personnel from the 4th Light Commando Battalion (LCB).

As part of the Closing Cere-Harimau a Clearance of Stronghold Rosdi.

Markhor exercise has signifi- demonstration, followed by a formal Closing Parade.

During the visit, the Malaysian delegation, led by the Commander of 2 Div, conducted courtesy calls on the Commander of the 23rd Division of the Pakistan Army and the Commandant of the

NCTC. The event was also attended by key dignitaries, including Malaysia's Defense Adviser in Islamabad, Colonel Noraripin Othman, the Staff Officer 1 (Operations) of 2 Div HQ, Lt Colonel Ku Syairi Ahmad, the Commanding Officer of 5RRD, Lt Colonel Chai Kean Seng and the First Secretary of the High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad, Mr. mony, attendees witnessed Muhammad Zulasri bin

## U. S. Amb. Blome commends Education USA, U. S. Educational Foundation in Pakistan efforts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD, NOV 19 (APP): and extended his gratitude to U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome commended the efforts of EducationUal Foundation in Pakistan for organizing the ceremony and providing students with guidance on pursuing education in the U.S.

addressing the EducationUSA High Achievers' ceremony the other

The event recognized the academic accomplishments of some of Pakistan's brightest national Education Week, opportunities awaiting them in higher education abroad, particularly in the United

Ambassador

congratulated the students on their academic achievements their families for their unwavering support.

"Your schools nominated SA and the U.S. Education-you as high achievers, and with your strong academic credentials, you are poised for even greater success," said Ambassador Blome. "As you start planning your university applications, I hope you will consider U.S. colleges and universities for the next stage of your academic journey."

The ceremony coincided with the launch of Interstudents, highlighting the a celebration of the longstanding educational partnership between the U.S. and shared exciting statistics from



annual "Open Doors Report", Pakistan 15th globally among which highlighted a record- countries sending students breaking number of Pakistani to the United States," he

students studying in the U.S. Pakistan. Ambassador Blome academic year, 11,000 Paki- Pakistani students pursuing stani students are attending higher education in America,

announced. This milestone "For the 2023-2024 reflects a growing trend of

tives and ideas. He encouraged students to leverage the resources of EducationUSA, which offers free advice on selecting universities, finding scholarships, and crafting successful applications. Acknowledging the critical

enrolled in undergraduate

Ambassador Blome empha-

sized the value interna-

tional students bring to U. S.

campuses, enriching academic

cultures with diverse perspec-

programs.

role of school counselors, the Ambassador revealed that the U. S. Embassy will support an additional cohort of Pakistani counselors to visit the United States. This initiative aims to help counselors better understand the U.S. higher education system and guide students Blome the U. S. State Department's U. S. universities, placing with about one-third of them in making informed decisions.

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## Pakistan, UK discuss regional relations, seek more cooperation in trade, investment



Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar today received Hamish Falconer, the UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan). They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed regional issues of common interest.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar and Parliamentary Under Secretary Falconer noted the strong convergence between Pakistan and the United Kingdom on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues. They reaffirmed the importance of strong Pakistan-UK relations and underscored the shared interest in promoting cooperation in trade, investment and climate action.

emphasized the importance of transforming the close relationship Pakistan at the UN Security Council.

between the two countries into an enhanced strategic partnership, commensurate with the rich history of Pakistan-UK cooperation and in line with the aspirations of the 1.7 million-strong British Pakistani community.

The Deputy Prime Minister also briefed the Parliamentary Under Secretary Falconer on Pakistan's perspective on Afghanistan and the evolving situation in South Asia. He stressed that the resolution of longstanding disputes, including the core Jammu and Kashmir dispute, was critical to achieving lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

Parliamentary Under Secretary Falconer thanked the Deputy Prime Minister for receiving him and underlined the importance accorded by the United Kingdom to its relations with The Deputy Prime Minister Pakistan. He added that the UK was looking forward to working with

## Pakistan, Netherlands discuss ways to strengthen ties

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan here on Tuesday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore ways for further strengthening the existing ties between Pakistan and The Netherlands.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, during the meeting, various aspects of the longstanding friendship and bilateral cooperation between the two countries were discussed. They identified priority areas like mining, IT, oil and gas, agriculture, team was scheduled to visit Pakidairy and farm production for further stan early next year to play matches business collaborations.

On the occasion, the minister high-prowess.



lighted the government's economic plan and reform agenda for promoting economic growth and ensuring fiscal sustainability.

Ambassador de Vries reciprocated the sentiments on strengthening bilateral ties and further expanding cooperation in various fields, including sports.

She mentioned the Dutch cricket and learn from Pakistan's cricketing

## Azerbaijan & Pakistan to go for G2G: Abdul Aleem Khan held meeting in Bakoo

News Desk

Minister for Board of Investment, Privatisation and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan held meeting in Azerbaijan with Minister for Economy H. E. Mikayal Jabbaro. They both discussed a number of bilateral matters especially Investment in different sectors. Abdul Aleem Khan offered Government if Azerbaijan to take part in Privatisation of PIA, Utility Stores, Zari Tarqiati Bank, DISCOs and other state owned entities. He said that there is no doubt that Pakistan and Azerbaijan can increase volume of both side trade. Similarly, in LNG and Renewculture, Energy and other sectors also open. In Communications, Federal

BAKOO, AZERBAIJAN: Federal



project of Karachi to Sukkar Motorway M6 which is the busiest route as linked directly with Seaport.

Minister Economy of Azerbaijan H. E. Mikayal Jabbaro expressed his satisfaction over direct flight from Pakistan to Bakoo which resulted in increasing their Tourism. He himself received warmly Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and assured all able Energy there is wider scope of out cooperation from the Governinvestment while IT, Telecom, Agri- ment of Azerbaijan. Both the Ministers lauded the close and brotherly relations of Pakistan and Azerbaijan Minister Abdul Aleem Khan offered and expressed hope that these will Azerbaijan to come forward on the further enhance in the days to come.

### Palestine welcomes the **G20** summit statement on stopping the war and the two-state solution

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates welcomes the statement issued by the G20 summit in Brazil, which included support and adoption of the two-state solution and a call for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, and a demand for the entry of aid and a warning of the dangers of the worsening humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip.

At the same time, the Ministry calls on all countries and the international community to translate positions and statements into practical steps that with international law.

war of extermination and displacement and abide by international legitimacy resolutions and relevant precautionary orders. In a related context, the Ministry

oblige Israel to immediately stop the

welcomes the US Treasury's decision to impose sanctions on the "Amana" settlement organization and its colonial company, which is active in building and developing settlements, and calls on the US administration to impose sanctions on the entire colonial settlement system on the path to ending the occupation in accordance