

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے مومنین اسما میں نے بیان کیا ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ میں نے وہیب بن خالد سے بیان کیا ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ میں نے عمرو بن لُحی سے بیان کیا ہے ان سے عبادہ بن تیم نے بیان کیا اور ان سے عبد اللہ بن زید انصاری نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم اس عید کا تیسرا استقبال دعا کے لئے نظر اور بارش کی دعا کی پھر آپ قبلہ رخ ہوئے اور اپنی چادر کو پھیلانے لگے (بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6343)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Bilawal snubs meeting with PM Shehbaz

In a significant political development, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has declined a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, despite a request from the federal government following his criticism, ARY News reported.



Orya Maqbool Jan gets bail

The Lahore High Court has granted post-arrest bail to renowned journalist and analyst Orya Maqbool Jan. Justice Ali Zia Bajwa heard the bail plea, with prominent lawyer Mian Ali Ashfaq advocating on Jan's behalf. Following the arguments, the court approved the bail application. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had previously filed a case against Jan, accusing him of spreading misinformation related to a national institution.

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IDEAS-2024

KARACHI: General Asim Munir, NI (M) Chief of Army Staff checking the weapons during the visit International Defense Exhibition (IDEAS-2024)



Army Chief of Staff hails 'entirely top notch' display at defence exhibition

Khurram Jaffrani

KARACHI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS-2024) at the Karachi Expo Centre. During the visit, the COAS commended the active participation of defense manufacturers from friendly

nations and observed an impressive display of arms and equipment by both domestic and international exhibitors. A total of 557 exhibitors are participating in the exhibition of which 333 are international exhibitors while 224 are domestic exhibitors. 36 countries established exhibitors' stalls of which 17 countries are participating for the first time.

Over 300 foreign delegates from 53 countries attended the event and showed full confidence in the exhibition and the defence industry of Pakistan.

During the exhibition, COAS also engaged in meaningful interactions with foreign military officials and defense delegates present at the event.

A significant highlight of the

occasion was the inauguration of the Shahpar-III, a state-of-the-art combat Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) developed by Global Industrial Defence Solutions (GIDS) Pakistan. The Shahpar-III boasts advanced capabilities, including an operational ceiling of 35,000 feet and an endurance of over 24 hours. It is equipped to carry a wide range

of munitions, including bombs, missiles, and torpedoes.

12th Edition of IDEAS 2024 commenced on 19th November and will culminate on 22nd November 2024.

Earlier, upon his arrival at Karachi, COAS was warmly received by Lieutenant General Babar Iftikhar, Corps Commander Karachi.

PM reaffirms govt's resolve to eradicate polio

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reiterated the resolve of the government to make Pakistan a polio-free country and said that the federation along with all the provinces were taking steps at polio eradication.

He said all the provinces had been taken into confidence over the polio eradication measure and together they would efface the disease.

A delegation of Polio Oversight Board comprising Christopher Elias, Representative of Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation, Dr Hanan Balkhy, Regional Director World Health Organization, UNICEF Regional Director Sanjay Wijesekera, Deputy Director Center for Disease Control and Prevention Andrea Fristedt, Rotary Foundation Trustee and National Chair Dr Aziz Memon, Dr. Ziyad bin Ahmed Meemish of King Salman



Humanitarian and Relief Center and Health and Environmental Advisor KSR relief Dr. Abdullah bin Saleh called on the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing in a press release said.

The prime minister thanked the delegation for their visit and support to government's efforts to end polio.

He also expressed his gratitude

to King Salman Foundation, Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation, Rotary Foundation, UNICEF and CDC that are partners to government in its anti-polio measures.

The prime minister observed that the part played by these organizations showed global efforts in the polio eradication drive and expressed the confidence that they would overcome

the challenge of polio and would not rest till it was banished forever.

The meeting was attended by PM's Coordinator on National Health Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, PM's Focal Person on Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq and other senior officials.

The delegation praised the prime minister and the polio eradication team for their efforts.

The representative of Bill and Gates said that the current strategy of the country against polio disease had effectively been implemented and its effects were being witnessed at the macro-level which hopefully would end the polio cases.

Dr Hanan Balkhy said that for the public health, the regional countries were required to strengthen their contacts and initiate dialogue.

During the meeting, a briefing over the government's steps was given. Under the prime minister's directive, the team on polio eradication had visited the polio affected far flung areas.

Under the prime minister's directive, a third-party audit of the anti-polio drive was carried out. The children diagnosed with polio were being looked after. The spread of polio was minimized in those areas where the vaccination ratio was better, it was added.

12 security personnel martyred in Bannu suicide bombing as major attack foiled



Rawalpindi: Nine of the 12 soldiers who were martyred in Bannu on November 19. Photo: ISPR

Spokesman Report

At least 12 security forces personnel were martyred in Bannu in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan as they foiled a major terror attack, the military said on Wednesday.

Six fita-e-khawarij terrorists were also killed, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations, the media wing of the military.

"On 19 November 2024, Khwarij attempted to attack a Joint Check Post in general area Malikhel in Bannu District. In ensuing fire exchange, six khwarij were sent to hell. The attempt to enter the post was effectively thwarted by own troops, which forced the khwarij to ram an

explosive laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the post," a statement from the ISPR read.

"The suicide blast led to collapse of portion of perimeter wall and damaged the adjoining infrastructure, resulting in Shahadat of twelve brave sons of soil that include ten Soldiers of the security forces and two soldiers of Frontier Constabulary."

"Sanitization operation is being conducted in the area and the perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice. Security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave men further strengthen our resolve," it added.

President, PM reiterate resolve to wipe out terrorism as 12 security personnel martyred in Bannu

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed grief over the martyrdom of 12 security forces personnel in a terrorist attack that took place in Bannu.

In their separately issued statements, both the president and prime minister paid tributes to the armed forces personnel for sacrificing their lives and killing six terrorists while safeguarding the country.

"The whole nation salutes the soldiers for sacrificing their lives for the security of their motherland," the president said and reiterated the nation's resolve to wipe out terrorism from the country.

He also prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of



the martyrs' ranks in paradise and for strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

"The sacrifices of the nation's soldiers will never be squandered. The Fitna Al Khawarij (terrorist) posing threats to the lives and properties of the people will have to pay a heavy price for it," Prime Minister Shehbaz said and reiterated that the fight against terrorism will continue till the complete elimination of this scourge.

Imran arrested in new case after Toshakhana bail

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has been arrested in connection with a case registered at New Town police station, Islamabad.

The case, filed under various sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act, pertains to incidents of arson, rioting, assault, and resisting police.

An investigation team, headed by the SSP Investigation, is currently pursuing the case.

He is scheduled to be presented before a court tomorrow for a request for



physical remand, according to a Rawalpindi police spokesman.

Speculation had begun about Khan's possible release after the bail. However, the release is unlikely as he is still implicated in multiple cases related to May 9.

PTI, govt prepare for November 24 show down

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to deploy Rangers in Islamabad, to avoid the upcoming Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest. It will start from November 22, with additional Frontier Corps (FC) personnel also requested.

The Punjab Police have arrested 107 PTI activists and issued a directive to have 10,000 personnel on standby across the province to deal firmly with

anyone attempting to disrupt law and order.

According to sources, the Ministry of Interior has made significant decisions regarding security in the federal capital in relation to the PTI protest scheduled for November 24.

Rangers will be deployed throughout Islamabad from November 22, and further FC units will be stationed in anticipation of the protest. Additional FC personnel have already been requested.

In Punjab, the police have begun preparations to counter the PTI's protest in Islamabad, issuing a memo to have 10,700 police officers on standby across the province. The Punjab Police have decided to take strict measures against those threatening public safety.

The memo, issued by the Additional Inspector General (AIG), states that 10,700 officers have been put on standby, drawn from various units, districts, and other wings, including PTI.

According to the memo, 3,500 personnel from the Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) and 1,000 from the Police Commandos (PC) are on standby, with 3,000 already present. Additionally, 1,000 from the Special Protection Unit (SPU) and 1,200 from the Training Directorate are also on standby.

The memo indicates that 1,300 personnel are already in place from the Gujranwala region, with 500 from the Sargodha region on standby and 400 already present.

From Sheikhpura, 200 and from Nankana Sahib, 100 officers are on standby.

Furthermore, 200 personnel from Bahawalnagar and 300 from Bahawalpur are also on standby, along with 300 from Muzaffargarh and 200 from Okara.

The memo states that the force will be equipped with anti-riot gear, and the respective district and unit's Regional Police Officer (RPO), City Police Officer (CPO),

Continued on Page 8

TDCP showcases Cholistan Desert Rally for foreign ambassadors

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) hosted an Awareness & Outreach program at Islamabad for foreign ambassadors in Pakistan to showcase the Cholistan Desert Rally 2025, South Asia's biggest motorsports event and cultural festival of Punjab. The program aimed to highlight the tourism potential of southern Punjab and attract international participants for the upcoming rally.

The Cholistan Desert Rally is an annual event organized by TDCP in the midst of the Cholistan Desert of Bahawalpur Division. The rally covers a distance of over 500 kilometers and features various categories of vehicles and drivers. The rally also showcases the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of the region, which is home to historical forts, temples, shrines, and wildlife. The Awareness & Outreach program was attended by MD-PTDC Rana Aftab-ur-Rehman, Mr. Wahid Arjmand Zia, General guests were given a complete brief of the rally and



its significance for the promotion of tourism and socio-economic development in southern Punjab.

They were also shown the official promo and the dedicated website of the rally, as well as the trophy that will be awarded to the winners. On behalf of Managing Director TDCP Ms. Humera Ikram, General Manager OPS TDCP welcomed all the guests and while

unique and spectacular event." Page | 2 Assistant Commissioner Bahawalpur Akhtar Malik represented Commissioner Bahawalpur and gave a brief presentation on tourism avenues of Bahawalpur. The rally has brought positive attention and recognition to our region, which has a lot to offer to the tourists. We welcome everyone to visit Bahawalpur and experience the glorious heritage of the Bahawalpur State." MD-PTDC Rana Aftab-ur-Rehman said, "We are grateful to the foreign ambassadors for their interest and support in promoting Pakistan's soft image.

The tourism sector of Pakistan can give a boost to the economy and create employment opportunities for the local communities. We are committed to providing sustainable and quality tourism services and facilities to our guests." The Race Director Mr. Nouman Khan briefed the audience about the upcoming CDR - 2025. The Foreign Ambassadors appreciated the efforts made by TDCP and the Punjab Tourism Department to highlight the tourism glory of southern Punjab.

RPO suspend SHO for violation of SOP

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: RPO Faisalabad Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan suspended SHO Sadar Toba Tek Singh for violation of SOP. During the raid, ASI Muhammad Nasir Sadar Toba Tek Singh was injured by the firing of the accused. ASI Muhammad Nasir was not wearing red bullet proof jacket during the incident.



RPO Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan suspended SHO President Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Akram for violation of SOP. Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan has said that the police officers and personnel should wear bullet proof jacket during the incident. They are not guilty of negligence and carelessness. Strict action will be taken against the officers to ensure your and public safety, perform your official duties by being vigilant at all times.

Second oath-taking ceremony of Burhan Muzaffar Wani Shaheed Press Club Muzaffarabad

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: I am and will remain a proponent of accession to Pakistan. Under the leadership of Imran Khan, we will take the Kashmir freedom movement to its final results. We will take the field against the black law after November 24. We do not accept any presidential ordinance that violates basic human rights. The first FIR against this black law was filed in my name. Our lives and property are ready for the constitutional freedom of the state and the rights of the people of the state. Human rights cannot be violated under any circumstances. We are the guardians of the democratic traditions of journalism. These views were expressed by former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Kashmir Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan Niazi while addressing the second oath-taking ceremony of Burhan Muzaffar Wani Shaheed Press Club Muzaffarabad. On this occasion, he was accompanied by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Kashmir leader Mohsin Ali Awan, PPP leader Naseer Awan Advocate, Vice Chairman Pasban Hurriyat Usman Ali Hashim, Raja Fahad Jamil, Faisal Farooq, Aamir Abbasi, Abdul Qayyum Durrani and others. Veteran journalist Liaquat Bashir Farooqi also attended the ceremony on a special invitation. 18 office bearers and members of the executive council of the Burhan Muzaffar Wani Shaheed Press Club took the oath. Those who took the oath included Patron-in-Chief Raja Zafar Missle, Sardar Younis Khan Niazi President



Legal Advisor Syed Zawaar Hussain Naqvi. Advisor President Press Club Syed Barkat Hussain Shah Naqvi, General Secretary, Press Club Ifikhar Abbasi Senior Vice President Saiga Awan Vice President, Syed Binoyed Hussain Shah Kazmi, Sheikh Manzoor Hussain and Abid Qureshi Additional Secretary, Secretary Finance, Siyaqat Abbasi Information Secretary Kanza Batool Secretary, Communication Fayyaz Ahmed Khan, Social Media Advisor, Pervaiz Durrani Vice Chairman Executive Council Syed Waqar Kazmi, Jamila Qazi, Arbab Mughal, Raja Sajjad, Chand Mubarak Hashmi, Muhammad Arif Chahly took oath as members of the Executive Council. On the occasion of the oath-taking ceremony, political, social, religious, commercial, public, academic, literary, circles, including civil society leaders, also attended in large numbers. Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Younis Khan Niazi, a veteran journalist and editor-in-chief of the state-run newspaper, who was elected president for the second time, said that in our oath-taking ceremony, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Chaudhry Ibrahim Zia took the oath earlier and today former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi is taking it.

Engineer Tufail Ahmed Sheikh Appointed as Chief Commercial Officer, Assumes Charge

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: According to a HESCO spokesperson, after the approval of HESCO CEO Muhammad Roshan Otho, the Director General HR & Admin, Shafiq Ahmed Memon, issued a posting order for the vacant position of Chief Commercial Officer. Following this, Chief Engineer Tufail Ahmed Shaikh has officially taken charge as the Chief Commercial Officer.



Senior officers of HESCO congratulated Tufail Ahmed Shaikh on assuming his new responsibilities. Those offering congratulations included Sohaib Ahmed Shaikh (Director S&I), Javed Ahmed Siddiqui (Regional Manager M&T), Zohaib Sherwani (Circle Manager M&T-I), Shahid Daudpota (Manager MM), Salahuddin Shaikh (XEN Phuleli), Waqar Saleem (Assistant Manager Stores), Irfan Shaikh (Revenue Officer Phuleli), Muhammad Sadique Kubar (Deputy Manager PR), and others. On this occasion, the Chief Commercial Officer, Tufail Ahmed Shaikh, stated that he would work with complete dedication, diligence, and honesty for the betterment of HESCO. He also instructed all operational sub-division, division, and circle officers and technical staff to contribute to the development and progress of HESCO.

Protest

ISLAMABAD: Government employees hold placards during protest in favor of their demands at Pak-Secretariat in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Jammu Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee issues statement after meeting at Rawalakot

Bureau Report

RAWALAKOT: Joint Public Action Committee has issued a statement at the end of its extraordinary meeting held on 19/20 November 2024 at Rawalakot, under which a wheel-jam strike has been announced in the entire Azad Kashmir on 5 December 2024.

The Jammu Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee will continue its peaceful political struggle as in the past to implement its approved Charter of Demand. Committee has been rejecting the Presidential Ordinance, a black law designed to crush the peaceful civil rights movement, from day one and has been fighting hard for its abolition.

Committee strongly condemn the arrests of political workers, the formation of baseless cases and police brutality on peaceful protesters in various parts of the state, especially Rawalakot, Mirpur and Hajira, under the Presidential Ordinance, and warn the government to desist from its vile tactics and unconditionally release all those arrested. Committee considers the Presidential Ordinance to be

against fundamental human rights and considers this black law to be a lock on the people's tongue. Therefore, the Joint Public Action Committee announces an indefinite shut-down, wheel jam and complete lockdown across the state from December 5, 2024, for the repeal of this black law and the approval of the Charter of Demand.

Committee appeals to Kashmiris living abroad to protest against this black law worldwide in support of the call of the Joint Public Action Committee. Committee fully supports

all protests across the state against state terrorism and the Presidential Ordinance in Rawalakot. Committee, in the light of the opinions received from the three divisions, decides that the Charter of Demand includes free health, free education, employment, The demands include the establishment of an international airport in Azad Kashmir and the right to peaceful protest for government employees across Azad Kashmir, recognizing the right to association and unionization acquired under the Interim Constitution of 1974.

Sindh minister hails students as future heroes on World Sustainable Transport Day

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Sindh Senior Minister for Information and Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon has hailed students as the nation's future heroes, emphasizing the importance of nurturing young talent to drive Pakistan's growth.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony entitled World Sustainable transport Day, at Isra University's Faculty of Civil Engineering Science, Sharjeel Inam Memon praised the university's contributions to Hyderabad and encouraged students to showcase their innovative ideas on Sustainable public transport. He commended

sustainable transport projects presented by students, acknowledging their potential to transform Pakistan.

Sharjeel Inam Memon highlighted the Sindh government's pioneering achievements, including harnessing wind energy projects in Thatta and Thar coal for electricity generation, The Coal project which initiated by the late Ms Benazir Bhutto and revived by President Asif Ali Zardari in 2008. Today, thousands of megawatts are being produced from the Thar Coal project, recognized by economists as a prime source of affordable electricity.

Sharjeel Inam Memon reas-

sured the youth that Pakistan offers numerous opportunities, urging them to capitalize on their skills. He outlined the Sindh government's initiatives under Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's leadership, including the People's Bus Service, EV buses, women's pink buses, and skills training under BISP.

The Senior Minister emphasized the government's commitment to expanding transport services, including the Yellow Line and Red Line BRT in Karachi, double-decker buses, and EV taxis for youth employment.

Senior Minister's message to the youth was clear: Don't

be disappointed, we will make a strong country and nation together. With his inspiring words, Memon rallied the youth to take charge and contribute to Pakistan's bright future.

Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized the importance of focusing on every sector to resolve Pakistan's problems, stating that if all departments work efficiently, many issues can be addressed. He also announced plans to discuss increasing student enrollment with the Federation.

Speaking at ceremony, Sharjeel Inam Memon addressed the VPN issue, highlighting the dual nature of technology and advoc-

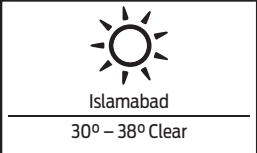


ating for introducing modern technologies like IT and AI to the younger generation, while cautioning against misuse by ill-minded individuals.

Regarding protests in country Sharjeel Inam Memon stressed the need for ethical demonstrations, condemning violence and damage to national institutions

like Parliament, Radio Pakistan, and PTV.

He warned that teaching violence to youth can lead to unintended consequences.



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:18 am
Zohr 11:53 am
Asr 3:24 pm
Maghrib 5:02 pm
Isha 6:29 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 116
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9286044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5

Cambridge University to offer Cambridge qualifications in four selected federal govt schools

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Mr. Rod Smith, Group Managing Director, International Education for Cambridge University Press and Assessment visited the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and met with Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui to sign an MoU today on 20th November, 2024.

Dr. Khalid said that Cambridge is playing a positive role in imparting quality education to the youth of Pakistan. He stressed that Cambridge needs to expand the horizon of their role in Pakistan. He especially emphasised its role in creating enhance assessment capabilities of the local education boards. He said that transparency in assessment and enhanced engagement is the need of the hour. The Federal Minister was briefed by

Secretary Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani that the MOU sets forth the understanding and cooperative framework between Cambridge and The Ministry to offer Cambridge qualifications in four selected federal government schools in Islamabad. He said the initiative aims to enhance educational standards and provide international qualification pathways for students in these schools. The selected schools are:

Islamabad Model College for Girls, F-6/2, Islamabad
Islamabad Model College for Boys, G-6/3, Islamabad
Islamabad Model College for Boys, F-8/3, Islamabad
Islamabad Model College for Girls, F-8/1, Islamabad
Wani said that this MoU will introduce Cambridge Lower Secondary, IGCSE and A-Level qualifications in four designated

federal government schools in Islamabad in order to improve the quality of education by providing students with access to internationally recognized qualifications and fostering a learner-centred approach. Furthermore, he said that it will build capacity among teaching staff to effectively deliver the Cambridge curriculum while support students in accessing diverse global opportunities for higher education and career development

Zindigi Prize Hosts First International Regionals in Kenya, Making Impact Beyond Borders

KENYA / ISLAMABAD: Zindigi Prize, Pakistan's first homegrown entrepreneurial community by Zindigi - powered by JS Bank, takes its first step onto the global stage with inaugural regionals in Kenya, empowering changemakers worldwide. This milestone event took place at St. Paul's University, Limuru Campus, where over 50 startups from various universities across Kenya participated in a day filled with inspiring pitches, engaging speeches, and vibrant social performances.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Dr. Abraham, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academics at St. Paul's University, and Mr. Lenox Omondi, CEO and Founder of Ecobana, recognized as one of Africa's leading startups. Their presence, along with over 10 judges and industry experts, added depth and insight to the competition, offering invaluable guidance to the young innovators.

The Zindigi Prize Kenya Regionals concluded with remarkable talent and innovation on display. Leading the winners' circle, Mount Kenya University secured the top spot with NanaHeal Enterprise, demonstrating exceptional entrepreneurial vision. The 1st Runner-Up was from Africa Nazarene University with their innovative venture, Rizz, followed by Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology as the 2nd Runner-Up with their impressive project, Trans-Spotter.

Dr. Abraham expressed his pride in hosting the event, stating, "It's a proud moment for all of us to welcome Zindigi Prize from Pakistan. This initiative has effectively bridged the gap between academia and industry, fostering real-world learning and growth."

MoU

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Mr. Rod Smith, Group Managing Director, International Education for Cambridge University Press and Assessment visited the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and met with Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui to sign an MoU today on Thursday.



Nation's Bank Partners with 1LINK and Mastercard for Co-badged Debit Card Issuance

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan, one of the largest issuers of debit cards in the country, has become the first commercial bank in Pakistan to sign a co-badging agreement with 1LINK and Mastercard. The signing ceremony was held at NBP's headquarters and marks a significant milestone in advancing digital payment solutions across Pakistan.

The agreement was formally signed by Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President NBP, and Mr. Najeeb Agrawalla, CEO of 1LINK, in the presence of Mr. Arslan Khan, Country Manager Mastercard. Senior officials in attendance included Mr. Adnan Nasir, SEVP & CDO, NBP; Mr. Faisal Topra, SEVP & Group Chief RBG (A), NBP; Mr. Fouad Farrukh, SEVP & Group Chief AIBG; Mr. Amin Manji, SEVP & CTO NBP; Mr. Aayn Sajwani, Regional Sales Manager Thales BPS; Mr. Shahzad Shahid, CEO TPS and Mr. Fahad Mahmood, CEO Decagone Pvt Ltd.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie talked about the strategic importance of the partnership, "This partnership marks a significant milestone in offering our customers secure, world-class payment solutions. With Mastercard co-badged debit cards, we aim to enhance digital payments acceptance with seamless digital banking



experiences across the globe." This collaboration aims to leverage Mastercard's cutting-edge technology, enabling NBP to offer world-class payment solutions and empower customers with greater financial freedom and accessibility.

Oath ceremony of newly elected office-bearers of The Traders' Union



ISLAMABAD: Former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and President All Pakistan Anjuman Tajran, Kashif Chaudhry administered oath of office to the newly elected office-bearers of The Traders' Union (TCCI). On this occasion, newly elected President Atif Jameel Butt thanked the traders of F-10 center and said that they will try to fulfill the trust they have expressed and solve all their problems. Congratulating the leadership, he said that he now has a huge responsibility on his shoulders, due to which he will have to work hard and diligently to get rid of the post.

PAC organizes Islamic Calligraphy Exhibition

RAWALPINDI:

Punjab Art Council organized an exhibition of Islamic calligraphy in collaboration with the Iranian Cultural Center. The special guest of the event was Member of the Punjab Assembly, Raja Muhammad Hanif Advocate. The event was also attended by Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moghaddam; Director General of the Iranian Cultural Center, Dr. Muhammad Mehdi Taheri; Former Director Waqar Ahmed; and the Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain. The exhibition featured handicrafts and textile products by Iranian artists Saeed Reza Kermani and Hossein Gorbani. Raja Hanif Advocate stated that calligraphy holds a special place in our culture and civilization. He emphasized that the Punjab government is paying significant attention to promoting all forms of fine arts. Calligraphy is highly revered in Muslim societies due to their deep love for the Quran. Through Islamic calligraphy, artists express their profound love for Islam. He further highlighted the historical ties between Iran and Pakistan, noting that Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan after its independence. To nurture cultural exchange, both countries must continue collaborating on such initiatives.

Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghaddam remarked that Pakistan and Iran share a rich cultural heritage, and it is the responsibility of both nations to organize programs like this to provide opportunities for skilled artisans to connect with their cultural roots. He also thanked the Arts Council for hosting the calligraphy exhibition. Dr. Mehdi Taheri, Director General of the Iranian Cultural Center, stated that calligraphy is the art of transforming words into visual beauty by blending them with aesthetic passion and transferring them to canvas with the pen. When these words are inspired by the Quran, Hadith, or spirituality, they become deeply rooted in the ancient traditions of calligraphy. Former Director Waqar Ahmed noted that Islamic calligraphy is an artistic representation of handwriting and calligraphy, commonly observed in countries sharing Islamic cultural heritage. Director Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain, added that the Quran's miraculous nature introduced Muslims to the sacred art of Islamic calligraphy. In modern times, significant efforts are being made to promote calligraphy. The exhibition attracted a large number of visitors from twin cities. Additionally, a workshop on Islamic calligraphy, supervised by Iranian master calligraphers, will be held at the Arts Council today from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.



Foundation University Islamabad (FUI) Holds Convocation 2024

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Convocation 2024 for the Faculty of Engineering & IT and Faculty of Management Sciences, Foundation University School of Science and Technology (FUSST), was held at Topi Rakh Galaxy Hall, near Ayub Park, on November 20, 2024. Dr. Samar Mubarakmand, Nuclear Physicist, Advisor SPD/Chairman Punjab Mineral Company (PMC), Nishan-e-Imtiaz, Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Rector, Major General (Retd) Muhammad Kaleem Asif, HI (M), and Pro Rector/Director Brig Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, (Retd) Foundation University School of Science and Technology, were also present. A total of 537 students were awarded degrees, including 9 gold

medals, 9 silver medals, 31 certificates of distinction, and 37 merit certificates. Pro Rector/Director Foundation University School of Science & Technology (FUSST) presented the annual report. He highlighted that FUSST continues to expand its academic offerings to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world. New programs such as FinTech, Business Analytics, and Engineering Technology have been introduced, and the accreditation body doubled seats for Computer Science and IET programs. He proudly announced the addition of Computer Engineering and shared that PhD enrolments have reached 132, with the number of PhD graduates totalling 112. The Director, Foundation University School of Science & Technology

also shared the University's vision for a flagship campus to provide state-of-the-art facilities for academics, research, and extracurricular activities. Dr. Samar Mubarakmand lauded Foundation University Islamabad for fostering a culture of excellence and congratulated the graduates, faculty, and parents on their achievements. He stressed the importance of staying updated with advancements like AI, developing critical thinking skills, and contributing to sustainable growth. He also emphasized the significance of entrepreneurship and social responsibility in achieving both personal and societal progress. In the end, the Rector FUI presented the University Plaque to the worthy Chief Guest, marking the conclusion of a memorable event.



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

The Silence of the Mahrang Baloch Amidst Terrorism in Balochistan

There has been increasing activity in Balochistan by groups claiming to so-called represent the Baloch people and using violence to instill fear. The BLA, having failed to disrupt security and infrastructure on a large scale, has returned to its original tactics. In a particularly cowardly act, several months ago, they intercepted the Makka coach traveling from Quetta to Taftan on National Highway N-40 at Nushki, killing nine innocent laborers. These terrorists are not engaged in a legitimate struggle for rights; rather, they are criminals, thieves, and anti-national elements causing harm in various ways. They are believed to receive substantial support from enemy intelligence agencies for carrying out such terrorist acts. Not only do these individuals rob laborers seeking employment, but they also resort to violence against them. Their aim is to sow fear and panic within society while waging terrorist activities against the state and its institutions. Dr. Mahrang Baloch, the so-called leader of the Baloch Solidarity Committee, along with her fellow journalists who claim to be human rights advocates, are often accused of using the issue of missing persons as a cover to defame the state and its institutions. However, they fail to justify the killing of innocent civilians and show no solidarity or condolences to the families of the victims of such violence. They lack the moral courage to denounce terrorist acts or terrorism itself. In fact, those who support or defend terrorism cannot be considered loyal or patriotic to either the people of Balochistan or the state of Pakistan. When the government and law enforcement agencies take decisive action against terrorist elements, these so-called human rights advocates are quick to intervene and criticize. Interestingly, these so-called human rights advocates often remain silent when other countries implement even harsher measures against similar elements within their own borders. Our judicial system, while widely acknowledged for its shortcomings and delays, frequently results in cases dragging on for years, leading to wrongful convictions of innocent individuals, while the true perpetrators evade justice. In such an environment, when our agencies detain individuals for investigation and evidence-gathering, accusations of coercive and illegal arrests often arise. Pakistan's law enforcement agencies have consistently upheld the country's constitutional commitment to protecting human rights. In doing so, our security forces have made numerous sacrifices to ensure the safety and well-being of society. Yet, despite their dedication, these agencies are often unfairly accused of involvement in disappearances, with little or no evidence to support such claims. Additionally, a targeted social media campaign plays a key role in spreading misinformation, fueling misconceptions among the public. The issue of missing persons is a global phenomenon, and Pakistan is no exception, with a variety of factors contributing to its increase. While human rights organizations often focus their attention on security forces, they frequently fail to consider the underlying causes or ground realities. Voluntary disappearances, which are sometimes mistaken for enforced disappearances, are not uncommon, with some individuals choosing to vanish without informing their families. Investigations have also uncovered cases where people intentionally go into hiding to avoid arrest by law enforcement agencies. Moreover, identifying abandoned deceased individuals presents a significant challenge. According to detailed records from Edhi

and Chippa, over 35,000 unclaimed bodies have been buried by these two NGOs across Pakistan since 2005. It's important to make a distinction between cases of missing persons and enforced disappearances, as many individuals reported as missing are later found to be casualties of security operations during counterterrorism efforts. For example, in one instance, a terrorist named Karim Jan, initially listed as missing, was killed during an attack on the Gwadar Port Authority complex. His sister later formally requested his body. Similarly, the sister of terrorist Abdul Wadud Satazkai had been searching for her brother since August 12, 2021, only to discover his death in the Mach attack. When compared internationally, the issue of missing persons is a significant global concern, affecting both developed and developing nations. For instance, the United States' National Crime Information Center (NCIC) reported 521,705 missing persons cases in its 2021 publication. In the UK, the Missing Persons Unit (MPU) documented 241,064 cases in 2020/21. Germany reported 11,000 missing persons in 2018, and India recorded 347,524 cases in 2018. In IIOJK, the Asian Federation against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) noted 8,000 missing persons cases from 1989 to 2012. Nepal also reported 10,418 missing persons cases in 2020/21. These figures highlight the widespread nature of missing persons cases and the ongoing difficulties countries face in addressing this issue. In Pakistan, the government is actively working to locate missing persons, with the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (CoIoED) continuing the efforts initiated by the Commission

on Missing Persons, which was established in 2011 under the Ministry of Interior. As of March 2024, the Commission has recorded a total of 10,203 cases, of which 7,901 have been resolved. However, 2,302 cases remain unresolved. Despite the relatively low number of missing persons cases in Pakistan, both domestic and international actors have made concerted efforts to portray Pakistan as a country with a high incidence of missing persons. There is concrete evidence that banned Baloch militant groups are recruiting Pakistani nationals for terrorist activities, offering substantial financial rewards to destabilize the country. In this context, figures like Dr. Mahrang Baloch and others are used to propagate false narratives and incite hatred against Pakistan. Dr. Mahrang and her associates are attempting to manipulate public sentiment by presenting a distorted and misleading portrayal of the situation, further fueling propaganda against the state. Whenever the state and law enforcement agencies take action against terrorists, Mahrang Baloch and her few supporters quickly spread malicious narratives, accusing the government of human rights violations. It is striking how she raises her voice over missing persons but remains conspicuously silent when it comes to the victims of terrorist attacks. It is clear that the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and its leaders are exploiting the issue of missing persons as a political tool, with little genuine concern for the real problems faced by the people of Balochistan. Mahrang Baloch's silence in the face of innocent lives being lost is deeply shameful. The people of Pakistan, including those in Balochistan, see through the true intentions of these anti-state elements and fully support the decisive steps being taken by the government and the Pakistani military to combat terrorism.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Azam Nazeer reaffirms unwavering commitment to protect rights of children

During his address at the World Children's Day event hosted by the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission on the Rights of the Child at the Pakistan National Council of Arts, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of children. He highlighted the importance of listening to children's voices, reflecting this year's theme, "Listen to the Future." He emphasized that children are not only the future of the nation but also an integral part of shaping its present. The Minister underscored Pakistan's progress in advancing child rights through initiatives like the National Commission on the Rights of the Child and the Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency (ZARRA), which provides swift interventions for missing children. He also mentioned the Awaz App and the Take It Down Portal, which reflect the government's dedication to ensuring safer digital spaces for children and addressing online risks effectively. Highlighting education as a top priority, he spoke about efforts to bridge gaps in access to education, particularly for girls, and reiterated the government's commitment to creating an inclusive and empowering environment for all children. The Minister concluded by calling for a unified approach involving families, communities, civil society, and private sector stakeholders to build a society where children's voices are heard, their rights are protected, and their dreams are nurtured. He expressed hope that through collective efforts, Pakistan can create a future where every child thrives without fear or discrimination. "Children are the strength and hope of our nation," he remarked, "and investing in their well-being is an investment in the prosperity and progress of Pakistan."

In her address Chairperson NCRC Ayesha Raza Farooq highlighted that the Commission has been working tirelessly to safeguard the rights of children. From combating child marriage and child labour to ensuring access to education and online safety, the Commission has undertaken various initiatives ranging from legal and policy reforms to research, advocacy and awareness raising. Pakistan's cuisine She said "World Children's Day reminds us of our collective responsibility to ensure every child in Pakistan thrives in a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment. Let us commit to shaping a society where children are respected, protected, and empowered because they are not just the architects of tomorrow but active contributors to shaping the present."



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

Pakistan's energy crisis: The multifaceted story of the '90s

Sehrish Habib
 The energy situation's decline by the early 1990s demands investigation into its origins. To comprehend the energy crisis that took root in the 1990s, we must grasp two fundamental factors. Firstly, energy needs perpetually surge worldwide, riding the wave of economic growth. For nations on a prosperous trajectory, annual energy demands rise by 5% to 7%. The second facet revolves around food security, a duality of energy and water. Tracing global economic woes invariably leads to water scarcity—a truth even Goldman Sachs acknowledged, deeming water the "petroleum of the next century. Sadly, we faltered on both counts. In 1976, during the construction of Tarbela Dam, a blackout spanned 15 to 20 years. The ensuing decades found us lagging behind the needs of the '90s. The initial two decades of Pakistan's history, until 1975, were a triumphant chapter. These years, marked by the construction of two significant dams, eight barrages, nine link canals, and the establishment of Asia's second-largest transmission system after Japan, were a pinnacle for the nation. This foundation laid the groundwork for future decades. However, the path shifted in the '70s, with momentum waning post-Tarbela. Vital for competitiveness, larger dams for economies of scale were neglected. Plans for projects like the Kalabagh and Dia Mir Bashah dams, along with five Indus cascade sites, emerged after a 45-year hiatus. This realisation awakened in the '90s, coinciding with a stark reality check—an acute scarcity of water and power. This turmoil led to the decision to introduce Independent Power Plant (IPPs) under conditions favouring them. A question arises: why favour costly oil and gas imports over water-based energy, despite the latter's greater expense? The answer lies in two aspects. The gestation period for hydropower projects

ranges from five to ten years, coupled with high initial capital requirements. The urgency for power in the '90s was a catalyst, with a fight emerging over government policies. This culminated in favouring fossil fuels, despite their volatile market and climate impact, as an expedient solution. Distribution losses, accounting for 17% of electricity, dissipate during transmission due to line inefficiencies, contributing to circular debt. Over eight months, from July to February in FY 22-23, circular debt surged by an alarming Rs 52.4 billion, as per the Ministry of Finance and Energy (April 2023). Circular debt's roots run deep within the energy supply chain. Losses accumulate from fuel imports to consumption. Outdated infrastructure, weak recovery by distribution entities, lenient agreements with Independent Power Plants (IPPs), and high thermal power generation costs all add to the burgeoning debt. Unfavourable exchange rates further compound the issue. To chart a way forward and mitigate circular debt, swift policy reforms in the power sector are paramount, coupled with a renewable energy-centric business model to counter coal-based expenses. Energising competition by liberalising the market, revamping tariff structures, and deregulating the administrative and operational functions of distribution firms are pivotal. To finance and support these projects, Chinese assistance through CPEC emerged after 2013-14. CPEC contributes over \$33 billion to energy projects, encompassing coal, hydropower, solar, and wind. Three major dams, Dasu, Bhasha, and Mohmand, are being constructed with Chinese expertise. By 2025, these projects aim to add 44 billion units of energy, pushing towards a goal of 50% renewable energy in the total mix. With such progress, there is potential to shift away from oil and gas dependency towards hydropower. However, challenges like maintaining power during the winter and optimising water release for agriculture persist. China's experience, with over

80,000 dams, offers valuable lessons. Their long-term sustainable policies and capacity-building are critical takeaways. It's an art of governance that Pakistan must embrace. Additionally, the quality and scale of their projects, like the Three Gorges Dam, demonstrate their engineering prowess. We must reflect on these factors as we strive for a future powered by sustainable energy. In conclusion, Pakistan's energy dilemma is a product of decades of mismanagement, misaligned policies, and missed opportunities. Initiatives like CPEC and a renewed emphasis on hydropower offer hope for a sustainable energy future. As we learn from China's energy prowess, adopting long-term policies, emphasising quality, and fostering technical capacity are paramount. A greener energy mix beckons, promising a more prosperous and self-reliant Pakistan. In the midst of this intricately woven energy narrative, one thing remains clear: while challenges persist, there's a collective hope that concerted efforts, (these encompass policy reforms, governance enhancements, and streamlined coordination among stakeholders) strategic support, (harnessed through collaborations with international partners, foreign investments, and strategic alliances that offer the promise of resource infusion and expertise sharing) and technological advancements (which are revolutionizing energy generation, distribution, and consumption, Innovations in renewable energy technologies, smart grid systems, and efficient storage solutions are converging to reshape the energy landscape. As these pillars of collective effort, strategic hope, and technological progress converge, they cast a ray of optimism onto Pakistan's energy horizon, illuminating a pathway towards resilience and sustainability that will steer Pakistan's energy trajectory towards a brighter, more sustainable future. **Alumni Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, 2/AU Campus, Islamabad, Pakistan. She can be reached at sehrish-habib856@gmail.com**

MPA's Resolution in Punjab Assembly, Need for Change in Police Conduct

A week ago, a female MPA presented a resolution in the Punjab Assembly that drew immediate attention from Speaker Malik Ahmad Khan. The resolution raised a significant issue, asserting that labeling individuals as "recorded" in character certificates solely based on their names appearing in FIRs is a violation of basic human rights and the Constitution of Pakistan. It was observed that after years, an assembly member had finally spoken up for the rights of the people. This resolution brought to light a critical concern, not just advocating effectively for public rights but also challenging the traditional behaviour of the police, which has long caused difficulties for the general public. The voice of an MPA highlighted that declaring a citizen "recorded" in a character certificate based solely on an FIR goes against the principles of justice. Such an act violates basic human rights, dignity, and Article 10-A of the Constitution of Pakistan, which guarantees the right to a fair trial. The Constitution ensures equal rights for every citizen, but this practice effectively labels individuals as guilty before their guilt is proven. Speaker Malik Ahmad Khan's swift notice of the resolution sets a positive example. This step demonstrates that when public representatives exercise their authority, laws can be improved, and societal issues can be effectively addressed. The next challenge lies in the practical measures that the government and relevant institutions take to ensure such injustices are permanently eliminated. The essence of democracy is to resolve public grievances and safeguard their rights. Actions like this resolution not only restore public confi-

dence but also lay the groundwork for a transparent and fair system. According to the Constitution, every citizen is entitled to the protection of their fundamental rights, and no institution has the authority to infringe upon them. The government must promptly implement the suggestions presented in this resolution and take firm steps to align police conduct within the framework of the law. This initiative will not only rebuild public trust but also pave the way for a transparent and just system in the future. Due to arbitrary and unlawful obstacles created by the police in issuing character certificates, young individuals are unable to pursue higher education abroad, travel overseas for business, or seize international opportunities. In any civilized country, such behavior by the police would be subject to accountability. The Government of Punjab should take immediate notice of this serious matter to ensure good governance and the enforcement of the law. The Chief Secretary of Punjab should appoint God-fearing and law-abiding officers to public offices within the police force. This issue highlights the traditional behaviour of the police and the deep-rooted corruption within the system. The deliberate creation of obstacles in obtaining character certificates is a calculated tactic to exert pressure on citizens. This conduct not only reflects the unprofessional attitude of the police but also underscores the urgent need for reforms and transparency within the police force. The police officers must keep in mind "True justice cannot thrive in a system burdened by corruption and unprofessionalism; transparency and accountability are the pillars of a fair society."



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Xi says China insists on resolving differences with EU via dialogue

Xinhua

RIO DE JANEIRO: Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday that the EU's tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles are drawing attention around the world, and China always insists on resolving differences through dialogue and consultation.

It is hoped that Germany will continue to play an important role in this regard, Xi said in his meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Xi said that he and Scholz had frank, in-depth and fruitful exchanges during Scholz's visit to China this April. Over the past six months, the two countries have achieved significant results in the fields of green development, sustainable transportation and agricultural cooperation with Africa, and China-Germany relations continue to glow with new vitality and dynamism, Xi said.

Noting that transformation of a scale not seen in a century is accelerating across the world today and global development is at a critical crossroads,

Xi pointed out that as the second and third largest economies in the world, China and Germany are both major countries with significant influence, and the two sides need to consolidate the comprehensive strategic partnership from a long-term and strategic perspective and continue to write cooperative stories of mutual achievement.

Xi noted that China's policy toward Germany maintains a high degree of stability and continuity, and is willing to work with Germany to respect each other's core interests and major concerns, seek common ground while shelving differences, and learn from each other.

China and Germany share highly integrated economic interests, and bilateral cooperation is an opportunity for shared development and common future, Xi said, noting that China regards Germany as an important partner in advancing Chinese modernization, and will continue to provide broad market opportunities for German companies.

China and Germany should focus on upgrading cooperation through digitalization, intelligence and low-carbon

action, and work together to explore third-party markets to achieve win-win cooperation, Xi said.

China regards Europe as an important pole in a multi-polar world, Xi said, adding that Beijing is committed to cooperating with Europe to jointly meet challenges and promote the sustained, steady and sound development of China-EU relations.

Since his last visit to China, Scholz said, the Germany-China relationship has made positive progress. Under the current complex international situation, it is of great importance for Germany and China to strengthen communication and cooperation, he added.

The German side hopes to further develop the comprehensive strategic partnership with China, strengthen bilateral and multilateral dialogue and cooperation in the spirit of equality, frankness and mutual respect, properly resolve differences, achieve mutual benefit and win-win results, and contribute to world economic recovery, growth and common prosperity, he said.

Scholz also voiced hope that the EU



and China will solve the issue of electric vehicles as soon as possible through dialogue and negotiation, noting that

the German side is willing to make positive efforts in this regard. The two sides also exchanged views

on the Ukraine crisis, the situation in the Middle East and other hotspot issues.

Shocking figures about the children of the Gaza Strip....

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Human Rights Organizations Coalition "Hurriya" issued today, Wednesday, November 20, 2024, a detailed fact sheet on the occasion of World Children's Day, under the title: Gaza Children at the forefront of the victims of aggression.

"Hurriya" mentioned in the sheet in detail the figures and statistics of the crimes of the Israeli occupation forces against Gaza children from October 7, 2023 until November 20, 2024.

"Hurriya" indicated that its teams monitored and documented thousands of cases during the period covered by the sheet in which children were victims, whether directly or indirectly.

"Hurriya" confirmed that the violations to which the children of the Gaza Strip were subjected were numerous and varied, as they included murder and assault on personal safety by beating and sometimes by humiliation and degrading treatment, as well as arrest, denial of treatment, forced displacement, starvation, and deprivation of basic rights, including their right to education, adequate housing, health, and other rights guaranteed to them by the rules of international law and international agreements related to children.

"Hurriya" explained in the prepared fact sheet that the occupation forces have killed (17,390) children under the age of 18 since the beginning of the aggression on the Gaza Strip, and (22,110) other children were injured and need to travel to receive treatment due to the lack of necessary medicines



for them. "Hurriya" stated in the fact sheet that (1,250) cases of amputation of the lower limbs among Gaza children were recorded since the beginning of the aggression as a result of their injury by shrapnel from Israeli projectiles and missiles. In addition, (55) children died as a result of malnutrition and dehydration, due to the starvation policy pursued by the occupation forces in their aggression against civilians. "Hurriya" recorded the death of (217) newborn children "premature" as a result of the power outage in the incubators and the severe shortage of medicines and health supplies. The occupation forces also recorded the arrest of dozens of children during their incursion into cities and camps in the governorates of the Gaza Strip or during

their passage through the military checkpoints set up by the occupation forces. They were subjected to the most horrific forms of torture, humiliation and degrading treatment inside Israeli prisons. "Hurriya" said that (3,500) children have no information about their fate until now, and "Hurriya" also recorded (35,000) cases of children living without their parents or one of them. "Hurriya" showed through the fact sheet that the military occupation forces forced tens of thousands of Gaza children to forcibly migrate, and in dozens of cases, "Hurriya" recorded the displacement of children without their families after they lost them as a result of the military attacks carried out by the occupation forces without taking into account the rules and provisions

of humanitarian law.

He pointed out that tens of thousands of Gaza children in the governorates of the Gaza Strip are exposed to malnutrition and systematic starvation, which the occupation forces are using as a means in their ongoing aggression against civilians.

The fact sheet addressed the international protection that the rules of international humanitarian law have granted to children, and addressed their minimum rights guaranteed by international agreements related to children.

"Hurriya" stated that the silence of the international community, the United Nations and its various agencies on the crimes of the occupation forces against Gaza children has reinforced the occupation forces' evasion of the principles, values and norms of armed conflicts, and made them persist in violating those rules and norms.

At the end of the detailed paper, "Hurriya" stressed the need to end the policy of impunity that Israeli war criminals have enjoyed for decades, calling for the need for the international community and the high contracting parties to the Geneva Conventions to take urgent action and rapid intervention that ensures the provision of protection for the Palestinian people in general and for children in particular.

"Hurriya" renewed its call to the UN Secretary-General to take serious steps to ensure that the Israeli occupation authorities are permanently included in the annual "shame" list of parties that violate children's rights.

CBD Punjab Showcases Sustainable Vision at the COP29

City Desk

LAHORE: A high-level delegation from the Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), led by CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin and Chairman of the Board CBD Punjab, Barrister Syed Azfar Ali Nasir, represented the authority at the prestigious 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

At the Pakistan Pavilion, CBD Punjab presented its innovative, eco-friendly, and sustainable projects, highlighting the authority's commitment to mitigating climate change impacts while fostering substantial global investment opportunities.

Speaking at the event, CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin said, "CBD Punjab is pioneering the adoption of innovative, eco-friendly techniques never before implemented in Pakistan. These strategies are not only addressing climate change but also creating avenues for international investment. We welcome global stakeholders to join us in driving sustainable development."

Chairman Board CEO Punjab, Barrister Syed Azfar Ali Nasir, in his address said, "Our initiatives represent a unique blend of sustainability and economic potential. CBD Punjab offers unparalleled opportunities for investment in environmentally friendly projects, and we invite the international business community to be a part of this transformative journey."

Through its presentation, CBD Punjab showcased innovative approaches such as green building technologies, renewable energy integration, and environmentally conscious infrastructure development. These projects are designed not only to combat the adverse effects of climate change but also to position Punjab as a hub for sustainable economic growth.

SAARC chief Iftikhar Malik calls for good governance to attract foreign investments

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Wednesday said viable results oriented prudent policies laced with good governance are crucial for building investor confidence and attracting foreign investments in diversified sectors of Pakistan.

In a statement issued here today he said in Pakistan, such policies can play a transformative role in achieving and maintaining economic stability. Good governance, characterized by transparency, accountability, and efficiency, creates an environment where investors feel secure and confident in the stability and predictability of their investments. He said transparency in government operations is essential that must reflect clear and open communication about economic policies, regulatory changes, and financial health. By making information readily available and easily accessible, investors can make prompt decisions. Transparency reduces the risk of corruption and builds trust between the government and the business community, he added.

Iftikhar Malik said accountability mechanisms must be strengthened which includes establishing independent regulatory bodies to oversee financial markets, ensuring that laws and regulations are enforced fairly and consistently.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said moreover, political stability and consistency in economic policies are fundamental. Frequent changes in policy direction can create uncertainty, deterring long-term investment. A stable political environment, with a clear and consistent economic strategy, reassures investors of the government's commitment to economic growth and stability. Collaborative efforts can lead to the development and implementation of policies that foster a conducive investment climate, he concluded.

Grand Inauguration Ceremony of SumSum Group's Grand II Project

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The grand inauguration ceremony of SumSum Group's "Grand II Project" was held, graced by prominent and esteemed personalities of the city. Distinguished attendees included Mr. Zaid Khan Tessori, son of the Governor of Sindh; former Federal Minister Miftah Ismail; Mufti Abdul Raheem of Jamia Tur Rasheed Karachi; Chairman of ABAD Hassan Bakhshi; and President of DEFCLAREA, Johar Iqbal, among other notable figures from social and business circles.

The event began with a warm welcome by Mr. Asif SumSum, Chairman of SumSum Group, who



highlighted the group's achievements and shared insights into their future plans and vision.

A key moment of the ceremony was the recognition of SumSum Group's efforts and accomplishments by the distinguished guests, including Mr. Zaid Khan Tessori, Mr. Miftah Ismail, Mufti Abdul Raheem, Mr. Hassan Bakhshi, and Mr. Johar Iqbal. They expressed their hope that the Grand II Project would achieve its goals successfully, benefiting not only SumSum Group but also the broader business community.

This ceremony marked a milestone for SumSum Group, signifying the beginning of a new era for the city's business and social communities.

Zong 4G launches Pakistan's first large language model to help improve customer experience

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, a leader in digital innovation has developed Pakistan's first locally created Large Language Model (LLM), a breakthrough in the nation's telecom sector. As the only telecom operator in Pakistan to have developed an advanced AI-driven model in-house, Zong is set to transform digital interactions and elevate customer service standards, cementing its position as

the technological leader in the industry.

Zong's proprietary LLM is meticulously designed for the unique linguistic, cultural, and contextual nuances of Pakistani users, offering an AI-driven solution tailored specifically for the local market. This landmark initiative is part of Zong's ongoing commitment to usher in world-class digital experiences, responding to the growing demand for AI-powered solutions and empowering

Pakistani customers with technology-driven interactions that are faster, more intuitive, and highly personalized. "Zong is leading the technology innovation by localizing and implementing latest technologies, like AI to serve its 50 million subscribers and setting benchmark for the industry," said Ali Waqas, Executive Director, Digital Technologies at Zong 4G.

The LLM's capabilities span a range of telecom-specific use

cases.

For example, it can streamline customer support by providing instant, accurate responses to complex queries related to mobile plans, data usage, and account issues, reducing wait times and enhancing satisfaction.

A Zong user could, for instance, ask the LLM about the best data plan for international roaming. With its deep understanding of telecom products, the LLM would

provide tailored recommendations, helping the customer choose the most suitable option based on their travel needs and usage patterns.

As Zong prepares for the commercial launch of its LLM, the company remains focused on data security, ethical AI use, and model refinement. The LLM is set to integrate across Zong's platforms, from customer service channels to digital app interfaces, creating a unified experience that is



not only responsive but also culturally relevant to Pakistani customers.

Through this pioneering development, Zong reaffirms its dedication to providing cutting-edge solutions and setting benchmarks for telecom

innovation. This homegrown LLM not only advances Zong's capabilities but also signifies Pakistan's rising presence in the global AI landscape, opening doors to future advancements in the local tech ecosystem.

Through this pioneering development, Zong reaffirms its dedication to providing cutting-edge solutions and setting benchmarks for telecom

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
95,546.45	95,856.66
Day's High	Day's Low
96,711.33	95,212.63
Index Value	Change
24,751,655,529	-310.21
Percentage	Time
-0.32%	20 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
8,085.07	-13.95
Percentage	Time
-0.17%	20 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
43,207.04	-61.90
Percentage	Time
-0.14%	20 Nov, 12:43 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
38,352.34	-62.09
Percentage	Time
-0.16%	20 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181.25	181.43
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	198.16	200.56
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	290.85	293.60
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	894.99	904.49
Malaysian Ringgit	62.5	63.10
New Zealand \$	163.14	165.14
Norwegians Krone	24.78	25.08
Omani Riyal	715.66	724.16
Qatari Riyal	75.62	76.32
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	206.27	208.27
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	311.45	314.25
Thai Bhat	7.93	8.08
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	349.55	353.05
US Dollar	277.60	279.10

Korangi's traders, industrialists keen to explore Ethiopian market

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) on Wednesday shown keen interest in visiting the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) to explore business, trade and investment opportunities in diverse sectors of its growing economy.

The trade and industrialists from KATI expressed their interest for that matter during a meeting with H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the FDR Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, who highlighted extraordinary business, trade and investment opportunities in five major economic sectors including agriculture & agro-processing, manufacturing, mining, tourism and ICT.

H. E. Ambassador Dr. Jemal said the Government of Ethiopia has undertaken the Home Grown Economic Reforms which had shown promising results, addressing macro-economic imbalances, increasing productivity, creating ease of doing business and providing a conducive environment for attracting the foreign direct investment.

He said the capital city of Ethiopia—Addis



Ababa is a third diplomatic hub hosting a number of international conferences every year including the African Union Summit. "This shows the strategic importance of Ethiopia and safe and secure environment for the global citizens."

The Ambassador expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for hosting the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa in May 2025, which would eventually give

a major boost to the bilateral trade between the two countries.

He said Ethiopia offered a comparative advantage to the Pakistani investors in terms of strategic location, cheap, clean and green energy, skilled labour, and on top of that full fledged support from the government.

"Let us work together to achieve common interest of enhancing trade relations between our two countries that enjoy brotherly relations for the last 66 years," he remarked.

H. E. Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul of the FDR Ethiopia in Karachi, also addressed the business community and urged them to penetrate in the Ethiopian market which has a huge trade and investment potential.

H. E. Junaid Naqi, KATI's President, said the business community of Korangi is looking forward to the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa, assuring the Ambassador of leading a delegation from KATI to the event.

Later, H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula planted a sapling at KATI along with its President as a follow up to the joint tree plantation drive launched by the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad and KATI under the Green Legacy Initiative of H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

COP 29

Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan in COP 29 at Baku, Azerbaijan on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Uzbekistan Airways to start direct flights between Pakistan and Uzbekistan from November 29: envoy



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Uzbekistan Airways is going to start direct flights between Pakistan and Uzbekistan from November 29, said Excellency Alisher Tukhtaev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan. In a meeting with Mr. Rehan Naseem Bharara, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), Uzbek ambassador stressed the need to enhance bilateral trade between the private sectors of the two countries. He said that there was huge potential to increase bilateral trade but it could not be materialized due to multiple reasons. He said that he would encourage direct relations between the business communities of the two countries and in its first phase B2B zoom meetings would be arranged. "However, in the second

phase, exchange of trade delegations would also be started", he said and added that the Uzbek embassy would adopt a liberal visa policy for businessmen and preferably visas would be issued on the recommendation of FCCI. He offered President FCCI to arrange a trade delegation from Faisalabad to promote bilateral relations between the businessmen of the two countries. Ambassador assured them that he would provide them with maximum facilities to easily interact with Uzbekistan. President FCCI said that there was huge untapped business potential and we must make serious and collaborative efforts to exploit it for the benefit of the two countries. He appreciated the efforts of the Uzbek ambassador and invited him to visit FCCI.

TCL Launch First Exclusive TCL Center in Multan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV brand, is excited to announce the grand opening of its first-ever exclusive TCL Center in Multan, marking a significant milestone in the brand's expansion across Pakistan. This launch highlights TCL's ongoing commitment to delivering cutting-edge technology and immersive entertainment experiences to consumers, further solidifying its position as a global leader in home entertainment solutions.

Chairman Fatima Group of Industry Mian Faisal Mukhtar A. Sheikh the chief Guest at the event. The new TCL Center offers a dedicated space where customers can explore and purchase an extensive range of TCL products, including the brand's award-winning LED TVs and energy-efficient air conditioners. Focusing on providing high-quality, affordable technology, the store aims to serve as a one-stop destination for all TCL enthusiasts in the region.

Majid Khan Niazi, Director of Marketing for TCL Middle East and Africa, shared, "The launch of our first TCL Center in Multan is a significant milestone in our mission to bring world-class entertainment technology to every corner of Pakistan. This store not only strengthens our position as the No. 1 LED TV brand but also reinforces our commitment to offering exceptional products that enhance the lives of our customers."



Located at Gulshan Market Multan, the new TCL Center in Multan offers a modern and dynamic space for customers to explore the best of TCL's innovative products and services. Whether you're looking for a new TV for your living room or an air conditioner for a cooler home, the TCL Center is the ideal destination for tech enthusiasts and families alike.

and dynamic space for customers to explore the best of TCL's innovative products and services. Whether you're looking for a new TV for your living room or an air conditioner for a cooler home, the TCL Center is the ideal destination for tech enthusiasts and families alike.

Newage Cables Signs 100 Million SAR MoU with Araib Group at Saudi Build Expo 2024

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan's leading cable manufacturer, Newage Cables Pvt Ltd, has signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Arabia's Araib Group for the supply of cables valued at 100 million SAR. The agreement was finalized at the prestigious Saudi Build Expo 2024, the international trade fair for construction materials and building technologies, held at the Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center.

Mr. Ayaz Amer, Director at Newage Cables Pvt Ltd, said, "This agreement with Araib Group is a significant milestone for us. We are honored to be part of Saudi Arabia's impressive growth and infrastructure development. Our high-quality cables will support critical infrastructure projects, and we are proud to contribute to powering



the future of the Kingdom. A big thank you to everyone involved in making this partnership a reality."

The MoU sets the foundation for a long-term collaboration between the two companies and is expected to generate substantial business in the region, paving the way for Newage Cables to become a key player in

Saudi Arabia's growing construction and infrastructure sectors.

The signing ceremony, attended by key industry leaders and officials, marks a new chapter in the strengthening of bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, further reinforcing the shared commitment to regional development.

Jazz & ENA join forces-unleashing Cutting-Edge Precision Cooling to Drive Next-Gen Connectivity

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jazz has entrusted ENA (a company of JBS) with Three Years Frame Agreement for Precision Cooling Solution for their Datacenters.

Precision cooling is essential for mission critical IT environments like datacenters where even slight variations in temperature can impact performance.

In the telecom sector, where uninterrupted communication and connectivity is paramount, this agreement will enable Jazz to deliver top-tier connectivity services by maintaining stable and efficient data center conditions. In addition, the solution contributes to lesser carbon footprint and gas emissions which help in achieving sustainability goals.

"Delighted with the strategic partnership with Jazz to provide state of the art Data Center and cooling Technology. The frame agreement demonstrates JBS continued commitment to promoting AI based sustainable solutions. It also reflects strongly on JAZZ's ability to invest and adapt state of the art technology to its customers". Says Veqar Ul Islam, CEO & Director of JBS.

"We are excited to be part of this transformation journey of Jazz and aspire to set the benchmark for energy efficient data center in Pakistan". Says Ahsan Qamar, Country leader of Schneider Electric for Secure Power & Digital Energy

JAZZ is the teelo Industry giant, and their trust in us is a matter of pride as well as test for us and we are fully committed to delivering our best products and services, as says our new logo "JBS, works better", Says Amir Salman, CEO of ENA.

Awarding the three-year contract to ENA is a testament to ENA's capability and reliability in providing advanced cooling solutions for mission critical IT environment.

"Efficient cooling solutions in data centers are essential for operational resilience and energy efficiency. With the rising demand for data processing, responsible cooling systems ensure optimized performance and contribute to a reduced carbon footprint.

Trader Leader Ghulam Bilal Javid Announces Support for Imran Khan's November 24 Call



Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: A significant meeting was held under the leadership of trader leader Ghulam Bilal Javid at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Trader Chamber. The meeting was attended by former Cantonment Board member and senior PTI leader Ghulam Hussain Chand, along with a large number of PTI workers, supporters, and members of the business community.

During the meeting, participants expressed deep concern over the policies of the current government, stating that the inflation rate continues to rise while claims of reduction are made on electronic

media. They noted that the stock index has reached an all-time high, but the buying and selling of vehicles and property have come to a standstill. Moreover, major plants and factories in the automobile sector are shutting down, severely impacting business activities.

The trader leaders emphasized the need to support the final call for peaceful protest by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on November 24, considering the country's current economic challenges. It was also affirmed that the business community is ready to play an active role in improving the country's economy.

Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan suffer decline in ICC T20I Rankings

Sports Desk

DUBAI: Pakistan batters Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan experienced a drop in their positions in the latest ICC T20I Batting Rankings released on Wednesday.

The Green Shirts suffered a humiliating whitewash in the three-match series, mainly courtesy of the team's below-par batting performance.

Babar managed a meagre 47 runs in the series at an average of 15.66 and a strike-rate of 142.42, meanwhile, Rizwan scored 16 runs in two games at a dismal strike-rate of 57.14. Consequently, both batters dropped one place each in the ICC T20I Batting Rankings.

Mohammad Rizwan is currently in 6th place with 719 rating points, while Babar Azam has dropped from 4th to 5th place with 742 rating points.

It's worth noting that other than



Babar and Rizwan, no Pakistani batter is among the top 50 batters in the T20I rankings, with Fakhar Zaman (64) being

the third-highest-ranked batter from the country. Meanwhile, Indian batter Tilak Varma

made a massive leap in the ICC T20I Batting Rankings, jumping a whopping 69 spots to clinch third place after his stellar performance in the four-match series against South Africa.

Varma smashed two undefeated centuries in the series, amassing a total of 280 runs over the course of four innings with a remarkable average of 140.00 and an explosive strike rate of 198.58.

It's worth noting that Australia's Travis Head, who missed the series against Pakistan, is leading the batting rankings, followed by England's Phil Salt.

Varma's team-mate Sanju Samson, who was the second-highest run-scorer in the series against South Africa, also made a notable gain, rising 17 places to reach 292nd.

Samson also struck two centuries during the series and accumulated 216 runs at an average of 111 and a strike rate of 194.59.

Aaqib Javed opens up on Fakhar Zaman's potential comeback

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Aaqib Javed, the interim white-ball head coach of Pakistan, has discussed the potential return of top-order batter Fakhar Zaman to the national team on Wednesday.

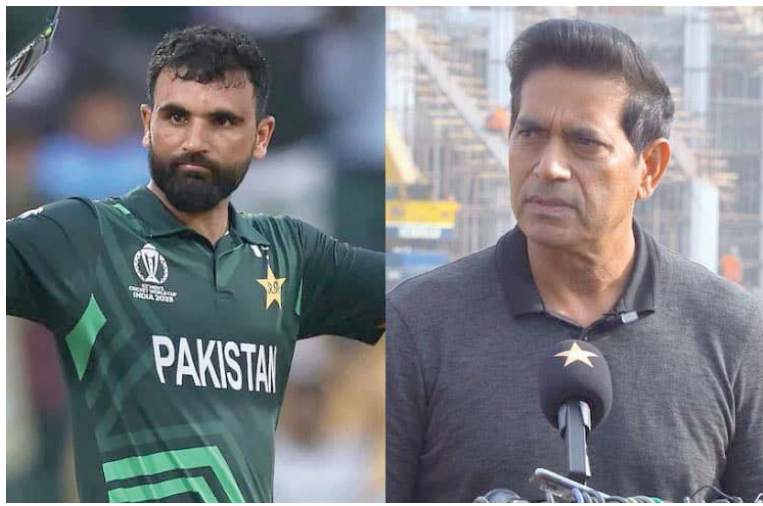
Fakhar was excluded from the central contracts for the 2024-25 international season, as well as the squads for the tours to Australia and Zimbabwe last month.

However, Aaqib, who recently took charge as the interim head coach, heaped praise on Fakhar, calling him a match-winner.

The former pacer shared that Fakhar is dealing with some fitness issues and he will be back in the team once he achieves full recovery.

"Fakhar Zaman is a match-winner. He has been facing some fitness issues, but the selection committee will reconsider him once he regains fitness," Aaqib stated while addressing the media in Lahore.

Remember, Fakhar expressed his



disappointment through a social media post over the selection committee's decision to drop star batter Babar Azam after the first Test against England last month. Consequently, the Pakistan Cricket

Board (PCB) issued a show-cause notice to the left-hander over breaching the Code of Conduct.

Aaqib Javed further shared that as interim head coach his goal is to take

Pakistan cricket forward using his extensive coaching experience.

"PCB has entrusted me with additional responsibilities, and I will fulfil them to the best of my abilities," he added. "I have been coaching for over 22 years and will use my experience with the team."

"As a coach, I am not focusing on individual players but on improving Pakistan cricket as a whole."

He emphasized that significant changes are needed for Pakistan's T20I team, and for this reason, new players will be provided ample opportunities ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup 2026.

"There's still over a year left for the next T20 World Cup, so a lot of changes will be seen," Aaqib Javed stated.

"The team selected for Zimbabwe gives a message to new players that they will be given opportunities.

"However, as of now, we are focusing more on ODI matches and the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025."

Haris Rauf makes significant leap, Shaheen Afridi moves down in ICC T20I Rankings

Sports Desk

DUBAI: Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf made a significant leap, while his fellow pacer Shaheen Afridi experienced a downfall in the latest ICC T20I Bowling Rankings released on Wednesday.

The Green Shirts suffered a humiliating whitewash in the three-match series against Australia, which resulted in Pakistani players' steep fall in the rankings.

Shaheen Afridi had a disappointing outing during the series, struggling to find his rhythm on the field. He managed to claim just one wicket, resulting in a frustrating bowling average of 107.00 and a high economy rate of 11.88 runs per over.

This below-par performance caused him to drop 10 spots to settle in the 24th position in the ICC T20I Bowling Rankings.

Similarly, Naseem Shah also claimed only one wicket in two games, conceding runs at an economy rate of 13.50, which caused him to drop 14 places to 65th.

However, Haris Rauf and Abbas Afridi made significant gains in the ICC T20I Bowling Rankings courtesy of their brilliant performances despite Pakistan's loss.

Haris gained four spots to reach 20th



with 601 rating points after taking five wickets in three games at an average of 15.40.

Meanwhile, Abbas Afridi claimed six wickets in as many games at a brilliant average of 6.66, which resulted in him

entering the top 100 T20I bowlers in the rankings. He is currently sitting in the 83rd spot after making a 39-place jump.

Former Pakistan captain suggests Sahibzada Farhan is not 'international material'

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Salman Butt has criticised top-order batter Sahibzada Farhan for his repeated failures in the recently concluded T20I series against Australia.

The Green Shirts suffered a humiliating whitewash in the three-match series, mainly courtesy of the team's below-par batting performance.

Farhan made his return to the team during the series, having last played in the T20I series

against New Zealand earlier this year, however, he failed to impress particularly struggling against short-pitched deliveries.

In a dismal display of batting, he scored just 22 runs across three innings at a strike rate of 104.76, with his highest score being a mere nine.

However, what made his shortcomings even more remarkable was the identical nature of his dismissals in all three matches.

He consistently attempted to execute a pull shot against the

short-pitched deliveries from Spencer Johnson, only to find himself caught by Xavier Bartlett at mid-wicket each time.

Salman Butt, in a video on his YouTube channel, after the third T20I, expressed his concerns about Farhan's struggles against pace and bounce.

"He was late on the ball. After getting out once or twice, a batter realizes that he's late on a particular shot, especially here [in Australia], where there is steep bounce and the new ball is coming at pace," said Butt.

The former captain pointed out that Sahibzada Farhan failed to adjust his technique and kept getting out in a similar way, which highlights his limitations.

"You either avoid such deliveries or if you can't avoid them, you take a single towards third man on such short-pitched balls. But if you keep getting out playing the same shot in the same way, it means your shot selection is limited," he added.

Salman Butt further emphasized that Farhan's struggles



serve as a poignant reminder that not all players who excel in domestic cricket are ready

for international cricket.

"This shows that not everyone who scores runs in

domestic cricket is necessarily an international material," he concluded.

XII Star, Haideri Club win in Super Eight T20



Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Faisal Sports Super Eight T20 Cricket League XI Star and Haideri Club won their matches. The first match of the tournament was played between Haideri Cricket Club and Victory Club. Victory Club, batting first, was bowled out after scoring 150 runs in 20 overs. Sameer Ali scored 55 runs for Victory Club. Zahid Mansoor dismissed three players for Haideri Cricket Club. In reply, Haideri Cricket Club completed the target one over early. Ehsanullah scored 53 and Zahid Mansoor scored 38 runs for Haideri Club. Zahid Mansoor was declared the best player of the match. In the second match of the tournament, XI Star defeated Potohar Club by 61 runs. XI Star, batting first, scored 158 runs. Hasnat scored 39 and Faisal Islam scored 37 runs for XI Star. In reply, Potohar Club was bowled out after scoring only 97 runs. Faisal Islam, representing Eleven Star Cricket Club, took five wickets and was declared the man of the match.

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



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VII Whites moved into Final of the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament after beating Zone-II Whites by 127 runs in the first Semi final at KCCA Stadium.

The highlights of the days play was some fine batting by Amanullah Khan 62, Omar Admani 54 and Hassan unbeaten 41. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies.

Scores in Brief:

Zone-VII Whites 236/4 in 40 Overs. Amanullah Khan 62, Omar Admani 54 4x4, Hassan 41 2x4 4x6 not out, Riaz Ahmed 32 not out, Hassan Ahmed Siddiqui 17. In reply Zone-II Whites all out in Overs. Aitaz Khan 21, Muzammil Hussain 18, S. Hussain Imam 18 not out. S. Abdul Rafay 3/20, Muhammad Uzair 2/25.

Later S. M. Asim Vice President Zone-IV given the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Amanullah Khan of Zone-VII Whites. The 2nd Semi Final will be played on Thursday 21st November between Zone-VI Whites and Zone-VII Blues at KCCA Stadium.

NPSC Gymnasium Hall hosted male and female table tennis trials



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC) Gymnasium Hall hosted male and female table tennis trials for the selection of Sports Board Punjab team. The selected team will participate in the Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games scheduled to take place at Islamabad from December 13 to 19, 2024.

A large number girls and boys from all divisions of the province appeared in the trials held under the supervision of expert coaches. Out of these players, 16 male and female players have been selected to represent Sports Board Punjab in the grand event.

DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry has congratulated the selected players. He said that all the trials for the selection of Sports Board Punjab teams are being conducted purely on merit. "We are quite upbeat that the Sports Board Punjab teams will exhibit satisfactory performance in the mega event of Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games."

Following are the selected table tennis players:

Women's team: Maiza Shabkhaiz, Sayda Hijab Zahra, Abceera Noman, Azka Rehman, Pakeeza Sarfraz, Masooma Fatima, Ayesha Tariq and Laiba Hameed.

Men's team: Taha Bilal, Ata ul Mannan, Zain, Mutahir, Abdul Muqet, Abu Baker, Moosa Asif and Arman.

Inaugurations

KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf laid foundation of Pakistan Maritime Science and Technology Park (PMSTP) during IDEAD 2024 on Thursday.



Naval Chief inaugurates Pakistan Maritime Science and Technology Park

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The groundbreaking ceremony of Pakistan's first Maritime Science and Technology Park (PMSTP) was held at EXPO Centre during IDEAS-2024. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, graced the event as the Chief Guest.

While addressing the ceremony, the Naval Chief highlighted historic significance of the project, stating that PMSTP will pave the way for much-needed growth in maritime sciences, technologies, businesses, and industries. He emphasized that this initiative will open new avenues for enhancing Pakistan's GDP and advancing the maritime sector. The Naval Chief further underscored that the success of PMSTP reflects strong partnerships cultivated with visionary individuals and organiza-

tions. PMSTP is the country's first dedicated maritime science park, integrating academia, industry, and government in a unique collaboration to foster growth across Pakistan's maritime sectors. The park's initiatives will target diverse fields, including Naval Technologies, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Ocean Renewable Energy, Seafood Processing, Shipbuilding, and Coastal Tourism.

PMSTP is envisioned as a transformative hub for innovation and advancement, focusing on maritime science and technology to bolster Pakistan's blue economy. The project represents a significant step toward addressing Pakistan's economic challenges, with plans for expansion beyond Karachi to Islamabad, Lahore, and Gwadar.

Pakistan, China conducts joint exercise in Counter Terrorism



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Opening Ceremony of Pak-China Joint Exercise Warrior-VIII between Pakistan Army and Peoples' Liberation Army of China was conducted at National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Pabbi, today.

Three weeks long Exercise in Counter Terrorism domain is 8th in

the series of bilateral exercise being conducted annually.

The exercise is aimed at refining professional skills through joint training besides harnessing the historic military to military relations among the Iron Clad Brothers.

Lieutenant General Shahid Intiaz, HI (M), Commander Rawalpindi Corps graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

COAS for giving priority to Pakistan over personal interests

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on Wednesday categorically said that nothing is above the country including politics adding that we must all give priority to Pakistan over personal interests.

Addressing at a gathering of the business community of Karachi, the COAS said the state is like a mother and its value should be asked from the people of Libya, Iraq and Palestine. "Remember, we have no identity apart from

Pakistan," he reiterated.

He said no matter what the challenges, no one can harm us, if we all stand united. "I have complete faith in Pakistan's bright and stable future," he added.

The COAS said that only Pakistanis can bring economic stability to Pakistan through a bailout. "Bring your investments to Pakistan so that the people earn, and the nation becomes prosper," he said.

Gen Asim Munir said the clouds of hopelessness, loomed a year ago have now vanished. Recalling his last meeting, he mentioned that



hopelessness is forbidden for a Muslim. "Today, all indicators of Pakistan's economy are

positive, and by next year, God willing, it will further improve," he remarked.

The COAS questioned, "Where are the people now who spread disappointment and talked about default of the country." "Shouldn't they be held accountable?" he asked.

Gen Asim said terrorism is supported by those involved in illegal businesses and they are backed by specific elements.

"The protection of country's digital borders and the digital security of its citizens is the responsibility of the state," he added.

Planning minister directs sites' identification, concept paper preparation for M- SEZs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday directed the officials concerned to identify suitable sites for the establishment of Model Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and prepare a comprehensive concept paper for the purpose.

He passed these directives while chairing a meeting on Model-SEZs and the policy framework for the relocation of Chinese industries



to Pakistan, following a detailed

briefing by officials from the Board of Investment (BOI).

Stressing the need to enhance G2G (government-to-government) joint cooperation with China, he said Pakistan would provide land to Chinese industries, while they would manage the infrastructure and market these zones themselves.

Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the importance of industrial zones and said that a one-window facility would be provided to these zones so that investors do not face any difficulties.

He also mentioned that no negligence would be tolerated in the construction of the zones or the provision of facilities there.

The planning minister further said there would be regular meetings with Chinese companies every month to address their problems promptly, if any arose.

He termed the security of Chinese citizens as the 'top priority' of the government and vowed that the enemies of Pakistan and development would not be allowed to cause any dent to Pakistan-China relations.

Pakistan's climate aide stresses need for disaster risk financing to address climate change

City Desk

ISLAMABAD/BAKU: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that the escalating adverse fallouts of climate change including extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and prolonged droughts have underlined the urgent need for climate-vulnerable developing countries to hammer out comprehensive strategies to address loss and damage in vulnerable communities.

However, integrating disaster risk financing into broader loss and damage efforts is a crucial step toward building resilience, ensuring timely response, and supporting long-term recovery, she emphasized while delivering a keynote address at an important event 'Pakistan and the Global Shield' held at the Pakistan Pavilion in Baku on the sidelines of COP29 global climate summit held on Wednesday.

"Integrating disaster risk financing into loss and damage efforts represents a proactive approach to managing the escalating costs of climate change. By combining innovative financial tools with inclusive, data-driven strategies, governments, and global partners can mitigate climate risks,

support recovery, and foster resilience," the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam told the participants from various countries, UN agencies and nongovernmental organisations. "Collaborative action today will safeguard communities and ecosystems for a more secure and equitable future."

She said further that today's discussions with climate and disaster insurance experts and the climate change & environmental coordination ministry's senior officials explored the pressing gaps in pre-arranged financial protection—particularly in public infrastructure, agricultural livelihoods, and small businesses—and how the Global Shield can bring unique value by aligning development efforts, fostering a country-led process, and leveraging pre-arranged financing instruments.

"Let me also highlight an important takeaway from today Pakistan's approach serves as a model for integrating disaster risk financing into broader loss and damage efforts. This comprehensive, data-informed, and inclusive process sets an inspiring precedent for other climate-vulnerable nations," the PM's coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam remarked.

Murad to develop a dedicated park for children with disabilities at Clifton

Abdul Ghafoor Saroqi

KARACHI: On the eve of World Children's Day, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah visited the UJALA Centre, a facility dedicated to children with autism and disabilities, and announced the development of UJALA-II with the partnership between Department of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD) Ujala Centre in Defence Phase-8. Mr Shah reaffirmed his government's commitment to addressing the needs of all children, including those with disabilities and fostering a more inclusive society. "An inclusive Sindh is a prosperous Sindh," emphasised Murad Shah, highlighting that every child deserves equal opportunities to thrive," he said.

The chief minister was accompanied by the Secretary of the Department of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD), Taha Farooqi. Chairman UJALA Centre Zakria Godal and CEO Hamad Aslam received the chief minister.

At UJALA Centre Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah Visits

Ujala Centre, Announces Park for Children with Disabilities

On Wednesday, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah visited the Ujala Centre, touring the facility and engaging with stakeholders to better understand the challenges faced by children with disabilities, particularly those with autism.

During his visit, the Chief Minister received a comprehensive briefing on the UJALA -II C-ARTS DEPDP project. "This initiative aims to support children with autism and related conditions by providing specialised educational and therapeutic services," the CM said.

The Ujala -II project would be established over an area of 400 Square Yards in Defence Phase-8 in partnership with UJALA, headed by Mr Yakoob Zakria and the provincial government's DEPDP. The CM praised the efforts of Mr Zakria in creating a nurturing environment for children and emphasised the importance of expanding such initiatives to promote inclusive education across Sindh.

PTI, govt prepare for November 24 show down

Continued from Page 1

and District Police Officer (DPO) will be responsible for transportation of the force.

Following orders from the Inspector General of Punjab, the AIG Operations Punjab has sent the memo to the relevant officials.

Police crackdown on PTI activists ahead of protest in response to the PTI's call for a protest on November 24, police have become active, with Lahore Police arresting 107 PTI activists during a crackdown.

Police sources indicate that the crackdown is ongoing, and further arrests are expected. Many active PTI members and leaders have gone into hiding.

Additionally, police sources mentioned that since May 9, various incidents have led to the filing of 65 First Information Reports (FIRs), with 1,909 PTI activists and leaders wanted by the police. Operations to apprehend the suspects are currently underway.

PTI forms committees and monitoring cell for November 24 protest

nor any damage caused to property during protests.

Termining the PTI agitation strategy as incomplete, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the PTI has the right to protest but it is now being increasingly 'exposed which may not be a good sign'.

It is to be noted here that the incarcerated founder of PTI, Imran Khan, announced date for final protest in Islamabad on November 24.

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur assured that he would not return home until the release of PTI founder. Bushra Bibi, the wife of Imran Khan, asked the party officials to devise tactics for preventing arrest during their protest.

"November 24 will be a loyalty test for PTI members," she said in a purported audio.

Under the direction of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, two committees have been established in the twin cities for the protest scheduled on November 24. Late at night, PTI leaders held a crucial meeting at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad to discuss protest strategies and potential negotiations. Additionally, a monitoring cell has been set up for the PTI's protest movement.

Details indicate that two 12-member committees have been formed for the twin cities, with six PTI leaders each from Islamabad and Rawalpindi included.

PTI Additional Secretary General Firdous Shamim issued a notification listing the committee members. The Islamabad committee will be led by Amir Mughal, Shoaib Shaheen, Ali Bukhari, Sher Afzal Marwat, Qazi Tanveer, and Malik Amir. For Rawalpindi, the committee includes Chaudhry Amir Afzal, Aqlak Khan, Raja Basharat, Simabiah Tahir, Shehryar Riaz, and Colonel (Retd) Ajmal Sabir.