



**Terrorism is condemned in all its shapes: President of Iran**

I offer my sincere condolences to the government and nation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan particularly the bereaved families of the victims of the terrorist incident in the Kurum area of Pakistan leading to the death and injury of some Pakistani citizens. Terrorism is condemned in all its shapes and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as in the past, will stand by the brotherly and friendly country of Pakistan to combat terrorism.



**PM announces award for FBR officer who identified massive sales tax fraud**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday announced a Rs5 million award and presented a commendatory shield to an FBR officer Ijaz Hussain who identified a sales tax fraud worth trillions of rupees. The prime minister, talking to the said officer, who called on him at the PM House, appreciated his dutifulness and honesty.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Appreciation for performance**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with FBR officials to appreciate their performance for Sales Tax fraud detection on Thursday.



Photo: PID

**CJCSC visits IDEAS-24, holds wide-ranging talks with officials of different countries**



Khurram Jaffrani

KARACHI: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) on Thursday visited the 12th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS-24) and held wide-ranging talks on the sidelines.

The CJCSC held separate meetings with numerous officials including Defence Ministers, Commanders of Armed Forces and other important officials from different countries, including Turkiye, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Argentina, Malaysia, UAE, Cambodia, Kingdom of Eswatini, Gambia, Brunei, Maldives and Malawi, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

During the aforementioned meetings, key aspects of the defense and security relationship were discussed. All parties reflected on various areas of bilateral security and cooperation, especially in defense production.

The dignitaries expressed a strong interest in deepening their engagement with Pakistan's defence sector. The CJCSC also gave a keynote speech at a seminar, titled "Pakistan's Defence Production and Potential: Challenges and Way forward".

The Chairman JCSC emphasized that Pakistan's defence industry is the force behind equipping the battle-hardened Armed Forces of Pakistan.

He further said that through superior R&D and using innovative and cost-effective solutions, Pakistan's defence industries are not only fulfilling country's essential defence requirements but also exploring avenues of collaboration in the international defence market.

He noted that the platform of IDEAS is an ideal opportunity for publicizing Pakistan's well-developed Defence Industrial Complex to the international community.

The Chairman JCSC also

Continued on Page 8

**Gunmen kill 38 in attack on passenger vans in KP's Kurram**

**Bureau Report**

PESHAWAR: At least 38 people, including women, were killed when unidentified gunmen sprayed bullets at Peshawar-bound passenger vans in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district on Thursday, officials said. The van was coming from Parachinar.

"Two separate convoys of Shia people... were targeted by the terrorists in the Kurram district," Javedullah Mehsud, a senior administration official.

"The death toll has now risen to 38, with 11 others injured in both attacks," he said, revising an earlier toll.

"Initial reports confirm that the victims include six women, several children, and police officers," he added.

"Approximately 10 attackers were



involved in both incidents, firing indiscriminately from both sides of the road."

A police officer confirmed the latest toll, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

"Both convoys consisted of around 40 vehicles travelling under police escort," he told to media.

Mehsud said that "women and children sought refuge in local houses, and we are currently searching for (the attackers) in the area."

"Initial reports suggest it was the same sectarian issue that has plagued the region for months," he said in an earlier statement, adding that most of the victims were Shia.

Tribes have been engaged in intermittent fighting for several months in Kurram.

In October, at least 16 people, including three women and two children, were killed in a sectarian clash in the district.

Previous clashes in July and September killed dozens of people and ended only after a jirga, or tribal council, called a ceasefire.

**PM for ensuring third party validation in all government procurements**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the relevant authorities to ensure third party validation including quality insurance in all the government procurements.

Chairing a meeting held here to review good governance and public procurements, the prime minister also directed to bring reforms in Public Procurement

Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and purge the authority of any type of influence.

"Procurement of services and purchasing in all government institutions in a transparent way is the top priority of the government," the prime minister said adding that ensuring transparency in the government institutions' procurement would help building the foreign investors' confidence on Pakistan.

The prime minister directed to

establish a committee, separate from the procurement agency, to address complaints related to the procurement process.

He also stressed to appoint qualified, professional, and experienced experts at PPRA on merit.

The prime minister instructed all government departments to use e-Procurement (e-PADS) besides establishing special procurement cells in government departments for purchasing and

acquiring services.

Transparency in government affairs is essential for national development, he said.

During the meeting, the prime minister was informed that the review of the PPRA Ordinance and related rules and regulations had been completed, and the amendments would soon be presented to the federal cabinet for approval.

The aim of these amendments is to ensure transparency in the

procurement process and to align them with contemporary requirements, the meeting was told.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Petroleum Minister Dr Musadik Malik, Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja, PPRA Board members, World Bank Country Director and other relevant high officials attended the meeting.

**PTI faces setback ahead of Nov 24 protest as IHC rules no protest allowed over weekend**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan has encountered a significant setback ahead of its planned protest on November 24, as the Islamabad High Court ruled that no protests or rallies violating a recent law on public gatherings would be permitted over the weekend due to the visit of the Belaru-

sian president.

The PTI founder had issued a "final call" for the protest for the "restoration" of democracy and judiciary. He condemned what he referred to as a stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of individuals, and the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which he claims has bolstered a "dictatorial regime."

Since Khan's arrest in August 2023 on multiple charges, the

PTI has organised protests nationwide advocating for his release and opposing the alleged rigging of the February 8 elections.

On Thursday, IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq oversaw the hearing of a petition filed by a local resident, who sought to declare the protest illegal. The petition requested that the federal government, Islamabad chief commissioner,

district magistrate, and police be ordered to prevent the PTI from holding the protest and to ensure peace in the capital.

In its ruling, the court cited the recently enacted Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act, 2024. This law requires anyone wishing to organise an assembly in Islamabad to submit a written application to the district magistrate at least seven days prior to the event.

The court's order noted that no such application had been filed by the PTI. The IHC was informed about the importance of protecting the Belarussian president and his delegation of over 60 people, who are scheduled to arrive on the same day.

While there had been some communication with PTI leadership, the court was informed that no formal engagement had taken place.

**IDEAS-2024: Karachi show held at Nishan-e-Pakistan**

**Khurram Jaffrani**

KARACHI: The Karachi Show, held as part of the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024, took place at Nishan-e-Pakistan, Sea View. The Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, graced the event as the Chief Guest.

The event featured a Marines drill, counter-terrorism demonstration, free fall jumps, and a fly past by Pakistan Army and Pakistan Navy air assets. These demonstrations offered visitors a close view of the tactics and maneuvers employed by Pakistan's

Armed Forces. The Karachi Show-IDEAS 2024 stands as a testament to Pakistan Navy's unwavering commitment to national defence in the maritime domain. It also symbolizes the synergy at inter-services level; showcasing seamless collaboration among the Armed Forces.

The show was attended by a large number of foreign dignitaries, senior government officials, journalists, representatives from federal ministries, various departments of the Government of Sindh, the Armed Forces of Pakistan, and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

**Defence Minister Asif confirms contacts between Gandapur, establishment**

**Monitoring Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif confirmed to the reporters on Thursday communications between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur and the establishment as the government increases security in Islamabad ahead of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's protest.

"Right from the first day, Gandapur is in talks with the federal government. He disappears from the rally and suddenly appears, this thing proves that Gandapur has contacts which are backed by the PTI founder," he told reporters at the Parliament

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

Ruling coalition leaders have slammed the PTI for causing unrest in the country with such protests.

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

# 18 Members of Sikh Pilgrims from America arrived at Makhdoom Pur

Waqar Paracha

KHANEWAL: 18 Members Of Sikh pilgrims from America arrive at Khanewal Makhdoompur School. The purpose of the Sikh pilgrims coming to Makhdoompur was that their spiritual leader Guru Nanak had stayed here. According to the details, 18 male and female Sikh pilgrims from America arrived at Khanewal Makhdoompur School under the leadership of Darshan Singh. The education officer and the school administration warmly welcomed the Sikh pilgrims. The purpose of the Sikh pilgrims coming to Makhdoompur was that their spiritual leader Guru Nanak had stayed here for a few days at the residence. At that time, two brothers Sajjan and Gajan used to provide food and facilities to the travelers at the residence. At night, when the travelers slept, they would rob their property, kill them and throw them into a well. In the year 1500, Guru Nanak was going from Delhi to Multan. When he stayed at this residence in Makhdoompur, he realized



the intention of these two brothers and preached good deeds to them and taught them to follow the right path. Both the brothers Sikh pilgrims from different countries come to visit the

abode of their spiritual leader Guru Nanak every year. Talking to the media on this occasion, the Sikh pilgrims said that we feel immense peace and happiness here. We can never forget

the love and affection we receive from the people of Pakistan. Strict security arrangements were also made on this occasion. The pilgrims left for Multan from Khanewal.

## Clashes between protesters and police in Azad Kashmir. 24 people injured



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/KOTLI/RAWALAKOT: Violent clashes broke out between protesters and police in Rawalakot and Kotli after the implementation of the Presidential Ordinance in Azad Kashmir. As a result, 24 people, including police personnel, were injured while several police vehicles were burned while the situation in Rawalakot has been extremely tense since yesterday. Several people were reported to have been injured as a result of the violent clashes between the police and protesters. The police had earlier arrested five people and now the police have taken two more people into custody. After the implementation of the Presidential Ordinance "Peaceful Assembly" in Azad Kashmir, a case has been registered against 224 people for protesting against the ban on protests by unregistered organizations in Azad Kashmir.

In addition, the Deputy Commissioner of Muzaffarabad has banned the holding of a protest rally called by nationalist organizations against the aforementioned presidential ordinance in Muzaffarabad says a circular. Meanwhile the Azad Kashmir University administration announced through an order the closure of all campuses on Friday.

## Notification of Deputation Appointment

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Government of Sindh has issued a notification regarding Ms. Nusrat Parveen Sahito (BS-18), Deputy Director, Hyderabad, College Education Department. Her services have been placed at the disposal of the School Education & Literacy Department for deputation.

She has been appointed as Secretary, Sindh Text Book Board (STBB) (BS-18/19) for a period of one (01) year with immediate effect.

The notification, dated 20th November 2024, has been signed by Asif Hyder Shah, Chief Secretary Sindh, and is circulated to all relevant authorities for necessary action.

## Faisalabad chamber seeks urgent action to control smog and greenery



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: There is a need for greater cooperation between the private sector and government institutions to control environmental pollution. This was said by Qaiser Shams Gachha, Senior Vice President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, while addressing the first meeting of the Standing Committee on Horticulture and Environment. He said that industries have played a key role in the development of Faisalabad and Pakistan, but closing them under the guise of smog is a very painful matter because it has a negative impact on national production and increases unemployment, which also affects the law and order situation. He stressed that before taking extreme measures like sealing factories, it is important to take the relevant associations into confidence so that the problems can be resolved through mutual understanding.

Shakeel Ahmed Ansari and Tauqeer Amjad said that industries are avoiding the use of prohibited fuels but despite this, they are being issued challans. They stressed on large-scale plantations in the city and said that they can easily achieve the target of planting one million trees in Faisalabad by working with PHA. Dr. Farhana and Ms. Shazia Sharif said that plantation on the roadsides is necessary. They said that every household should be made obliged to plant at least one tree and a mandatory fund of Rs. 500 should be collected from the household that does not do so. Finally, Convener Standing Committee Waheed Khaliq Rame thanked the participants.

## An Open Letter to Honorable IG Sindh Police Ghulam Nabi Memon

Dear IG Sahib,

The Sindh Police, once known for its glorious past and dignity, is unfortunately far removed from that legacy today. Instead of being the protector and servant of the people, the police are now perceived as supporting influential classes, leading to a significant loss of public trust.

The distinction between "Kacha" and "Pakka" seems superficial, but the perception is clear: both are seen as serving the same purpose. In the Kacha areas, criminals establish their hubs, while in the Pakka regions, the police allegedly provide them protection or turn a blind eye. This creates a troubling image where the police appear strict towards the underprivileged and lenient towards the powerful.

Serious allegations against the police, including involvement in drug dens, filing fake FIRs, and politically motivated retaliatory actions, have only worsened this image. The letter by former Additional IG Ghulam Qadir Thebo, highlighting internal issues within the police, still stands as a reminder of the unresolved problems.

Dear IG Sahib, the time has come to cleanse the police force of these allegations and negative perceptions and restore its primary purpose—serving and protecting the public. If the impression persists that the police only serve the powerful, the public's trust in this institution will erode completely, and history will not forgive this leadership.

We trust in your ability to lead the Sindh Police out of these challenges and transform it into a force that genuinely serves the people and upholds the law. This is an opportunity to rebuild the Sindh Police's legacy and ensure its dignity is restored.

Yours sincerely,  
A Concerned Citizen  
Abdul Ghaffoor Sarohi

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, H.E. Atadjan Movlamov called on Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadiq Malik on Thursday.



Photo: PID

## 5th International Conference on Innovation Computing Hosted by the University of Management and Technology

Tahir Amin Malik.

LAHORE: The 5th International Conference on Innovation Computing (ICIC) took place on November 20th and 21st, 2024, at the University of Management and Technology (UMT), drawing together researchers, industry professionals, and academics from around the globe.

The ICIC is renowned for its multi-disciplinary approach, addressing a wide range of innovative computing methods and their practical applications. The conference featured a Research Papers Track and a PhD Symposium.

The conference attracted partic-



ipants from diverse fields such as management, medicine, engineering, and technology.

The ICIC's keynote address was

delivered by the Chief Guest, Mr. Umair Javed, CEO and Founder of Tksel, a leading technology solutions provider. Mr. Javed's address high-

lighted the profound impact of innovative computing on business growth, digital transformation, and economic development.

In addition to Mr. Javed, the conference was honored by the presence of Dr. Syed Amjad Hussain Shah, former IEEE Chair of the Lahore Chapter. Dr. Shah's remarks underscored the critical need for collaboration between academia and industry, urging participants to work together in developing technologies that could address real-world problems and make a positive impact on society. His wealth of experience in both research and industry served as a guiding light for many in attendance.

## Sardar Attique cousin's, Sardar Taimur Abbasi passes away in Rawalpindi

Abdul Majeed Tahir

DHEERKOT/MUZAFFARABAD: Sardar Taimur Abbasi, the young cousin of former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, the president of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, has passed away here yesterday in Rawalpindi. Funeral prayer was offered at Ghaziabad which was attended by people of all walks of life. Sardar Taimur Abbasi was the powerful voice of Dhirkot Ghaziabad, who was silenced for eternity today. Sardar Taimur Abbasi was suffering from cancer and could not survive. It is pertinent that his mother passed away two weeks ago. He was also the coordinator of the former Prime Minister. He played his full role for the development and progress of the area. He also

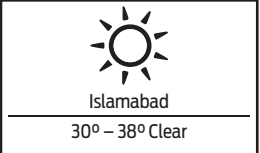


played a big role in keeping the Muslim Conference organized in the constituency. Today, the Muslim Conference and especially Dhirkot Ghaziabad has lost a great personality.

On the death of Sardar Taimur Abbasi, Azad Kashmir President

Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, Speaker Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Leader of the Opposition Khawaja Farooq, President of the People's Party Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, President of the Nawaz League Shah Ghulam Qadir, President of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, Minister of Education Dewan Ali Khan Chughtai, General Secretary of the PML-N Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, General Secretary of the PTI Mir Attiqur Rehman, Central Chief Organizer of the Muslim Conference Raja Saqib Majeed, Secretary General of the Women's Conference Mohtarma Mehr-un-Nisa, Former President of the Muslim Conference Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jarra Advoca-

te, Former Minister of the Government Shamim Ali Malik, Chairperson of the Women's Wing Samia Sajid Raja, Nazir Abbas Shah, Member Central Executive Committee Abdul Majeed Tahir Dy. Secretary Information Haroon Azad City President Sheikh Maqsood, Maimuna Kayani Advocate, Sardar Altaf, Sajjad Anwar Abbasi, Amra Khanum, Sardar Abid Razaq, Raja Muhammad Latif Hasrat, Raja Zarin Khan,, Naheed Akhtar Raja, Abida Munir Qureshi, Khawaja Javed, Shahnaz Javed, Dr. Abid Abbasi, Rana Ghulam Hussain, Tawsir Mousavi, Ajmal Nakyalvi, Wahidul Haq Hashmi and others expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of Sardar Taimur Abbasi and said that Taimur Abbasi was a very amiable and moral personality.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:19 am
Zohr	11:54 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 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883

**Pensioners strongly demanded funds released by the 25th of every month**

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Aurangzeb Tanoli Secretary General All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association said that majority of old age pensioners and widows are suffering from various types of life threatening diseases and pension is their only support. We strongly demanded to Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervez Malik and Secretary Finance that the funds be released by the 25th of every month, so that after the completion of the remaining office matters, the pensions are deposited in the accounts of the pensioners by the 1st.

He said this while talking to journalists after attending an urgent meeting of the Central Cabinet of All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association. He said that an important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chairman Muhammad Aslam Adil Butt. All the members of the Union Cabinet participated in the meeting through video link. Secretary General Aurangzeb Tanoli said that every month the pension funds of railway pensioners are released from the Ministry of Finance after the 1st due to which the pension is delayed till the 10th.

# Romina Khurshid calls on COP29 President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A high-level six-member Pakistani delegation led by Prime Minister of Pakistan's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam on Thursday called on COP29 President, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Mukhtar Babayev and discuss various matters of bilateral interests including working together for common environmental sustainability and climate resilience building goals.

The PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam particularly appreciated the COP29 presidency and congratulated him on behalf of Pakistani government for successful arrangement of the 29th Session of the Conference of Parties in Baku capital city, which is being attended by delegations from over 196 countries negotiating on matters related to climate finance, transfer of technology and capacity building.

The COP29 president Mr. Mukhtar Babayev thanked the PM's coordinator on climate change Romina Khurshid Alam and assured his government's all-out support and cooperation in tackling core climate risks in Pakistan and help build climate resilience of the people of Pakistan and their livelihoods.

The PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam also lauded participation of Azerbaijani foreign minister in the high-level Climate Finance Roundtable organized by Pakistan on November 12, which was presided over by Pakistan's Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif at the COP29 venue in Baku.

She told the COP29 president Mr. Mukhtar Babayev that Azerbaijan's foreign minister strongly supported Pakistani PM's call for rich countries to honour their climate finance pledges and contribute more to enable the developing countries to meet their climate finance needs.

"We are leaving no option unturned advocating for enhanced funding under the Loss and Damage Fund agreed upon at COP27 behind establishment of which Pakistan was extremely instrumental. The funding under this crucial fund to deal with the worst impacts of climate change in developing countries, particularly floods, heatwaves, droughts, sea-level rise, cyclones," Romina Khurshid Alam said during the meeting.

She informed the COP29 president that Pakistan would hold a conference of the Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20) countries in the first quarter of next year to bring 68 member countries together to discuss share knowledge and experiences about common climate risks,



their impacts and coping strategies and possible funding avenues to meet the growing climate finance needs to tackle climate change effects on agriculture, water, energy, infrastructure, etc.

COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev lauded Pakistan's position and efforts it

is pursuing along with like-minded and G77+ developing countries at COP29 for putting pressure on rich countries to honour their promises of climate finance, technology transfer and enhanced collaboration for technical know-how sharing to deal with the exacerbating fallouts of

the global heating. Both sides, hoped that the rich countries would not leave this COP29 global climate talks inconclusive and commit as well as provide more money to meet climate finance needs of the developing countries.

## Construction work

ISLAMABAD: Construction work on Jinnah Avenue flyover and underpass simultaneously kicked off in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## 'Awami Theatre Festival' stages Zakir Mastana's Drama 'Rishtay'

City Desk

KARACHI: "Awami Theatre Festival" organized by the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi is underway with great success. On the 13th day of the festival, the play "Rishtay" was staged, written and directed by Zakir Mastana. The cast included Zakir Mastana, Shakeel Shah, Parvez Siddiqui, Sapna Ghazal, Mehak Noor, Shahni Azeem, Arma Ahmed, Ali Zakir, Shehbaz Sanam, and Tariq Guddu. The play "Rishtay" revolved around a domestic story, featuring a husband, wife, and their servants. The servant, who dreams of becoming an actor, responds to everything dramatically, showcasing his passion for acting. The plot unfolds as the financially struggling husband marries a wealthy woman and gains prosperity. However, conflicts arise when the wife frequently reminds him that their wealth belongs to her father and brother. The story takes a turn when the wife's brother returns from America, and the husband's sister moves in from her hostel. The husband, feeling threatened by his brother-in-law's pres-



ence, stages a series of ghostly pranks to drive him away while the husband calls a thug, adding comedic twists. Meanwhile, romance blossoms between the husband's sister and the brother-in-law. In the climax, the brother-in-law confronts the husband, accusing him of valuing money over relationships. He offers to leave all the wealth behind and return to America. This emotional revelation prompts the Husband's sister to declare her love for

sister in law's brother, agreeing to accompany him to America. The play delivered a strong message that wealth is not everything, and greed can destroy close relationships. A large audience attended the performance, applauding the cast for their exceptional work. The engaging storyline and stellar performances were met with enthusiastic applause, making it a memorable evening for theatre enthusiasts.

## MoU between Future Key Business Club and Indus Hospital



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: In a significant development the Future Key Business Club signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indus Hospital. The ceremony was held in Lahore, attended by esteemed personalities and prominent members of the business community. Chairman of Future Key Business Club, Amjad Iqbal Amjad, expressed pride and happiness on the occasion, stating that this partnership would play a pivotal role in promoting welfare services in the country.

The credit for this remarkable initiative goes to Zeeshan Raja, who has been tirelessly working for the hospital. They run the 101 institution and hold a highly respected position in society.

Indus Hospital, established in 2007 by Dr. Abdul Bari Khan, stands as a shining example in Pakistan's healthcare sector.

During the ceremony, Chairman Amjad Iqbal Amjad lauded the work of Indus Hospital and stated:

*Stepping forward for children's health, AKUH celebrates World Children's Day with a series of vibrant festivities*

City Desk

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) marked World Children's Day with a week-long celebration filled with engaging and impactful events, reaffirming its commitment to the health, safety, and future of children.

The festivities kicked off with a joyous cake-cutting ceremony in the Paediatric Ward's play area, led by Dr Fyezah Jehan, Chair of Paediatrics and Child Health, and Dr Ali Faisal Saleem, Vice Chair of Paediatrics and Child Health. The event brought smiles to young patients and their families, emphasizing AKUH's dedication to both medical and emotional support. The day continued with lively face painting sessions and an enchanting magic show that left the children mesmerized.

On November 19, students from schools across Karachi—Habib Public School, Dawood Public School, and Sultan Mahomed Shah Aga Khan School—participated in a speech competition debating topics such as vaccination and brain drain. The event concluded with a Basic Life Support workshop, equipping the students with essential lifesaving skills.

This year's celebrations, from speech competitions to the science exhibition, provided a platform to listen to children's voices and empower them to shape their future. As Dr Fyezah Jehan, Chair of Paediatrics, remarked, "At AKUH, every day is Children's Day, and through events like these, we not only listen to their voices but also reaffirm our commitment to nurturing their growth and well-being for a brighter future."



## Mian Akram Farid, EFP Head, Graces LUMS Annual Dinner

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mian Akram Farid, renowned businessman, Head of Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) Central Region, Convener, FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Skill Development and NAVTTC, and former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI), was invited as the guest of honor at the LUMS Annual Dinner, 2024. The event was also graced by the presence of distinguished guest Mr. Dinesh Shivakoti, Unit Head, Project Administration, Pakistan Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank.

A large number of Government, private sectors experts, business community members, alumni, and business faculty

students attended the event. During his address, Mr. Farid lauded LUMS's significant contributions to professional education and its technical programs, which are empowering youth, especially female students and entrepreneurs.

Mr. Farid also shared insights into his work as Chairman of the Skill Development Council and Convener of the FPCCI Central Standing Committee on TVET, Skill Development, and NAVTTC. He highlighted the organization's efforts in providing international-standard training and certification in technical education, enabling students to secure employment opportunities in both domestic and international markets.

In a discussion with Mr. Dinesh Shivakoti, Mr. Farid explored Pakistan's current economic challenges and

the initiatives undertaken by the business community through platforms like FPCCI and ICCI to stimulate job creation and revenue generation. Both individuals expressed their commitment to strengthening ties between Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank to address economic and technical issues.

Dr. Ali Cheema, Vice Chancellor of LUMS, extended his gratitude to Mr. Farid for attending the event and acknowledged his invaluable contributions to the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training. Mr. Farid engaged with students, encouraging them to pursue careers in industry and technical fields and inviting them to enroll in NAVTTC's most advanced Information technology and other technical skill courses.

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# Elon Musk aimed at Bending the Universe

The secret of Mr. Trump's admiration for Elon Musk became clear to me during an interview where Trump narrated a fascinating story about a space rocket. Trump described how, after traveling back to Earth, instead of landing in a desert, sea, lake, or some other desolate place, the rocket executed a controlled descent. Swinging and turning wildly with a large flame roaring from its exhaust, it slowed down and gently positioned itself to land precisely on the same launcher from which it was fired. Astonished by this incredible feat of science, human ingenuity, and innovation, Trump said he immediately called Elon Musk to confirm: "Was it you?" When Musk replied affirmatively, Trump remarked, "No country on the face of the Earth could do it, not even the USA, but you did it."

This inspired me to dig deeper into Elon Musk's wild dreams of space exploration and peek into his visionary mind. After some research, I was left reeling with amazement. Musk's mind, it seems, is one that might have been born many years into the future.

In another video, Elon Musk shared an idea that showcased his deep understanding of cosmology, explaining it in simple terms rather than relying on complex mathematical calculations or difficult-to-comprehend concepts. He stated that, while technically traveling faster than the speed of light might be

theoretically possible, it remains a difficult feat to achieve at this point in time. He explained this by highlighting how space itself can play tricks on us. While we cannot travel faster than the speed of light, the fabric of space is moving at speeds faster than light.

In another video, Musk described a hypothetical scenario involving a spaceship that could take you to distant stars in the blink of an eye. This concept, known as the "warp drive," involves a revolutionary way of thinking about travel. Instead of zooming through space, a warp drive would work by stretching space in front of the ship and compressing it behind. Musk illustrated this concept by likening space to a giant rubber sheet. Imagine pulling a distant star closer to you instantly. By pulling the space in front of you closer and pushing the space behind you away, you could move forward without physically moving. This means it would be possible to travel to other planets and even distant stars faster than light, all without breaking the laws of physics.

Reaching this point of understanding and innovation has not been easy for Elon Musk. When he first introduced the concept of commercial space exploration, the entire world seemed to turn against him. During a Congressional Senate hearing in 2010, many veteran

space legends, including Neil Armstrong, publicly opposed the idea of commercial space exploration. Musk later revealed that this opposition brought him to tears. However, this criticism did not deter him. Today, SpaceX is approaching a \$250 billion valuation and has conducted more than 400 launches over the past 14 years, including 15 crewed missions. Of these, ten were under contract with NASA to transport astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS).

Under President elect Trump, a major shake-up in U.S. space policy began to take shape. There are discussions about potentially canceling future iterations of NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) or even abandoning it altogether. Plans for Gateway, a proposed space station in lunar orbit, were also reconsidered in favor of expanding commercial contracts with companies like SpaceX. This shift aimed to accelerate efforts to send humans to Mars, a vision Musk has championed for years.

Musk's ultimate goal is to colonize Mars. His vision includes building up to 1,000 Starships a year to transport people between Earth and the red planet. As in the past, this ambitious idea is not without controversy. Many conventional scientists caution that it will require years of further research and development, as

the technologies necessary to sustain life on Mars do not yet exist. However, just as Neil Armstrong and others once doubted the feasibility of commercial space exploration, these conventional scientists may not be able to deter Elon Musk from venturing into this arena. Musk has a track record of defying skepticism, as demonstrated when many believed rockets could not and would not land back on their launch pads. Musk proved them wrong by stating that if a rocket can ascend along a specific trajectory, it can also descend along the same path to return to its launcher. Once again, Musk's determination may turn the improbable into reality.

The democrats like Obama and Joe Biden had had assumed Elon Musk a biggest adversary and did whatever they could to deter him for visualizing his wild dreams. But they could not dampen his innovation and creativity and now with Donald Trump in power, and Musk himself in the driving seat to cut down on bureaucracy and eliminate over-regulations which according to him stifle entrepreneurship, cuttle creativity and slow down economic growth, the world should keep its figure cross and await for many more mind boggling innovations by many innovators like Elon Musk which might multiply by the enabling environment under Donald Trump.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for Netanyahu, Gallant

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants on Thursday for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defense minister and Hamas officials, accusing them of war crimes and crimes against humanity over the war in Gaza and the October 2023 attacks that triggered Israel's offensive in the Palestinian territory.

The decision turns Netanyahu and the others into internationally wanted suspects and is likely to further isolate them and complicate efforts to negotiate a ceasefire to end the 13-month conflict. But its practical implications could be limited since Israel and its major ally, the United States, are not members of the court and several of the Hamas officials have been subsequently killed in the conflict.

Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders have condemned ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan's request for warrants as disgraceful and antisemitic. US President Joe Biden also blasted the prosecutor and expressed support for Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas. Hamas also slammed the request.

"The Chamber considered that there are reasonable grounds to believe that both individuals intentionally and knowingly deprived the civilian population in Gaza of objects indispensable to their survival, including food, water, and medicine and medical supplies, as well as fuel and electricity," the three-judge panel wrote in its unanimous decision to issue warrants for Netanyahu and his former defense minister, Yoav Gallant.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said in September that it had submitted two legal briefs challenging the ICC's jurisdiction and arguing that the court did not provide Israel the opportunity to investigate the allegations itself before requesting the warrants.

"No other democracy with an independent and respected legal system like that which exists in Israel has been treated in this prejudicial manner by the Prosecutor," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Oren Marmorstein wrote on X. He said Israel remained "steadfast in its commitment to the rule of law and justice" and would continue to protect its citizens against militancy.

The ICC is a court of last resort that only prosecutes cases when domestic law enforcement authorities cannot or will not investigate. Israel is not a member state of the court. The country has struggled to investigate itself in the past, rights groups say.

Despite the warrants, none of the suspects is likely to face judges in The Hague any time soon. The court itself has no police to enforce warrants, instead relying on cooperation from its member states.



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

## IDEAS 2024 – a Symbiotic Partnership between Defense R&D and Civilian S&T Economy - I

Governments have traditionally played a foundational role in the development of research and innovation eco-systems around the world. The role of Government as a risk-taker and a direct enabler of innovation has been written up by a number of influential commentators and in recent times, by scholars such as Mariana Mazzucato and Michael Porter, among others.

Prof. Mazzucato of UCL and an influential scholar of European Innovation has talked about the Entrepreneurial State and Mission Economy as metaphors for government's role in innovation as "investors of the first resort" bringing ground breaking innovations such as the computers, semiconductors, the Internet, GPS, jet engines, genetic machines, and reusable civilian spacecrafts to life. She charges government to think bigger and mobilize resources in a way that is as bold and inspirational as the moon landing in the 1960s.

In the United States, as well, the defense establishment has played an important role in engaging private sector and academic R&D in solving strategic problems. Defense spending on R&D accounts for more than 50% of all government funded R&D and dwarfs the amount spent on other prominent innovation policy tools. Yale Professor Paul Bracken described the US Department of Defense (DOD) as the "mother of all venture capital firms" in that it provided large sums of relatively no strings attached money to source innova-

tion from outside of the defense establishment. The exchange of resources and knowledge between the defense and civilian sectors is a bi-directional, not unidirectional, exchange leading to benefits for all parties:

- The defense R&D establishment benefits from tapping vast intellectual talent and capability in the civilian sector that may otherwise be unavailable to address tough defense and strategic challenges;
- The civilian S&T benefits from working with and on defense problems leading to critical capacity building—both technical and financial—of the corporate entities; and
- The national economy benefits from the potential civilian applications of the high-end capability residing within defense sector through development of dual-use technology or spinning off of entire new technologies and industries.

This constitutes a "win-win" scenario for all as it makes available resources and expertise not otherwise available to the other party.

The 12th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS), organised by the Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO) under the patronage of the MoDP, from 19th to 22nd November presents an opportunity for showcasing the possibilities and opportunities in defense R&D that could be addressed through and in collaboration with civilian S&T and vice versa. For Pakistan, such a partnership between defense R&D and civilian S&T acquires even more importance for three

reasons: First, Pakistan's current precarious economic situation is partly due to a gradual erosion of the competitiveness of its (low value-added) exports that can only be addressed through technology upgradation of its industry. Why is it that a country that is able to produce batteries for use in F16s does not have a single civilian supplier of high-performance batteries? The only place in Pakistan where such high-technology – with multifarious dual-use and commercial applications – exists is the defense R&D establishment and this must be made available for commercial exploitation.

Second, Pakistan's defense R&D establishment is also in a dire need for fresh ideas and access to scientific and technological capability which may reside outside of it. Pakistan increasingly finds itself on the short end of an arms race with its traditional foe where the technological distance between the two countries has widened considerably in recent years and this needs fresh thinking and out-of-the-box ideas. These fresh ideas are likely to come from outside the traditional establishment. Pakistan does not fully exploit the true potential of its population when it fails to leverage the latter.

Finally, increasing cooperation and dependence on outside (civilian) suppliers will also enable greater efficiency, innovation, and export competitiveness for Pakistan's defense exports as well. The intermixing of ideas leads to capacity building and innovation within the private sector (and academia) and results in dual-use and purely commercial products and ventures to be spun-out.

To be continued



Analysis

Athar Osama

## Terminating PPAs - A panacea to release consumers from IPPs clutches

Switching towards Competitive Trading Bilateral Contracts Market (CTBCM) regime, liberalization and privatization of power sector will have longstanding effects on power tariff, paving way for relief to consumers and contribute to overall economic growth of the country.

Since high-power tariff had been hammering our economic growth and piling up huge circular debt, the initiative of premature termination of power purchase agreements (PPAs) with dozens of independent power producers (IPPs) will also help resolve these grave issues.

Mounting debt load, rising power prices and an astonishing Rs 1,411,669 million capacity payment made to IPPs during fiscals 2022-23 and 2023-24 made the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government to come out with solutions to stem out this menace and lessen burden on consumers and national kitty.

Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Abid Qaiyum Suleri also opined that re-negotiating agreements with IPPs based on principles of transparency and accountability is crucial to reduce increasing burden of capacity payments on masses. "IPPs were introduced as panacea to reduce 15-16 hours load shedding of the past but over the time, they overburdened our economy as well as consumers."

It is astonishing that 36 IPPs were paid Rs 1,411,669 million capacity payment during fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24 as revealed in a recent National Assembly session. Out of this sum, Rs 487,851 million were paid to IPPs in 2022-23 and Rs 923,818 million in 2023-24, as capacity payment.

According to break up, during 2022-23, Rs 94,753 million were paid to China Power Hub Generation Company, Rs 39,609 million to Engro Powergen Thar (Pvt) Ltd, Rs 55,747 million to Huaneng Shandong Ruyi Energy (Pvt) Ltd, Rs 34,556 million to Karot Power Company (Pvt) Ltd, Rs 28,604 to Lucky Electric Power Company Ltd, Rs 10,573 million to Mira Power Limited, Rs 34,465 to Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Company (Pvt) Ltd, Rs 63,612 million to Port Qasim Electric Power Company (Pvt) Ltd, Rs 14,477 million to Star Hydro Power Limited, Rs 22,187 million to Hub Power Company Ltd, Rs 16,985 to Uch-II Power (Pvt) Limited and Rs 11,508 million Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company (Pvt) Limited. Pakistan's cuisine

Similarly, during 2023-24, an amount of Rs 139,181 million was paid to China Power Hub Generation Company, Rs 50,414 million to Engro Powergen Thar (Pvt) Ltd, Rs 132,407 million to Huaneng Shandong Ruyi Energy (Pvt) Ltd, Rs 77,994 million to Karot Power Company (Pvt) Ltd, Rs 53,511 million to Lucky Electric Power Company Ltd, Rs 16,592 million to Mira Power Limited, Rs 35,155 to Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Company (Pvt) Ltd, Rs 102,891 million to Port Qasim Electric Power Company (Pvt) Ltd, Rs 19,296 million to Star Hydro Power Limited, Rs 21,381 million to Hub Power Company Ltd, Rs 21,900 to Uch-II Power (Pvt) Limited and Rs 105,102 million to Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company (Pvt) Limited, Rs 31,167 million to Thar Energy Limited, Rs 34,733 million to ThalNova Power Thar (Pvt) Ltd and Rs 21,900 million to Uch-II Power (Pvt) Limited.



Analysis

Raziq Ali Shah

# Webinar on Roshan Digital Account for the Pakistani Diaspora in Canada

Spokesman Report

OTTAWA: The Pakistan High Commission, Ottawa in collaboration with the Bank of Punjab and State Bank of Pakistan hosted a comprehensive webinar here today, to engage with the vibrant Pakistani diaspora across Canada. This initiative aimed to provide valuable insights into the benefits and opportunities offered by the Roshan Digital Account (RDA), a flagship program by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in collaboration with commercial banks in Pakistan. The panelists who attended the session included Mr. Shah Faisal Kakar, Acting High Commissioner; Syed Ali Raza, Head of PRI, State Bank of Pakistan; Mr. Nofel Daud, Chief Digital Officer, Bank of Punjab; Mr. Salman Saeed, Head of Home Remittances, RDA & FDA Division; Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Akil, Consul General, Montreal; Mr. Khalil Ahmed Bajwa, Consul General, Toronto; Mr. Ghulam Hussain, Acting Consul General, Vancouver; and Mr. Altamash Janjua, Trade and Investment Counsellor, Canada.



The webinar highlighted the integral role of the Canadian Pakistani community, which comprises over half a million individuals contributing significantly to diverse sectors such as finance, technology, healthcare, and economic development. Their professional success has driven

a robust demand for financial products that facilitate seamless connectivity with Pakistan's banking and financial systems. Key highlights of the webinar included: (a) Roshan Digital Account (RDA): A digital platform enabling overseas Pakistanis to remotely open and operate personal bank accounts

in Pakistan. This initiative simplifies fund transfers, supports investment in Pakistan's real estate and stock markets, and provides tax benefits. (b) Impact of Remittances: During the fiscal year 2023-2024, Pakistan received remittances of over \$30.2 billion globally, with \$504.8 million originating from Canada. RDA has played a pivotal role, enabling over 735,000 accounts across 175 countries, transferring \$8.9 billion and repatriating \$1.67 billion.

The session provided attendees with detailed insights into the program's features, addressing community queries and showcasing the immense trust and enthusiasm of overseas Pakistanis in contributing to their homeland's economic growth. During the question-and-answer session, queries from the Pakistani community were responded by Mr. Salman Saeed. The Pakistan Mission expressed gratitude to the community for their unwavering commitment to Pakistan and reiterated its dedication to strengthening this bond through continuous engagement and support.

## Chairman PRCS Highlights Locally Led Climate Adaptation at COP29 Event in Baku, Azerbaijan



Spokesman Report

BAKU: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, addressed a distinguished forum at a special event hosted in the Pakistan Pavilion during the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan. The event, titled "Empowering Communities: The Case for Locally Led Adaptation in Climate Resilience," emphasized the urgent need for collective action against climate change to mitigate the impacts of disasters.

The event saw the participation of prominent figures including Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Ms. Samina Mumtaz Zehri, representatives from the German Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), National Societies, and other key humanitarian stakeholders.

A thought-provoking panel discussion featured distinguished speakers including Member Managing Board Jamaican Red Cross Ms. Audrey Mullings, Ms. Ninni Ikkala Nyman and Manzoor Ali from IFRC, Head of Delegation German Red Cross in Pakistan Mr. Asif Aman and PRCS Deputy Director Climate Change Sajjad Ali, focused on the significance of locally driven adaptation strategies. Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari was the keynote speaker of this exclusive session.

In his remarks, Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari underscored PRCS's extensive humanitarian work in Pakistan, especially during the 2022 monsoon floods. He detailed the organization's ongoing recovery programs and proactive measures to tackle climate challenges, reaffirming PRCS's dedication to easing the hardships of vulnerable communities.

A documentary showcasing PRCS's humanitarian initiatives and climate adaptation efforts provided attendees with an in-depth understanding of the organization's work.

As a gesture of appreciation, Chairman Laghari presented souvenirs crafted from recyclable materials in Pakistan to Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, the panelists and other distinguished guests of the event, symbolizing PRCS's commitment to sustainability and community-driven innovation.

# Opportunities Amid Slow Global Climate Action: Experts Highlight Pathways for Vulnerable Countries

Spokesman Report

BAKU: As the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change concluded, global experts underscored opportunities for green transformation in climate-vulnerable nations, despite slow progress in global climate action.

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI, emphasized the pivotal role of finance in addressing Pakistan's climate crisis. "This is a finance COP," he stated, highlighting ongoing dialogues around Pakistan's climate finance strategy and the role of multilateral development banks.

M. Abdul Aleem, President of the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), described climate change as Pakistan's "biggest threat." Representing over 200 global businesses, OICCI pledged to raise \$50 million for green invest-



ments, while urging the private sector to explore financing tools like green bonds to enhance renewable energy infrastructure.

Andrew Bailey, Managing Director of BASF Pakistan, underscored the private sector's critical role in Pakistan's climate resilience, noting that OICCI member companies have already invested \$23

billion in sustainable practices over the last decade.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) representative Veronica Nyhan Jones stressed the urgency of capital mobilization, revealing IFC's plan to raise \$20 billion globally for climate finance, with a portion directed toward Pakistan. A panel discussion titled "Judicial Pathways Towards Climate Justice"

at the Pakistan Pavilion spotlighted the judiciary's role in addressing climate challenges. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of Pakistan's Supreme Court declared climate finance a "fundamental human right" and called for robust legal frameworks to ensure fair distribution. Judges from Nepal, Brazil, Belgium, and other nations echoed the need for judicial coalitions to hold governments and corporations accountable.

Justice Sapana Malla of Nepal highlighted judicial activism in expanding environmental rights, while Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin of Brazil emphasized the need for proactive legal regimes.

Sanjay Vashist from the Climate Action Network South Asia highlighted South Asia's vast renewable energy potential, calling for a South Asia Renewable Energy Fund to mobilize resources for regional clean energy transitions.

# Fatima Fertilizer, in partnership with UNDP, is the first company in Pakistan to adopt the SDGs Impact Framework

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Fatima Fertilizer has the distinct honor of becoming the first private sector entity in Pakistan to partner with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by adopting the SDG Impact Framework. In this regard, Fatima Fertilizer in collaboration with UNDP, recently hosted the launch event of a special report titled "SDGs

Impact through Businesses: Sustainability Framework for Fatima Fertilizer" which outlines how the company has embedded the impact framework assessment into its business operations, mapping eight critical areas that align with achieving related UN SDGs.

Rabel Sadozai, Director of Marketing and Sales at Fatima Group, further emphasized the significance of the report launch, stating, "This sustain-

ability framework will strengthen our resolve and inspire us to further accelerate our efforts in sustainable development.

Dr. Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative, UNDP Pakistan, commended Fatima Fertilizer for its efforts to integrate the SDGs into its business strategies and operations. He noted that this pioneering step aligns Fatima Fertilizer's sustainability initiatives with SDG

targets relevant to its core business operations.

Asad Murad, Chief Operating Officer of Fatima Fertilizer, underscored the company's unwavering commitment to both national and global development, stating, "At Fatima Fertilizer, we firmly believe that sustainable development represents the future of responsible business."

Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for



National Food Security and Research, attended the event as the Chief Guest. In his address, he stated, "This report is a testament to how businesses like

Fatima Fertilizer can drive transformative change by aligning their operations with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

# FIA Hosted Conference of Former Directors General to Celebrate 50 Years of Excellence

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) marked its 50th anniversary with a prestigious ceremony held at FIA Headquarters. Established in 1974, the FIA has achieved significant milestones at national and international levels, which were highlighted during the event.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of former Directors General of FIA, senior FIA officials, and other distinguished guests. Among the notable attendees were former DGs Malik Asif Hayat, Tariq Masood Khosa, Zafarullah Khan, Captain (R) Syed Muhammad Abid Qadri, Captain (R) Ahmed Latif, and Mohsin Hassan Butt.

The event began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a welcome address by Additional Director General (ADG) Headquarters, Jan Muhammad. A special documentary showcased the FIA's achievements, challenges, and future plans over the past five decades.

Former DG Malik Asif Hayat commended the FIA's performance and shared his experiences, expressing pride in the inclusion of women in the agency, working alongside their male colleagues. A message from former DG FIA Tariq Pervez was read out, where he reflected on his tenure, acknowledging the challenges and successes encountered during his leadership.

Former DG FIA Tariq Masood Khosa highlighted the importance of justice, impartiality, and trans-

parency in professional services, emphasizing these principles as vital for building public trust. Former DG FIA Saud Mirza, unable to attend due to being overseas, sent a message appreciating DG FIA Ahmed Ishaq Jehangir for organizing the event. He lauded FIA's efforts in combating cybercrimes, corruption, immigration fraud, and other organized crimes.

Former DG Zafarullah Khan paid tribute to FIA martyrs and stressed the need for enhanced coordination with provincial police and other agencies. Former DG Captain (R) Syed Muhammad Abid Qadri highlighted the importance of investing in modern equipment and professional training for the agency's growth.

Former DG Captain (R) Ahmed

Latif advised FIA personnel to uphold integrity in their duties, while former DG Mohsin Hassan Butt reflected on his tenure and expressed pride in being part of the conference.

The ceremony concluded with a speech by the current DG FIA, Ahmed Ishaq Jehangir, who expressed gratitude to the former DGs and highlighted the agency's accomplishments and future objectives.

He said, FIA made significant achievements in combating human trafficking, and has achieved notable success in its crackdown on human smuggling and trafficking.

The agency's rigorous efforts in FATF compliance played a crucial role in restoring international confidence, contributing to Paki-



stan's transition from the FATF Tier-III to Tier-II list. DG FIA

In terms of financial recovery, he highlighted the FIA's crackdown on electricity and gas theft, which resulted in billions of rupees recovered for the national treasury. DG FIA

On the cybercrime front, the FIA established specialized units and strengthened collaborations with major platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter. DG FIA

On the immigration front, advanced electronic gates are installed at Torkham and Chaman borders, which are contributing significantly in reduction of passenger wait times. DG FIA

The agency also established forensic technology-equipped Second Line Offices at major airports, improving the detection of fraudulent travel documents. The installation of the locally developed IBMS 2 system at Islamabad Airport further stream-

lined immigration processes. DG FIA

FIA Academy's inclusion in INTERPOL's Global Academy Network during the 92nd General Assembly was a key achievement. DG FIA

He concluded by emphasizing that from its inception to today, the FIA has remained at the forefront of national service, and the agency remains dedicated to strengthening its operations to meet future challenges.

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
97,328.39	95,546.45	
Day's High	Day's Low	
97,437.15	95,300.21	
Index Value	Change	
22,266,485,757	+1781.94	
Percentage	Time	
+1.86%	21 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,149.27	+64.20	
Percentage	Time	
+0.79%	21 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
43,756.50	+348.03	
Percentage	Time	
+0.80%	21 Nov, 12:16 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,026.17	-326.17	
Percentage	Time	
-0.85%	21 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181.00	183.25
Bahrain Dinar	731.55	739.55
Canadian Dollar	199.10	201.50
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	291.05	293.80
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	894.00	903.50
Malaysian Ringgit	62.5	63.10
New Zealand \$	163.14	165.14
Norwegians Krone	24.78	25.08
Omani Riyal	715.25	723.75
Qatari Riyal	75.62	76.32
Saudi Riyal	73.70	74.25
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	75.40	76.05
UK Pound Sterling	348.55	352.05
US Dollar	277.50	279.00

# Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad, TDAP Agree to Join Hands for Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in Islamabad and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) on Thursday agreed to forge collaboration for holding the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the next year in a successful manner.

The crucial collaboration came under discussion during a meeting between H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the FDR Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and H. E. Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive of the TDAP.

The meeting was also attended by Sheryar Taj, Secretary TDAP, Abdul Karim Memon DG TDAP, and H. E. Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul to the FDR Ethiopia in Karachi.

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."

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.

The TDAP Chief Executive, during the meeting, highlighted the business and trade potential of Pakistan in different economic sectors including pharmaceutical, surgical, steel, aluminum, automotive, construction material, leather and leather products, and others.

He said the Government of Pakistan is committed to the Look Africa and Engage Africa policy and has been taking significant measures to strengthen bilateral relations with all the African countries including Ethiopia.

He acknowledged the growing economic relations between the two countries and assured the Ambassador that all possible steps would be taken to boost the bilateral trade between the two countries.

## Souvenir

Mr. Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman Coordination and Convener, FPCCI General Standing Committee on Fairs and Exhibitions presenting FPCCI crest on behalf of Mr Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI to H.E. Mr. Khalid Majid, Consul General of Pakistan in Jeddah at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah. Also seen are Mr. Muhammad Ali, Advisor to President for Saudi Arabia, Ms. Saadia Khan, Commercial Counselor, Consulate of Pakistan in Jeddah and Mr. Mahmood Ahmed, Deputy Secretary General (Exhibitions), FPCCI.



## Schneider Electric-NFEH Partnership to Energize Off-Grid Underserved Rural Communities

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at transforming the lives of underserved rural communities in Pakistan, Schneider Electric has announced a strategic partnership with the National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH). This collaboration seeks to provide sustainable energy solutions to off-grid areas, significantly improving access to electricity for thousands of families.

A ceremony was held for signing of the Letter of Intent (LoI) between Schneider Electric and Services and NFEH to formalise this part-

nership. "We are thrilled to join forces with the NFEH to address the pressing energy needs of rural communities in Pakistan," said by Humayun Akhlaq, Country GM of Schneider Electric, who was present at the signing of the MoU. "This collaboration reflects our commitment to sustainable development and our belief that access to energy is a fundamental right that can drive economic growth and improve quality of life," he said.

Faizan Sarwar Business Manager SE and Sadaf Waqar BD Ambassador also attended this ceremony

## TikTok, PTA host Youth Safety Summit Pakistan to promote online safety and digital literacy

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: TikTok, in partnership with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), hosted the Youth Safety Summit Pakistan on Thursday in Islamabad. The summit aimed to raise awareness about online safety, promote digital literacy, and foster collaboration among stakeholders to protect Pakistani youth online.

This summit served as a key platform to bring together stakeholders working in youth/minor safety, including government representatives, law enforcement partners, educators, parents and children, child protection NGOs, and industry experts.

A panel discussion on 'Enhancing Child Online Safety' was hosted reflecting TikTok's commitment to creating a safe environment for young users. Representatives from PTA, CERT, UNICEF Pakistan and SAHIL joined the panel as subject matter experts offering diverse perspectives on child protection. This was followed by a Q&A session and addresses by notable dignitaries.

Commenting on the summit, Chairman PTA, Major General (R) Hafeezur Rehman, highlighted the authority's unwavering commitment to creating a safer online ecosystem. He remarked, "This summit marks a significant step in our mission to secure a safe and inclusive digital environment for Pakistan's youth. PTA remains steadfast in its efforts to implement innovative measures that protect children online and promote a digitally responsible society."

Emir Gelen, Director Government Relations and Public Policy at TikTok Middle East, Turkey, Africa, Pakistan and South Asia, said, "At TikTok, we are committed to ensuring the online safety and well-being of our users, particularly children and youth. We believe that this summit marks an important step towards creating a safer online environment in Pakistan. We're dedicated to promoting digital literacy and online safety through our initiatives, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with the PTA to achieve this goal."

## Hexalyze highlights transformative impact of AI in energy sector at ADIPEC 2024

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) 2024 showcased groundbreaking advancements in energy technology, with artificial intelligence (AI) taking center stage as a key driver of transformation across the sector. Among the industry leaders present, the CTO of Hexalyze Consulting Services Mr. Sohaib Khan shared his insights on the role of AI in modernizing energy operations, while highlighting ongoing projects with major players in the UAE and Pakistan. Speaking to media during his visit, Sohaib emphasized the importance of AI in addressing the energy sector's evolving challenges, particularly

in improving operational efficiency, safety, and sustainability. "ADIPEC 2024 is a testament to the incredible pace at which the energy sector is embracing AI to revolutionize its processes. At Hexalyze Consulting Services, we are proud to contribute to this transformation through projects that bring innovative solutions to our clients. For instance, our work with Dolphin Energy Limited in the UAE involves automating their Electronic Management of Facilities Change (E-MoFC) process, a critical initiative that streamlines technical services, improves upstream facilities, and enhances decision-making. Similarly, we are collaborating with Fauji Oil Terminal in Pakistan to automate their terminal operations, optimizing efficiency and ensuring seamless



workflows," he stated. Hexalyze Consulting Services' projects underscore the broader trend of AI integration across the energy value chain. By automating complex, traditionally manual processes, the firm is setting a benchmark for how technology can reduce costs, improve safety, and minimize environmental impact, Sohaib further added.

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has extended heartfelt congratulations to Tariq Sadiq on his unanimous election as Chairman of the Founder Group.

In his congratulatory message, President Qureshi lauded Tariq Sadiq's exemplary standing in Islamabad's business community and across the nation. "Tariq Sadiq is widely acclaimed for his invaluable contributions to the business sector, earning him respect and recognition nationwide," he stated. Qureshi expressed confidence that Sadiq's

extensive experience and visionary leadership would enable him to advance the Founder Group's objectives and bring significant benefits to the business community.

The election gathering was graced by notable dignitaries, including Abdur Rauf Allam, Zubair Ahmed Malik, M. Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Akram Farid, Khalid Javaid, Shaikh Aamer Waheed, and Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari. With unanimous support, Tariq Sadiq is poised to assume his new responsibilities next week, marking a pivotal moment for the Founder Group and its ongoing contributions to the region's economic and entrepreneurial landscape.

## PPL Honored with Corporate Philanthropy Award for 19th Consecutive Year

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has once again reaffirmed its commitment to responsible business practices by being recognized as one of the largest corporate donors in Pakistan for 2022 by the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP). This marks the 19th consecutive year that PPL has been honored among the top corporate givers, with its annual Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions amounting to an impressive Rs. 3.7 billion for the

financial year 2023-24. The award was presented by the Minister of State for Finance, Revenue, and Power, Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, to PPL's General Manager of Shared Services, Syed Mahmood ul Hassan, during a prestigious ceremony organized by PCP in Islamabad. The event was attended by prominent business leaders, civil society representatives, bilateral donors, and members of the media.

For over seven decades, PPL has been at the forefront of community upliftment, offering free-of-cost, high-quality services in education,

healthcare, livelihood generation, infrastructure development, and disaster relief. Operating in both remote regions and major urban centers across the country, the company collaborates with reputable partners to design and implement need-based CSR initiatives that deliver long-term, sustainable development solutions.

This award underscores PPL's unwavering dedication to transforming the lives of underserved communities and its pivotal role in fostering positive social impact nationwide.



# Pakistan squad reaches Zimbabwe for white-ball series

Sports Desk

BULAWAYO: The white-ball squad of Pakistan men's team has reached here on Wednesday for the upcoming ODI and T20I series against Zimbabwe.

The Pakistan cricket squad made its way to Zimbabwe in two separate groups. The first group consisted of ten players who travelled directly from Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the second group included five players who were part of the T20I squad against Australia. They arrived in Zimbabwe after a stopover in Dubai.

It's worth noting that star players Babar Azam, Shaheen Afridi, and Naseem Shah have been rested for the tour of Zimbabwe, meanwhile, captain Mohammad Rizwan will partake in the ODI series only.

The three-match ODI series will begin with the first game on November 24 followed by two games on November 26 and 28, respectively.

The two teams will then face off in the first T20I on December 1, the second game will be played on December 3 and the final game is scheduled for December 5.

Squads for Pakistan-Zimbabwe white-ball series

**Pakistan ODI squad:** Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Ahmed Daniyal, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (WK), Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad



Rizwan (WK), Muhammad Irfan Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Sufyan Moqim, Tayyab Tahir and Usman Khan.

**Pakistan T20I squad:** Ahmed Daniyal, Arafat Minhas, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (WK), Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Omair bin Yousuf, Qasim Akram, Sahibzada Farhan,

Salman Ali Agha, Sufyan Moqim, Tayyab Tahir and Usman Khan.

**Zimbabwe ODI squad:** Craig Ervine (c), Faraz Akram, Brian Bennett, Joylord Gumbie, Trevor Gwandu, Clive Madande, Tinotenda Mavosa, Tadiwanashe Marumani, Wellington Masakadza, Brandon Mavuta, Tashinga Musekiwa, Blessing Muzarabani, Dion Myers, Richard Ngarava, Sikandar Raza,

Sean Williams

**Zimbabwe T20I squad:** Sikandar Raza (c), Faraz Akram, Brian Bennett, Ryan Burl, Trevor Gwandu, Clive Madande, Wessly Madhevere, Tinotenda Mavosa, Tadiwanashe Marumani, Wellington Masakadza, Brandon Mavuta, Tashinga Musekiwa, Blessing Muzarabani, Dion Myers, Richard Ngarava.

# Punjab's hockey, Kabaddi, weightlifting teams selected for Quaid-e-Azam Games:

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The trials for the selection of Sports Board Punjab different teams for participation in Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games were held at various venues of provincial capital on Thursday.

The athletics trials were held at Punjab Stadium, hockey at National Hockey Stadium Pitch-2, weightlifting at Coaching Center and Kabaddi at Punjab College in which thousands of players from all divisions of Punjab participated.

DG Sports Punjab Khizar Afzal Chaudhry was the chief guest of the trials. He witnessed exciting competitions and lauded the performance of players.

Talking on this occasion, Khizar Afzal said that he is personally supervising hockey, kabaddi, athletics, weightlifting and other trials. "The Punjab squad will consist of the best players and we are quite upbeat that these athletes will produce wonderful results in the mega event".

He further said that Punjab has always been the winner of the Quaid-e-Azam Games. "The sports persons who show best performance in games will be helped through Sports Endowment Fund", Khizar said.

Following are the selected players:  
Punjab hockey team:  
Goalkeeper: Zeeshan Sukhera,



Ghulam Mustafa  
Defenders: Saad Shafiq, Faizan Malhi, Izharul Haq, M Bilal

**Halfbacks:** Mudassar Ramzan, Abdul Hameed, Shahzeb, Babar Munir, Hamza Hameed, Ibrahlim Hayat, Salman Butt, Ali Ahmed, Usman Nadeem, Abdullah  
**Forwards:** Shahid Akash, Ahmed Raza, Adeel Afzal, Siraj Qamar, Ali Taj,

Hamza Iqbal, Khubaib, Saqlain Haider, Amir Shaheen, Rana Ali Sattar, Zeeshan Rasool, Fazeel Hasan.

**Punjab Kabaddi team:**  
Salman Khan, Salman aslam, Ali Raza, Khalil Ahmed, Usman Khan, M Inrmani, M Umair, Abdur Rehman, Irfan, M Wasi Haider, Abdurrahman, Abrar Hussein, Hasnain Afzal.

**Punjab weight lifting team:**  
55kg: Malik Subhan Ali, Ali Muhammad

61kg: Aziz Sarwar Cheema, Farhan Jameel  
67kg: Hamza, M Arslan Butt  
73kg: Amir Ali, Abdullah Lone  
81kg: M Ali, Maaz Butt.  
89kg: Mudabir Zeeshan, Abu Baker.

# Phil Salt steers Team Abu Dhabi to defeat Ajman Bolts

Sports Desk

ABU DHABI: Phil Salt played a blistering knock to steer Team Abu Dhabi to a dominant nine-wicket victory over Ajman Bolts in the opening game of the Abu Dhabi T10 League 2024 here on Thursday.

After opting to field first, Team Abu Dhabi restricted Ajman Bolts to a meagre 79-8 in the allocated ten overs courtesy of their dominant bowling display.

Mark Adair, Zeeshan Naseer and Kadeem Alleyne took two wickets each.

Only three batters from Ajman Bolts managed to reach double figures with Ravi Bopara (23) being the top-scorer.

Team Abu Dhabi had a shaky start to the run-chase as they lost Paul Stirling in the first over. However, Phil Salt and Jonny Bairstow exhibited their brilliant strokeplay to ensure victory for their team without any further damage in 5.4 overs.



Salt smashed 53 runs from 19 balls, laced with six sixes and two fours, while Bairstow played a supporting role with a 14-ball 22. Later in the last match of the day, Deccan

Gladiators edged past Chennai Braves as they chased a huge 142-run target in 9.4 overs at the loss of three wickets.

After a below-par start, Tom Kohler-Cad-

more was joined by Jos Buttler, and together they turned the game on its head with their belligerent hitting. The English duo smashed 100 runs from 36 balls to tilt the game in Gladiators' favour.

Kohler-Cadmore scored 51 runs from 24 balls with the help of four sixes and as many fours before falling prey to Sabir Ali.

However, Buttler remained unbeaten to take his team across the line with a 24-ball 62, which featured six sixes and four boundaries.

Earlier, Rassie van der Dussen and Chris Lynn constructed a 121-run stand for the second wicket in just 49 balls to set up Chennai Braves' total of 141-2.

Van der Dussen was dismissed by his fellow countryman Anrich Nortje after he had scored 62 runs from 29 balls with two fours and five sixes. Meanwhile, Lynn remained unbeaten at 68, which included eight boundaries and three sixes.

# 'They look like mummies': Salman Butt takes a dig at Pakistan players' fitness

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Salman Butt subtly criticized the fitness levels of Pakistani players, comparing them to "Egyptian mummies".

Yesterday, Aaqib Javed, the interim white-ball head coach of Pakistan, shared that top-order batter Fakhar Zaman is dealing with some fitness issues and will be back in the team once he achieves full recovery.

Salman Butt, in a recent video on his official YouTube channel, spoke about Fakhar's injury, while also raising concerns regarding the fitness levels of

Pakistan's players. The former captain urged Pakistan players to embrace strength training as a crucial part of their fitness regimen.

"Yes, he [Aaqib Javed] talked about Fakhar Zaman. We all know about his knee injury, but I think with age, Fakhar needs to work on his strength," said Butt. "I'm telling you, every single one of our players needs to do strength training to stay fit as they grow older."

He further explained that merely running is not enough, while emphasizing the importance of building muscle to enhance the player's performance

in modern-day cricket. "Whether it's Fakhar or any other player, the way things are going now, they need strength training. It's as simple as that. Just running isn't going to achieve anything," he added.

Salman Butt expressed strong criticism regarding the excessive use of athletic tapes, comparing players to Egyptian mummies.

"I look at these players and I'm amazed—there's [athletic] tape on their knees, tape on their legs. They look less like athletes and more like mummies from the movies, wrapped in so many tapes," he remarked.

The former captain empha-

sized the significance of muscle strength and encouraged players to develop their muscles, as this will help them prevent injuries and enhance their athletic performance.

"Instead of wrapping your bones with tape, wrap them with muscle. Don't fear gaining muscle weight—muscle is heavier than fat, but it protects your bones, and it enhances your agility, speed, power, and explosive strength," he stated.

"If you want to enhance your career and compete at a higher level. Whether you're 18 or 35, this is essential for every player," he concluded.



Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

## Naya Nazimabad, Muhammad Hussain Jr and Malir Sports won their Matches

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Three More Matches decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament on Monday at various Grounds.

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

**Scores in Brief:**

Naya Nazimabad Gymkhana beat Bahawalur Cricket Club by 29 runs at Naya Nazimabad Stadium. Naya Nazimabad Gymkhana 176/9 in 40 overs. Muhammad Amir 40, Rameen Khan 25, Kashif Abbas 22. Muhammad Abbas 4/29, Ikram Khan 2/26, Fashidullah 2/34.

Bahawalur CC 147 all out in 30.1 overs. Amin Akbar 82 6x4 4x6, Akbar Hussain 36. Jahanzeb 3/17, Azmat ullah 3/26, Rameen Khan 2/31.

In the 2nd Match Muhammad Hussain Jr. Cricket Club beat Federal Sports by 7 Wickets at Afza Ground. Federal Sports 90 all out in 20.2 overs. Taimoor Tufail 22, Huzaifa Zubair 20. M. Hanzala 3/23, Fazal Malik 2/12, Arfa Akhtar 2/13.

Muhammad Hussain CC 91/3 in 8.5 overs. Fazal Arham Khan 44 3x5 4x6, Sufyan Hassan 22. Waqar Idrees 2/33.

In the 3rd Match Malir Sports beat New Nest Cricket Club by 6 runs at Pak Star Ground. Malir Sports 184/7 in 40 overs. Sheraz Ashraf 43, Amir Idrees 41, Ameer Zaib 40, Danish Rafiq 33. Ahsan Malik 2/28, Umair 2/31, Nizamuddin 2/35.

New Nest CC 178/9 in 40 overs. Ahsan Malik 55 4x4 1x6, Nizam uddin 52 4x4, Nacem Ahmed Khan 26. Umair Bin Ali 2/25, Farjad Ali Khan 2/28.

## Zone-VI Whites moved into Final of Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VI Whites moved into Final after beating Zone-VII Blues by 8 Wickets in the 2nd Semi Final of the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at KCCA Stadium.

The highlights of the days play was deadly bowling by left arm leg spinner Yahya Aslam 4/13 and Brilliant Unbeaten 50 by Muhammad Naveed.

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

Later Yahya Aslam received the Medicam Man of the Match Award.

**Scores in Brief:**

Zone-VI Whites beat Zone-VII Blues by 8 Wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VII Blues 94 all out in 35.2 overs. Ajlal Tariq 37, Osama 22. Yahya Aslam (sla) 4/13, Aaish Malik (ob) 2/7.

Zone-VI Whites 97/2 in 22.4 overs. Muhammad Naveed 50 5x4 not out, Faisal Qurban 28.

The Final Match will be played between Zone-VI Whites and Zone-VII Whites. The date and venue announced later on.

## Former cricketer, umpire Nazir Junior passes away

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former test cricketer turned umpire Mohammad Nazir (Junior) passed away after protracted illness at a local hospital here on Thursday. He was 78.



Nazir Junior represented Pakistan in 14 test matches and four ODIs between 1969 and 1984 and claimed 39 wickets. He was the first spinner to claim seven wickets for 99 runs in his debut test against New Zealand in 1969. Pakistan's cuisine

He turned to umpiring after retiring from professional cricket. He officiated in 15 ODIs and five test matches as an umpire.

## Haris Sohail refutes rumours of retirement

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan all-rounder Haris Sohail vehemently denied the rumours of his retirement from international cricket on Thursday. Haris voiced his disappointment over the spread of false rumours circulating on social media regarding his career, stating that he has no plans to retire from the game any time soon.

"I have not made any decision to retire, nor do I have any such intention. My full focus is on continuing to play the game that I love," he said in a statement.

In response to the speculations, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also clarified that they had not received any official communication concerning the retirement of Haris Sohail.

The 35-year-old all-rounder has represented Pakistan in 16 Test matches, 45 ODIs, and 14 T20Is since making his international debut in 2013. He has amassed a total of 2,806 runs across all formats, including four centuries and 17 half-centuries.

## Briefing

Karachi: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf being briefed at a stall during IDEAS 2024 on Thursday.



## Air Chief Zaheer Ahmed visits 12th edition of IDEAS-2024

## Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, made a comprehensive visit to the 12th edition of the International Defence Exhibition IDEAS-2024 at Karachi Expo Centre. This event showcases latest advancements in defence and aerospace technology, attracting both diverse array National and International audience. The Visit of Chief of the Air Staff underscores the importance of technological collaboration and innovation in enhancing National Defence Capabilities.

During the visit, Air Chief visited various stalls within the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park pavilion, which is prominently showcasing cutting-edge technologies in Space, Cyber, Artificial Intelligence, Electronic Warfare, Aero-



space Designing, Sensors and Simulators domains, engaging in detailed discussions with national partners on the crucial role of technological collaboration. Emphasizing the transformation of promising start-ups into Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs), he underscored the need for

fostering a robust ecosystem that encourages venture capitalism to drive innovation and growth in the aerospace sector. Chief of the Air Staff highlighted the importance of exploring opportunities for nurturing emerging talent and enhancing the capabilities of local industries through

National Incubation Center for Aerospace Technology (NICAT). The Air Chief also interacted with foreign delegates, where discussions were focused on exploring avenues for the sale and purchase of indigenously developed aerospace equipment, promoting a self-reliant defence industry.

Speaking at the occasion, Chief of the Air Staff encouraged the establishment of an Defence industry framework aimed at identifying and bridging existing gaps in the Aerospace sector. He emphasized on fostering both national and international collaboration to synergize the technological roadmap, ensuring that Pakistan remains at the forefront of Aerospace innovation.

The participation of the Pakistan Air Force at IDEAS-2024 to exhibit state of the art niche technologies underscores the commitment of PAF leadership to technological achievements through National Aerospace Science & Technology Park which has transformed into an icon of indigenisation efforts in defence technologies and national development fostering partnerships that ensure the security and sovereignty of Pakistan.

## Pakistan has vast investment opportunity: Abdul Aleem Khan

## Spokesman Report

BAKU: On the eve of COP 29, global forum held at Baku, Azerbaijan, Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan held meeting with Turkish Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Abdulkadir Uraloglu in which they discussed further enhancing the existing brotherly and trade relations between the two countries. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the friendship between Turkey and Pakistan spans over many decades which will further increase in the coming days. He said that Pakistan will welcome Turkey invest in different sectors.. He informed the Turkish



Minister of Transport about the ongoing projects in Pakistan's communications sector and offered Turkey's participation in them.

In Baku, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan also held separate

meeting with Azerbaijani Minister of Digital Development and Transport Rashad Nabiyeiev in which the successful holding of COP 29 in Baku was appreciated. They agreed to further cement relations between

Azerbaijan and Pakistan. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that a large number of Pakistani community in Azerbaijan is associated with education, employment and tourism while Pakistan is interested in G2G activities in various sectors with Government of Azerbaijan. He described his stay in Baku as pleasant and positive in which he had the opportunity to exchange views with Ministers from different countries. The Transport Ministers of Turkey and Azerbaijan in separate meetings appreciated the participation of the delegation from Pakistan led by Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and assured them of full cooperation from their countries.

## World-leading climate initiatives to be developed through £108m UK programme in Pakistan

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Hamish Falconer, announced a new £108 million climate finance programme. This funding will encourage new climate technologies and private sector investment, benefitting both the planet and Pakistani businesses.

Recognising the global threat posed by climate change, this first-of-its-kind programme will be delivered in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC). As the largest single country blended finance facility, it will invest in local businesses to help them develop the technologies and meet the significant investments needed to adapt to the threats Pakistan faces from climate change.

The UK and IFC will then reinvest any profits from projects back into the facility, financing even more climate solutions. The programme will leverage the £108m the UK puts in to mobilise 5-6 times that amount of investment from the private sector.



The launch event, held in Islamabad, was also attended by Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Finance, Revenue, and Power and Musadik Masood Malik, Federal Minister for Water Resources.

Announcing the new funding in

Islamabad, Minister for the Middle East, Hamish Falconer said "The UK and Pakistan have a long history of working together to tackle tomorrow's threats today. That's why we're investing in the expertise needed and supporting local businesses, alongside the Government of Pakistan, to get ahead of the challenges that climate

change poses to the Pakistani people and the world.

IFC Country Manager for Pakistan & Afghanistan, Zeeshan Sheikh, said "This facility reflects IFC's commitment to supporting Pakistan's climate resilience and adaptation efforts. We are pleased to be partnering with the UK on an innovative facility that will help crowd-in much needed private investment."

"As a leading global investor in climate finance, IFC aims to leverage its experience and catalyze private sector financing for climate-smart investments in Pakistan and build a sustainable climate finance ecosystem."

The Minister also met with Pakistan's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Ishaq Dar, and Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, to discuss shared values and address common challenges, including and regional and global security. He met with Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and the Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Tarar, to promote the importance of democracy and fundamental freedoms.

## Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf Visits IDEAS 2024

## Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, visited the ongoing International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024 at Expo Centre, Karachi.

During his visit, Admiral Naveed Ashraf interacted with foreign military officials, industry representatives, and exhibitors; engaging in discussions on advancements in naval

technology, global security trends, and potential areas for future collaboration. He also commended the innovative solutions on display and highlighted the importance of international partnerships in bolstering regional security.

Admiral Naveed Ashraf's visit to IDEAS 2024 underscores the Pakistan Navy's commitment to enhancing its capabilities and fostering cooperation with global partners.

## President strongly condemns firing at passengers' vehicles in Kurram

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday strongly condemned the incident of firing took place in Kurram district targeting the passengers vehicles. The president, in a statement, expressed grief over the loss of precious lives in the incident and called it a coward and inhumane act. He instructed the authorities concerned to take perpetrators of the attack on innocent citizens to the task. President Zardari prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed souls and strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss. He also prayed for early recovery of the injured and emphasised the best



possible medical treatment to them.

## PM strongly condemns terrorist attack on innocent civilians in Kurram

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the convoy of innocent civilians including women and children in district Kurram.

He directed to provide best medical care to those injured in the incident. In a statement issued by the PM Office Press Wing, the prime minister ordered to bring those involved in the attack to justice.

Terming the attack on the innocent civilians, an act of barbarism, the prime minister emphasized that the enemies of the nation will fail in all their nefarious attempts to destroy the peace of the country.

He vowed that the perpetrators involved in this incident will be identified and given exemplary punishment. "The cowardly acts of the saboteurs cannot diminish the courage of the



brave Pakistani nation," he added. Pakistan's cuisine

He said the elements who shed the blood of innocent civilians were not worthy of being called Muslims and even humans.

The prime minister prayed for the elevation of ranks of those killed in the incident in Jannah. He also prayed to Allah Almighty to grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the losses with equanimity.

## DPM Dar reviews process of ERRA, NDMA strategic merger



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 15th Council Meeting of the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The meeting reviewed the process of strategic merger of ERRA and National Disaster Management

Authority (NDMA).

The deputy PM observed that merger process would streamline operations, improve resource allocation, and strengthen the overall disaster response framework.

It was decided to engage the Governments of AJK and KP in harmonizing the disaster response framework.

Chairman ERRA, members of the ERRA Council and representatives of NDMA attended the meeting.

## CFCSC visits IDEAS-24 ...

Continued from Page 1

visited Pakistan Pavilion and lauded the efforts of Tri-Services in showcasing Pakistan's indigenous defence related equipment manufactured at par with global standards.

He also appreciated the efforts of DEPO for organising the event and

thanked all foreign companies for their participation.

The 12th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar-24 (IDEAS-24) was organised at Expo Center Karachi from November 19 to 22, 2024 under the auspices of the Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO).