

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے عبد اللہ بن عبد الوہاب نے بیان کیا، کہا کہ مجھ سے عبد العزیز بن ابی حازم نے بیان کیا کہ کہا کہ مجھ سے میرے والد نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے کھل بن سعید سے سنا ہے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ میں اور یتیم کی پرورش کرنے والا جنت میں اس طرح ہوں گے اور آپ نے شہادت اور درمیانی انگلیوں کے اشارے سے (قرب کو) بتایا۔
(بخاری ص 6005)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



President reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to women's rights, end to violence

President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed on the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women', "This day serves as a reminder to intensify our efforts to end violence against women and girls," he said in a message on the observance of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25.



WhatsApp restricted in Pakistan, NetBlocks confirms

Global internet observer NetBlocks confirmed that WhatsApp has been disrupted in Pakistan. "Confirmed: Live metrics show WhatsApp backends have been restricted in #Pakistan corroborating reports of media sharing issues; the measure comes as authorities tighten security ahead of protests planned by opposition party PTI calling for the release of former PM Imran Khan," NetBlocks said.

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By train

RAWALPINDI: PTI Protesters are coming to Islamabad by train due to closing the motorway and GT Roads.



Photo: Ramzan Mughal

DPM/FM Dar terms PTI's calls for protest as conspiracy against country's prestige



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday questioned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) repeated calls for strikes, terming them as a well-thought-out conspiracy against the country's prestige.

In a press statement, the DPM/FM expressed his regret over PTI's protest announced for November 24 in Islamabad. He said that the party

announced its protests at a time when important global personalities were on a visit to Pakistan, adding whether it was on 14th October on the occasion of the Chinese premier's visit or on 15-16 October when the heads of government of SCO arrived to participate in high-level event hosted by Pakistan.

DPM/FM Dar said, similarly, the Belarusian President was due on Monday on his official visit to Pakistan and prior to it, Belarusian ministers and business delegations were also arriving on Sunday.

He called upon the PTI's leadership to give priority to the national interests and the country on their petty political interests.

Belarus delegation arrives in Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Belarusian delegation, led by Foreign Minister Maksim Ryazanov, has arrived Islamabad, with President Alexander Lukashenko scheduled to visit tomorrow, according to the Foreign Office.

The delegation, comprising 68 members, included eight ministers and 43 business representatives.

They were welcomed by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Additional Secretary for Foreign Affairs Shafqat Ali Khan, and Pakistan's Amba-



sador to Belarus, Sajjad Haider Khan.

During the official visit, President Lukashenko will hold detailed talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields.

Multiple agreements and Memorandum of Understanding are expected to be signed.

Over 1,500 PTI supporters arrested in Islamabad: sources

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: At least 1,520 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters have been arrested in Islamabad over the last three days since the federal capital police launched a crackdown against former prime minister Imran Khan's party's workers.

Train services between Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar suspended amid PTI protest

Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan has asked

his supporters to march towards Islamabad on November 24 for democracy and judiciary. But Defence Minister Khawaja Asif believes the protest is akin to "insurrection" as the former ruling party allegedly wants to usurp the federal capital.

The PTI founder has set four demands for ending protests while his wife has stated that the date would only change if Khan is out of jail.

Khan's PTI encountered a significant setback on Thursday

when 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 Belarusian president.

The federal government has called in additional security troops to assist the capital city administration in maintaining order during the protest.

Convoys of PTI marched to the capital city from KP and Punjab in the afternoon despite

roadblocks and court orders. But Khan's party believes it was not heard in the case.

The IHC order was given in view of a ban on public gatherings in the twin cities and the arrival of a Belarusian delegation prior to President Alexander Lukashenko's visit to the country.

Clashes occurred at Faizabad where police reportedly used batons to disperse crowds while D-Chowk remained completely calm, without any tear gas or

baton charges reported.

Life in the twin cities has come to a standstill due to the PTI protests, with a heavy presence of police and Rangers in Islamabad. No PTI convoy has successfully entered the city yet, including one that was supposed to arrive from Swabi.

In view of the law-and-order situation, the federal capital administration has closed all educational institutions in the city. Rawalpindi has also taken a similar decision.

PTI wants to sabotage national development again: Ahsan Iqbal

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said on Sunday that the PTI wanted to sabotage the journey of national development once again.

Addressing a press conference here at Model Town, he said that only courts were empowered to release the PTI founder, and "we will never let Pakistan to be damaged for the ego of a single person." He

said the PTI founder could not be released through an executive order, and he should prove his innocence in the court. He said the PTI founder was in jail not to fulfill legal requirements but on the charges of theft, fraud and sedition.

During the PTI regime, he said, the PML-N leaders got justice from the courts and did not appeal to the government for their release from jails.

Ahsan Iqbal said that there was

PTI leaders courting arrests to avoid participation in so-called final call: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said most of the leaders and workers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are courting their arrests to avoid their participation in an "illegal and unnecessary" protest.

"One thing is pretty clear that the PTI's

leadership does not want a release of their leader from the jail as we have received information from Punjab and Islamabad that most of their top and low tiers' leaders are voluntarily surrendering to the police for their arrest," said the minister while talking to the media during his visit to different areas in Islamabad.

"This shows their so-called level of



Mohsin Naqvi visits D-Chowk to boost morale of police, FC, Rangers

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited D-Chowk to boost the morale of police, FC, and Rangers. He met with the personnel on duty and appreciated their high morale.

Interior Minister commended the personnel on duty for their dedication. He paid tribute to them for their

hard work and dedication to maintaining law and order.

The minister praised the personnel on duty for

ESTD. 1952
AHMED FOODS
PRODUCT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

شہرت نے ذائقہ دیا احمد نے محفوظ کیا!

Ceasefire, release of hostages agreed in Kurram: Barrister Saif

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: In a major development, the warring tribes have agreed on a 7-day ceasefire and the release of hostages in the Kurram District of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, after days of violence that left at least 80 people dead.

Speaking to media, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister's Information and Public Relations Adviser Barrister Dr Saif said that the official Jirga returned to Peshawar following the conclusion of a two-day visit to Kurram.

The provincial government's delegation comprised of Provincial Law Minister Aftab Alam, Barrister



Muhammad Saif, Chief Secretary General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Inspector former MNA Sajid Turi, and Commis-

sioner Kohat Division, Mutasim Billah Shah.

He said that the Jirga met community leaders in the Saddar area of Lower Kurram following a meeting with the victims in Parachinar of Upper Kurram.

"The leaders of both communities have agreed on a 7-day ceasefire, urging to solve the disputes by negotiations. Both parties have also agreed to release the hostages of each other with the help of security forces," he added.

Barrister Saif said that the Jirga will meet the elders of Kurram tomorrow for the implementation of agreed decisions, while the government is also seeking an extension in the ceasefire after days of Kurram violence.

Masses in problems

RAWALPINDI: A view of Murree Road blocked with shipping containers at Faizabad area during PTI protest in the city.



Photo: Online

Achakzai condemns the cutting off of Islamabad's ground link with the rest of the country

Rafiullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: Chairman of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party and the leader of the opposition alliance 'Tehreek Tahaffuz-e-Ain Pakistan' (Movement for the Protection of Pakistan's Constitution), Mahmood Khan Achakzai, has stated that today the world, particularly in terms of information, has transformed into a global village, where there is a consensus among different states and nations on various values, principles, and laws, including animal rights. However, the occupation of resources of weaker and oppressed nations, interference in their territories, and the continued shedding of innocent blood for vested interests remains unabated.



He made this statement during the inaugural speech of a two-day divisional public representative jirga in Zhub. The jirga was attended by a

large number of tribal elders, political party representatives, and individuals from different walk life.

Achakzai stated that for the past five decades, global

powers and their local proxies have turned Afghanistan into a battlefield to achieve their global political, strategic, and economic interests. He emphasized that the destruc-

tion of Afghanistan is not the fault of any barbaric force but, unfortunately, the states and elites of the world's so-called civilized nations.

Therefore, ensuring peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan is the responsibility of the states and nations that participated in the Afghan war, which caused destruction, Achakzai emphasized.

Achakzai further stated that military operations have never produced positive results in the past and are unlikely to do so in the future. He reminded that a military operation had already caused the country to break apart once, as political issues cannot be resolved through military operations, but through political negotiations and constitutional supremacy.

HEC unwilling to break NIHCR begging bowl

Kehkashan Tabbasum

Although the Finance Division has revised upward the Indicative Budget Ceilings (IBC) for the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to Rs. 65 billion from an initial allocation of Rs25 billion for fiscal year 2024-25 yet most of the universities, centres and institutes under its control have not been allocated and released sufficient budgets and funds for the fiscal 2024-25.

With the passage of time, annual budget allocations and grants are getting decreased for the universities in general and its recognised centres and institutes in particular. Over the years, particularly since 2018, Centres of Excellence have become beggars demanding bail out packages, grant

in aid and supplementary grants to overcome their financial pendency but in vain.

No doubt, the public sector universities, centres and institutes have been facing a financial emergency because of budget cuts for the past six years. Since then, the HEC decreased funding has failed to keep up with exacerbated house rent ceiling, pay and pension increases and other allowances. Nowadays universities, centres and institutes are facing financial crisis; some of them do not have funds to pay house rent ceilings, salaries and pensions to their staff and pensioners.

One such academic research institution is the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Centre of Excellence, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, which has been facing financial crunch since fiscal 2019-20 due to which the staff and pensioners

have not been paid House Rent Ceiling since July 2021 at the pretext that the Higher Education Commission had not released funds to the NIHCR.

Hard hit are the NIHCR pensioners who have not so far been paid their house rent ceilings since July 2021, gratuity and leave encashment in toto. The NIHCR authorities hold HEC responsible for not releasing required funds to clear the pensioners once for all. According to my well-placed sources in the NIHCR, at least five pensioners are waiting for payment of their pending pensionary dues and house rent ceilings.

Ironically, the NIHCR has not granted 15 percent Adhoc Relief announced in the Budget 2024-25 to its pensioners for non-release of funds by the HEC.

The NIHCR failed to implement the Special Dispensation for the Civil Serv-

ants in the Federal Government for the Employees in BPS-01 to BPS-16 effective 01-01-2023 for want of funds from the HEC.

The Institute has not paid 35 percent and 25 percent Adhoc Relief announced in the Budget 2023-24 to its staff and officers, respectively.

Likewise, the Institute failed to pay 25 percent and 15 percent Adhoc Relief announced in the Budget 2024-25 to its staff and officers, respectively, besides payment of medical allowance and medical reimbursement to its staff for lack of funds.

In spite of huge financial pendency, rumours are rife in the NIHCR that some high ups have been granted house building, motor car and motor cycle advances instead of clearing the pending house rent ceilings of lower staff or making payments to the retired staff.

Sector-Wide training on edible oil fortification and quality assurance concludes successfully

Qayoom Sarohi

KARACHI: A comprehensive Sector-Wide Training Workshop on Edible Oil Fortification and Quality Assurance was held today at the Marriott Hotel, Karachi. The event brought together 45 millers from across Pakistan to enhance their knowledge and skills on edible oil fortification, with a special focus on quality assurance, compliance with regulations, and overcoming industry challenges.

The workshop, organized by Nutrition International in collaboration with TechnoServe and the Millers for Nutrition (M4N) initiative, aimed to strengthen the edible oil sector's capacity to combat micronutrient deficiencies in Pakistan. With insightful sessions led by distinguished trainers, industry experts, and regulators, the event emphasized fortification practices, quality standards, and testing methodologies.

One of the key highlights of the workshop was the address by Mr. Umar Rehan, Chairman of the Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association (PVMA), who graced the event as the Chief Guest. In his speech, Mr. Rehan reiterated his commitment to supporting the edible oil industry and expressed full cooperation with Nutrition International to further strengthen industry standards. He emphasized the critical role of fortified edible oil in reducing vitamin A and D deficiencies in the country and urged millers to actively engage in initiatives like M4N.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Mueen Qureshi, Provincial Program Manager, Nutrition International, followed by certificate distribution to participants and a group photo session.

This training marks another milestone in Nutrition International's ongoing efforts to improve food fortification standards and contribute to the nutritional well-being of communities across Pakistan.

Pakistan Railways Union President meets RMT leader in London



Abdul Majid

LONDON: Sheikh Muhammad Anwar, Central President of Pakistan Railways Union, held a significant meeting today with Alex Gordon, President of the UK's National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT). This strategic dialogue marks a major step in fostering cooperation and solidarity between the railway workers' unions of both countries.

During the meeting, an in-depth discussion was held on the rehabilitation of Pakistan Railways, particularly in the aftermath of the devastating 2022 floods. Mr. Gordon expressed keen interest in the transformative potential of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), especially the ML-1 railway upgrade and the strategic importance of the Reko Diq project. He referred to these initiatives as potential game-changers for Pakistan Railways.

The conversation also covered restrictions imposed on trade unions in Pakistan Railways. Sheikh Anwar briefed Mr. Gordon on ongoing efforts to address these challenges, while Mr. Gordon pledged to raise the issue on global platforms, including the Geneva Conventions, to ensure workers' rights are protected.

Eid of Jesus the King reminds us to follow the King's path

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: On the auspicious occasion of the "Eid of Jesus the King", a procession was taken out under the leadership of Reverend Father Zafar Iqbal at the Catholic Cathedral, Faisalabad, the holy sacrifice of the Holy Mass was offered and the believers were benefited from the spiritual message. Father Zafar Iqbal said in his message that today all Christians all over the world are celebrating the Eid of Jesus the King with devotion and respect. This Eid reminds us that we are the people of the King whose kingdom is eternal and our King is the owner of an unlimited kingdom. Our King is the King of peace, tranquility and security. We should follow this King and play our role in making the world a cradle of peace and security. Special prayers were offered during the Holy Mass for the health of the sick, the development of the country, stability, prosperity and peace and security.



Lahore again tops list of world's most polluted city



City Desk

LAHORE: Due to the alarming level of smog, Lahore on Sunday was once again ranked on an unenviable slot of the world's polluted city.

The AQI index in the city rose to 304. With schools, colleges, and universities now open, the use of face masks has been made mandatory for students.

In Multan and Faisalabad, the AQI was recorded at 196 and 164. In Gujranwala, Peshawar and Karachi, the AQI stood at 164, 151 and 107.

Meanwhile, academic activities across the 36 districts of Punjab were restored on November 20 after the air quality showed a little improvement.

The provincial government announced the reopening of all educational institutions, including private schools, across Punjab, with Lahore and Multan Divisions included.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:22 am
Zohr 11:55 am
Asr 3:23 pm
Maghrib 5:00 pm
Isha 6:28 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
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
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid lauds Baku govt for successful COP29

Spokesman Report

BAKU/ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has extended congratulations to the president COP29 and Azerbaijan team on the successful adoption of the Baku Climate Unity Pact.

Addressing the closing plenary of COP29, she said "We look forward to joining all colleagues in continuing the spirit of international cooperation on the road from Dubai to Baku and Belem adding the delivery of the UAE consensus and Baku climate unity pact through the next generation of NDCs, NAPs and a decisive shift in the international climate finance architecture requires us to work together to keep 1.5 and global resilience within reach. PM's aide said Pakistan extends its

heartfelt appreciation to the government and people of Azerbaijan for hosting COP29 with an exceptional dedication and hospitality. The administrative arrangements were impeccable, ensuring a conducive environment for meaningful negotiations and collaboration.

Ms. Romina commend the COP29 Presidency for its leadership and tireless efforts in steering these critical discussions with inclusivity and fairness, reflecting the spirit of multilateralism.

"Pakistan stresses that the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities form the very basis of global climate change. We also reaffirm that COP remains the most essential and critical forum for forging global consensus toward the achievement of the goals of UNFCCC and Paris Agree-



ment, especially Paris Agreement's global temperature target of 1.5 degree Celsius", she added.

The Coordinator said "We came to Baku with the spirit that our decisions here on critical issues such as new

collective quantified goal (NCQG), the global stocktake (GST), and the just transition will put us back on track to achieve goals of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement".

She said Pakistan welcomes adaptation plan, however gap in the means of implementation is widening. We also welcome decision on Article 6. This all said, as we move towards 62th sessions of SBs followed by COP30, we do so with a hopeful determination that we'll further consolidate the decisions taken today where vulnerable developing countries will be given their due share.

She said multilateralism remains the cornerstone of Pakistan's climate diplomacy. We urge all Parties to uphold its spirit and return to the negotiating table with renewed commitment to address these outstanding critical issues comprehensively and equitably.

Bravery

ISLAMABAD: Policemen arresting PTI workers at Faizabad area during protest in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Renowned comedian Ismail Tara remembered

LAHORE: The second death anniversary of renowned comedian Ismail Tara was observed here and across the country on Sunday.

Ismail Tara was born on November 16, 1949, in Karachi. His real name was Muhammad Ismail Merchant.

He joined the performing arts in 1964 and performed on stage, television and cinema during his career. He was known for his humorous political drama, Fifty-Fifty in 1980s. He also performed on the silver screen and played various roles in different films. Tara won Nigar Award five times during his showbiz career.

His other famous dramas include Rubber Band, Yeh Zindagi Hai, One-Way Ticket, Delhi Colony, Ismail Time, and other stage dramas.

Ismail Tara died on this date in Karachi at the age of 73 due to kidney disease.

Anjum Nisar emphasized critical need for a strategic approach to economic development

City Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry' Businessmen Panel (BMP) has stated that political uncertainty has rattled the Pakistan economy, asking the government to take proactive measures to encounter external and domestic challenges, besides stabilizing the economy.

In a statement issued here today, the FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that the private sector leadership under the banner of Pakistan Businessmen Panel has always



stood firm and united against harmful actions to national economy and the people of the country has not accepted any move by mafias, who were responsible for creating chaos through unnecessary and unwarranted proposals,

detrimental to national cause. He outlined a comprehensive economic agenda aimed at steering the country towards progress. He emphasized the critical need for a strategic approach to economic development, calling for concerted efforts from both the government and political parties.

Mian Anjum Nisar observed that industry was expecting to presage easing of all political uncertainty paving the way for economic stability that all stakeholders and associated media pundits insisted would be a key factor in turning the economy around.

Professor MK Mughal Nominated for Federal Board BOG Elections

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Federal Board BOG Elections, Professor MK Mughal Nominated Candidate of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association. The name of MK Mughal was unanimously approved in the meeting of the Central Executive Council of the Association chaired by Dr. Malik Abrar Hussain.

Professor MK Mughal is the Principal of Khurshid International College while the Patron-in-Chief of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association District Chakwal

The All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association has nominated Professor MK Mughal as its candidate in the BOG (College Level) elections of the Federal Board. The name of Professor MK Mughal was unanimously approved in the meeting of the Central Executive Council held under the chairmanship of the Central President of the Association, Dr. Malik Abrar Hussain, yesterday. Professor MK Mughal is a world-renowned educationist who has served in teaching and administrative roles in Pakistani schools and other institutions in Oman, UK and UAE. He has been associated with the education sector for the past twenty-four years. Currently, Professor MK Mughal is serving as the Principal of Khurshid International College Chakwal.

Political stability vital to attract foreign, local investment: PIAF

City Desk



LAHORE: Raising grave concern over the falling trend of foreign direct investment the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) on Sunday said that the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Pakistan has plunged by 4 percent to \$243 million during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, indicating that the government has failed to win the confidence of foreign investors due to continued uncertainty in the country.

PIAF Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol, in a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Nasrullah Mughal and vice chairman Tahir Manzoor Ch, observed that the inflows under the FDI recorded 32.7 percent decline to \$393 million during the quarter under review as compared with \$575 million in the same quarter of the last year.

Quoting the data, Faheem ur Rehman Saigol said that the total foreign private investment into the country fell by 34.2 per cent to \$242.2 million during the quarter under review when compared with \$378 million in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal year.

The portfolio investment in the capital market registered massive decline in outflow during the quarter under review.

Political instability to further fuel financial uncertainty: APBF



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) on Sunday stressed the need for undertaking economic reforms and improving the regulatory environment so that financial stability can be achieved in the long-run.

The APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood, in a statement issued here on Saturday, stressed the need for reducing cost of doing business, besides evolving a new price control mechanism, as huge taxation, rising oil prices and constant jump in electricity and gas tariffs have lifted the cost of production to a new high. He warned that bailout packages from the IMF were unlikely to speed up economic growth, as the political instability and lack of reforms would further deteriorate the financial situation in the country.

The APBF President observed that amidst continuous of hike in cost of production in the country, what the Pakistan's economy really needs is persistent and sound economic management.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi warned the authorities that high inflation can hurt economic growth and a careful policy is required to keep it in control. He said that the pace of inflation is skyrocketing at a time when the economic activity is slowing down.

IBA Karachi Celebrated a Week of Innovation, Resilience and Inclusivity

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: IBA's Center for Entrepreneurial Development (IBA-CED), held four events to mark Global Entrepreneurship Week 2024 at the IBA Main Campus. This year's theme, 'Entrepreneurship Is For Everyone,' was reflected in the diverse range of activities designed to engage students, faculty, investors, industry specialists, and entrepreneurs of all ages. Events under the GEW 2024 included E-Connect, I-Bazaar, INVENT, and an interactive session with the Shark Tank Pakistan team; all four events took place from November 21 to November 23 with students, faculty, and guests all taking part in the festivities.

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA Karachi, delivered the opening remarks where he appreciated IBA-CED for becoming a hub for entrepreneurial expertise. Dr. Lalarkh Ejaz, Director,



IBA-CED, in her welcome address, said, "Entrepreneurship is a state of mind, and it is all about out-of-the-box thinking."

The first day's flagship event, E-Connect, featured two Panel Discussions, a Fireside Chat, and the launch of Pakistan's

first university-based angel investor network. The panel discussions focused on sustainable impact and fueling early-stage innovation, while the fireside chat explored entrepreneurial tales of triumphs and trials.

On the second day, an

Interactive Session with the Shark Tank Pakistan team took place. The Sharks - Mr. Rabeel Warraich and Mr. Karim Teli, with the Executive Producer, Shark Tank Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Rizwan Siddiqui, were the guests. The session allowed enthusiastic

IBA students to engage with the Sharks.

The third day featured INVENT2024, Pakistan's pioneering university-based business plan competition. The top 10 shortlisted startups from across Pakistan, selected after a rigorous evaluation process, competed for cash prizes and one-year incubation services at IBA-CED. YumKin Foods Pvt Ltd (Faisalabad) secured first place with PKR 300,000, Carbo Tech Dynamics (Lahore) came in second with PKR 200,000, and NanoDrop (Islamabad) took third place, winning PKR 100,000.

The events under GEW 2024 concluded with resounding success, showcasing IBA's commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and community engagement. The celebrations highlighted IBA-CED's pivotal role as a hub for nurturing entrepreneurial talent and driving impactful change in Pakistan's startup ecosystem.

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Kashmir Volleyball Super League

The Pakistan Army has long been recognized not only for its role in defending the nation's borders but also for its contributions to sports development, particularly among the youth. Through various programs and initiatives, the Army has played a crucial role in fostering athletic talent, promoting fitness, and instilling discipline in young people across the country. Its influence in the sporting arena has been significant, helping to nurture individual achievements and instill a sense of national pride. In a country where sports often face challenges due to limited resources, the Pakistan Army has been a key player in driving sports development from the grassroots level, providing young people with opportunities that they might not have had otherwise. The Pakistan Army has played a pivotal role in fostering a sports culture across the country, from building state-of-the-art sports infrastructure to mentoring young athletes. One of its most significant contributions has been the development of world-class sports facilities. The Army has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining numerous sports complexes and stadiums nationwide, offering young athletes the platforms they need to refine their skills. For instance, the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul, while training cadets for military service, also serves as a center for sports excellence, with top-tier facilities for a variety of sports, including football, hockey, and athletics. These military-run institutions provide young talent with opportunities for competitive sports, and many of the country's most promising athletes have emerged from these programs. Similarly, the Rawalpindi Sports Complex and Lahore Garrison Sports Complex are hubs where youth from diverse backgrounds can participate in sports, receive profes-

sional coaching, and compete in national tournaments. The Pakistan Army's investment in sports facilities has had a profound impact, especially in making high-quality sports infrastructure accessible to youth across the country. The Neelum Sports Complex in Muzaffarabad, for example, offers top-notch sports and fitness services to the youth of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Army's involvement in sports goes beyond just building infrastructure; it includes training and coaching the next generation of athletes. Recognizing the importance of nurturing youth talent, the Army has developed programs that provide not only equipment and facilities but also professional coaching and mentorship.

The Army has been instrumental in strengthening Pakistan's national sports teams, with many athletes from its programs going on to represent the country internationally and achieve great success. For instance, figures like Sohail Abbas (hockey) and Qamar Zaman (squash) either joined the military or were trained through its sports initiatives, bringing home accolades and pride to the nation. To foster competition and identify emerging talent, the Army organizes a variety of sports competitions across the country, including national-level Army Sports Championships. These events, open to youth from all regions and backgrounds, provide opportunities for young athletes to showcase their skills and develop healthy competition, teamwork, and perseverance. Additionally, the Army's efforts have led to an increase in inter-university, inter-school, and inter-district tournaments, enriching the competitive sports environment for young people nationwide.

Beyond competitive athletics, the Pakistan Army's focus on sports is also aimed at instilling discipline, physical fitness, and a healthy lifestyle in youth. Its commitment to fitness is reflected in its sports programs, where physical conditioning is prioritized alongside technical skill. By promoting regular exercise and sports participation, the Army encourages youth to stay active and adopt lifelong healthy habits, aligning with broader initiatives to combat sedentary lifestyles and health issues like obesity and cardiovascular disease. Additionally, sports and physical training are central to the values of discipline, responsibility, and teamwork. The army's commitment to these core principles has played a key role in shaping the character of countless young people, equipping them not only for success in sports but also for the broader challenges of life.

The Pakistan Army has been instrumental in fostering a national sports culture that highlights both physical excellence and sportsmanship.

This has been particularly important in a country where, at times, sports have been overshadowed by issues like political instability and economic difficulties. Through its various sports initiatives, the army has played a key role in elevating sports to a position of national significance. The army's involvement has made sports more mainstream and provided many young people with a sense of purpose, with athletes in the military serving as role models. Whether through serving in the armed forces or participating in military-run sports programs, the youth are inspired by the army's dedication to excellence and national pride in sports. Beyond traditional sports, the Pakistan

Army has also encouraged participation in newer, more dynamic activities, including e-sports and extreme sports. Recognizing the growing popularity of gaming among young Pakistanis, the army has become a major sponsor of e-sports tournaments, helping to foster teamwork and strategic thinking while staying aligned with modern youth trends.

One notable example is the 5AK Brigade of the Pakistan Army's initiative of the Kashmir Volleyball Super League (KVSL), a pioneering event designed to promote competitive sports at the state level. The second season of KVSL was recently concluded in Muzaffarabad, AJK, with significant involvement from the Commander of the 5AK Brigade and his staff, ensuring the event's smooth execution. KVSL not only provided a platform for huge number players from 32 tehsils, 10 districts, and 3 divisions of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to showcase their talent, but also fostered discipline and team spirit. Talent scouts from various national departments were invited to identify potential players for national and international opportunities.

The event was a powerful expression of the Kashmiri youth's spirit, with participants proudly declaring, "We Are The Best" and "Second To None." It was a remarkable opportunity for the youth to demonstrate their potential and engage with the world. The Pakistan Army's active role in organizing sports events in Azad Jammu and Kashmir has been widely appreciated by the local population.

Ultimately, the youth are the backbone of our nation, and initiatives like these to engage them in sports, fitness, and discipline are crucial for the country's development and progress. Continued efforts to promote such healthy activities will help in harnessing the potential of our youth for the betterment of the nation.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Security measures following PTI protest

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, addressed a press conference at D-Chowk on Sunday, emphasized Islamabad Police's dedication to ensuring smooth traffic flow, maintaining law and order, upholding public peace, and safeguarding lives and property in the federal capital.

IG Islamabad Rizvi highlights security measures following PTI protest. During the press conference, IG said that no citizen is facing any obstruction while traveling, and instead of completely blocking areas where there are restrictions, Islamabad Police ensured that traffic continued to flow so that citizens did not face difficulties.

Additionally, where there are obstacles in remote areas, the Chief Traffic of Islamabad has arranged complete alternative routes to ensure that traffic continues smoothly in all areas.

IG Rizvi further mentioned that citizens were kept informed about today's security arrangements through various means, and information was also shared regarding police forces from other districts deployed in Islamabad.

IG emphasized that, they were present to ensure that all duties are carried out professionally, in line with the law.

IG Rizvi also stressed that all resources are being utilized to implement the orders of the High Court to maintain peace and order in the federal capital and to ensure the protection of citizens' lives and property.

IG Rizvi further said that, one thing i want to clarify is that as police officers, our foremost responsibility is to ensure adherence to the law, and we are fully committed to performing this duty.

Islamabad Police is taking all possible measures to protect citizens' lives and property, and no one will be allowed to disturb public peace, IG added.

Meanwhile: Ahead of planned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protests in Islamabad, police had initiated a wave of arrests targeting party leaders and workers.

Prominent figures taken into custody include National Assembly members Amir Dogar, Zain Qureshi, and Moeen Riaz.

Dogar was apprehended while traveling to Islamabad and his location remains undisclosed. Rai Hassan Nawaz Khan, an MNA from Chichawatni, was also arrested at a bypass checkpoint. In Multan, a preemptive crackdown resulted in the arrest of Zahid Hashmi (son-in-law of Javed Hashmi) and numerous other PTI workers.

Police also raided the home of Senator Aun Abbas Bappi, arresting six of his employees. Farukh Javed Moon was taken into custody at Jinnah Hospital.

Furthermore, 13 PTI workers were detained near Faizabad in Islamabad. Police cite concerns over potential threats to public order as the justification for these arrests, alleging that those detained were either participating in or planning to participate in the protests.



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

Child Labor in Pakistan: A Stark Reality

Child labor is a ticking bomb threatening to undermine the very fabric of our society and destroys the dreams of millions of children worldwide.

Despite the presence of millions of adolescents in Pakistan, a significant number are working rather than receiving an education. Child labor is a menace that undermines the future of our children. The country has a population of 36 percent in the age range of 0 to 14 years according to the latest census of 2023. The International Labor Organization (ILO) has put the number of child laborers within the age range of 5 to 14 in Pakistan at 3.8 million. This is quite a considerable figure, and the situation is exacerbated further when the child labor industries are analyzed including agriculture (73 percent), manufacturing (13 percent), and the services sectors (15 percent).

In fact, we observe such children working in hotels, petrol pumps, and offices and some others working at automotive repair shops. It is true that these children are not only skipping school but rather they are also engaged in work which is quite dangerous, involve abuse both verbally and physically, and even sexual violence. Just like the case of eight year old Zohra Shah, who used to work as a house help and was killed by her owner. The children are working in coal mines in Baluchistan province as Baluchistan has not fixed a minimum age for hazardous work. Similarly a large number of children are working in brick kilns and in the agricultural works like working in the fields of rice, wheat and sugarcane. Almost 700000 children in Sind province work as a bonded laborers in the agricultural sector under exploitative condition.

In Pakistan, child labor is exacerbated by poverty and impoverished conditions. Figures show that children account for 55% of the working population in Pakistan owing to poverty. Families who are poor are usually looking for an additional

source of income and as a result, send their children as domestic help. About 264,000 children are believed to be serving in households and kitchens in Pakistan. As Nelson Mandela said "Education is their key to unlocking the potential of our children". another important area of concern is education, as woefully, Pakistan has the second-most out-of-school children in the world, and it is estimated that many more than 22.8 million children aged 5-16 are out of school. Overpopulation also attributes to child labor in Pakistan as it creates more children to look after and a similar income demand. Here, children's earnings are required for a spouse. Other important reason of child labor in the country is unemployment which is case of out of jobs adults who make their little ones go to work and earn for them.

The Employment of Children Act, 1991 bans employing children below the age of 14 in industries such as factories, carpet industries and mines which are considered as unsafe and dangerous. Children also are not allowed to be bonded as domestic labor. And THE Restriction on Employment of Children Act 2016. Which stated that no child should be employed in any occupation or process which is likely to be harmful to health, safety or morals, and that the minimum age of employment shall be at least 15 years. However, the existence of so many laws has not deterred 3.8 million children within the age bracket of 4 and 15 years from working as supra. Child labor is described as the modern form of slavery that has shackled our country. According to survey there are 745,165 children work as laborer's only in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of the country.

The absence of administration in the country, coupled with the corrupt officers of government institutions has made it practically impossible to enforce these laws. Actually putting into practice these laws in true spirit and the letter is very difficult. The most fundamental problem is the weak

law enforcement. This is the key barrier to address this problem. The government is taking steps to eliminate this child labor in the country. Law enforcement authorities should stop this illegal child labor. The government needs to come up with the best strategy to enforce the law. Providing free quality education to poor children can stop this crime. The government should prioritize the education sector and increase the education budget and to Conduct awareness events in society to prevent child exploitation. The role of NGOs is very important. International Labor Organization (ILO) and Society for Protection of Children's Rights (SPARC) are working very effectively in Pakistan to protect children and promote social equality and justice throughout the country. Both government, NGOs and social welfare should work together to eliminate this child labor in Pakistan.

In a nutshell Child labor remains a pervasive issue in Pakistan, with 3.8 million children aged 5-14 engaged in hazardous work. Poverty, lack of education, and weak law enforcement exacerbate this problem. The government, NGOs, and social welfare organizations must collaborate to eliminate child labor. Providing free quality education, increasing the education budget, and conducting awareness events can help prevent child exploitation. Strengthening law enforcement and implementing existing laws is crucial. The government should prioritize the education sector and increase the education budget. Conducting awareness events in society can also help prevent child exploitation. The role of NGOs, such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and Society for Protection of Children's Rights (SPARC), UNICEF Pakistan, The Asia Regional Child Labor (ARC) project, Save Children Pakistan is vital in protecting children and promoting social equality and justice. Collective efforts are necessary to ensure that no child is forced to sacrifice their childhood and education for labor.

Author is a student of BS History from University of Punjab, Lahore.



Analysis

Muzafar Ahmed Khan

Bangladesh Celebrates Allama-Iqbal Birth Anniversary with Pride - I

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

On November 9th the day of pride, Bangladesh celebrates the birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal, the esteemed philosopher, poet and great politician who played a role in shaping the ideology of Pakistan. Bangladesh admired the influence of Iqbal's poetry on Bengali people and culture. Allama Iqbal poetry transcends time and border, reason with people across the subcontinent. Allama Iqbal, a prominent philosopher and poet of the early 20th century, significantly influenced the cultural and intellectual landscape of Bangladesh. His philosophical ideas, rooted in Islamic thought and modernity, resonated deeply with the Bengali intelligentsia. Iqbal's emphasis on self-discovery and empowerment inspired many to seek a renewed sense of identity amidst colonial subjugation.

This serves as a day of reflection and tribute, allowing Bengali citizens to honor and celebrates the legacy the national poet with pride and respect. Allama Iqbal also the poet of East, the vision of Nationalism in his poetry inspired the independence movement in the Indo-Pak subcontinent. His poetry a sense of profound patriotism, advocating for rights and empowerment of the Muslim community. His poetry not only advocated for political but also called for a deeper introspection into spiritual and moral of individual. In Bangladesh, Allama Iqbal's birth is marked with various events and activities that homage to his rich literary contributions. Mostly in schools, colleges and universities host seminars and events to introduced Iqbal's poetry and the legacy. These events encourage younger generation introduced to the profound wisdom and ideology present Allama Iqbal's poetry fostering a sense of national pride and belonging. Furthermore, Allama Iqbal philosophy

creating lasting impact on the cultural and intellectual landscape of Bangladesh. His concept of Khudi promotes the importance of self-realization with excellence and shaped the struggle of Muslims.

Allama-Iqbal philosophy had a profound impact on the cultural and intellectual landscape of Bangladesh. This impact seen in various places and different aspects of Bangladeshi society, including literature, politics and education. They examining Iqbal's philosophy has permeated Bangladeshi culture, and people of Pakistan also appreciate the lasting legacy he has left on this nation. Allama Iqbal known as the poet of Pakistan but a significant influence on the entire South Asian region, was a visionary philosopher of all time. His poetry and ideas continue to shape the worldviews. Bangladeshi poets and writers have drawn inspiration from Iqbal's work such as his famous Persian and Urdu poetry collections. The philosophy of self-realization and spiritual awaking the similar themes of self-respect delves into the Bengali culture. His famous Persian and Urdu poetry collection such as 'Asrar-e-Khudi' (Secrets of the Self) and 'Bang-e-Dra' (The call of the Marching Bell) have become iconic works that continue to resonate with readers worldwide.

His poetry articulated themes of nationalism and spiritual awakening, encouraging the Bengali populace to embrace their cultural heritage while also engaging with contemporary global ideas. This duality fostered a unique intellectual environment that blended traditional Islamic values with modernist thought, paving the way for new literary movements in Bangladesh. Iqbal's vision of a united Muslim identity played a crucial role in shaping political consciousness among Bengalis during the struggle for autonomy. His works continue to be studied not only for their literary merit but also for their profound socio-political implications, solidifying his legacy as an architect of cultural revival in Bangladesh.

To be continued

Mikati warns Israeli military action in Lebanon a rejection of political solution

Agencies

BEIRUT: An Israeli strike on a Lebanese army center on Sunday killed a soldier and wounded 18 others, the Lebanese military said, with the caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, calling the attack "a direct bloody message rejecting all efforts to reach a ceasefire."

The attack came as top EU diplomat Josep Borrell called for an immediate ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war while on a visit to Lebanon.

According to the Lebanese Army Command, the first adjutant, Diab Mohammed Jaafar, was killed when Israel targeted Al-Amariyah checkpoint on the road between Tyre and the town of Naqoura.

In a statement, Mikati said: "Israel's messages rejecting a solution are ongoing, and just as it turned against the US-French call for a ceasefire in September, here it is once again responding with Lebanese blood, blatantly rejecting the solution that is being discussed."

FASTFACT

Israeli airstrikes on Saturday pounded central Beirut, killing at least

20 people and wounding 66, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

He called on "the countries of the world and the relevant international institutions to assume their responsibilities on the issue."

Mikati's condemnation came amid growing concerns that the Israeli military is trying to solidify its westward incursion in the coastal town of Al-Bayada, located between Tyre and Naqoura, while facing strong resistance from the eastern side of the border area in its positions in Khiyam.

Israeli forces are trying to encircle the South Litani area from both sides.

Hezbollah said it "targeted a gathering of the enemy army's forces east of the city of Khiyam with a salvo of rockets," and "a gathering of Israeli forces at the Metula site (Israel's outlet toward Khiyam) was targeted with a volley of rockets followed by an aerial attack with a squadron of assault drones... hitting its targets accurately."

The Israeli military said Hezbollah launched 160 projectiles toward Israel on Sunday.

Sirens sounded across northern and central Israel, reaching Tel Aviv at



successive intervals, forcing thousands of Israelis to head toward shelters.

Footage from central Israel showed extensive material damage and fires.

The Israeli military issued further warnings to residents of Beirut's southern suburbs to evacuate, targeting Bourj Al-Barajneh and Hadath.

Former Israeli minister Benny

Gantz claimed that the Lebanese government "is leaving Hezbollah unchecked," adding: "It is time to act against its assets forcefully."

These developments came during a round of discussions conducted by Borrell, high representative of the EU for foreign affairs and security policy, in Beirut with Mikati and Speaker Nabih Berry.

In a statement, Borrell stressed the need for exerting pressure on Israel and Hezbollah to accept the US proposal for a ceasefire.

Borrell emphasized that "the situation in the Middle East, particularly here in Beirut, presents a significant challenge to the international community. The international community cannot remain inactive in the face of these events. The absence of peace in the Middle East has reached an intolerable level, and people are dying under bombardment."

He added that two months on from his last visit to Beirut, he now views Lebanon as on the verge of collapse due to the conflict, which has led to the devastation of numerous villages, as well as airstrikes aimed at Beirut and Baalbek. He also reiterated that "the human cost is exceedingly high."

Borrell said Israeli airstrikes had claimed the lives of over 3,500 people in Lebanon, a figure three times greater than the casualties recorded in 2006.

The only viable path forward, Borrell said, is an immediate ceasefire and the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701.

Borrell praised the UNIFIL forces and confirmed the EU's readiness to allocate €200 million (\$208.3 million) to the Lebanese Armed Forces.

He emphasized the Lebanese need to "assume their political responsibilities by electing a president and putting an end to this prolonged power vacuum that has exceeded two years."

Borrell said a ceasefire proposal for Gaza is pending Israeli government approval, and "we, as the international community, need to work to ensure the respect of international law, as we see famine being used as a weapon of war through international law violations, the complete siege imposed on Gaza and the number of people that are dying in Lebanon."

He added that in his view the decisions of the International Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister, Yoav Gallant, for Israel's activities in Gaza were not politically motivated and had been made under international law, which applied to everyone. "We strongly support the court," he said.

Pakistan Embassy hosts exhibition dedicated to art of Islamic calligraphy

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Art pieces by prominent Pakistani Islamic calligrapher, Ayesha Kamal, were showcased at an exhibition hosted by the Embassy of Pakistan, marking the inaugural event in the "Pakistan Arts, Crafts, and Literature Series".

The exhibition was attended by diplomats, US government officials, cultural enthusiasts, media representatives and the Pakistani-American community.

Welcoming the guests, Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh expressed his admiration for the works of Ms. Kamal, the Lahore-based artist,



and stressed the need for preserving and promoting the country's rich art and culture heritage.

"Islamic calligraphy is not just a visual art form, but a profound expression of faith and spirituality," he said and added that it was a

salient exponent of the rich cultural heritage yielded by the Islamic faith.

Tracing the historical evolution of calligraphy, Ambassador Sheikh underscored the significant contributions of the Muslim world, from the early Quranic manu-

scripts and inscriptions to the golden age of calligraphy during the Ottoman Empire.

"Pakistan's calligraphers have made significant contributions to the evolution and refinement of this art form, including Sadequain and Ustad Allah Bux," he said.

In her remarks, Ms. Kamal thanked Ambassador Sheikh for his support in making the event possible. She also shared insights into the techniques and inspirations behind her art.

The exhibition featured an array of calligraphic works, reflecting the intricate patterns and flowing script that define this ancient art form that impressed the visitors.

Saudi companies exhibiting at ArabPlast in Dubai to showcase petrochemical innovations

WAM

LONDON: Saudi petrochemical firms will showcase their products and innovative solutions at the 17th ArabPlast, hosted by the Dubai World Trade Center, the Emirates News Agency — WAM — reported.

ArabPlast, an international trade show that takes place from Jan. 7-9, is an important event in the calendar of companies working in the plastics, recycling, petrochemicals, packaging and rubber industries.

In 2025, ArabPlast will host 12 national pavilions and 750 exhibitors from a total of 35 countries, including companies



from Saudi Arabia, Austria, China, Egypt, Germany, Italy, India, Switzerland, Jordan, UAE and the rest of the GCC countries.

They will showcase "a diverse range of products, technologies and solutions that shape the future of plas-

tics, petrochemicals and rubber sectors in the region," WAM reported.

Nidal Mohammed Kadar, director of ArabPlast, said that the event would also feature the "latest developments in robotics and artificial intelligence technolo-

gies in the field of recycling," which will contribute to sustainability.

Sadiq Al-Lawati, executive director of Polymers Marketing at OQ Oman, said that ArabPlast will focus on "sustainable, environmentally friendly solutions" as the global demand for plastic increases in industrial sectors, such as construction, food and beverage, aviation, automotive, health care and sports.

Alongside the exhibitions, hundreds of professionals and decision-makers will discuss the latest solutions and challenges that the plastic and petrochemical industries are facing in the Arab region.

Riyadh Music Week to spotlight Saudi talent, creativity

News Desk

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Music Commission, in collaboration with MDLBeast and the Saudi Research and Media Group, is poised to launch the inaugural Riyadh Music Week, running from Dec. 5 to 14 at various venues in the Saudi capital.

The event will spotlight the Kingdom's growing music sector, highlighting its creative and commercial evolution. It will also serve as a platform for dialogue with international stakeholders on music policy and development.

Among the highlights is the Global Music Makers Summit, a premier gathering of industry leaders and poli-



cymakers from around the world.

The event will also celebrate Saudi traditional music, with small venues in Riyadh hosting performances to show off local musicians' diversity and talent.

The week will also host the Music Cities Convention and

Awards, which will be held in the Middle East for the first time.

Riyadh Music Week will include panel discussions, seminars and workshops led by industry experts, covering the latest global music trends.

The program incorporates key events from Riyadh's

music calendar, such as XP Music Futures, SoundStorm, and the inaugural Billboard Arabia Music Awards.

The week provides a unique platform for local and international collaboration, celebrating Saudi Arabia's rich musical heritage and dynamic contemporary scene.

By supporting emerging and established artists, Riyadh Music Week underscores the Kingdom's commitment to nurturing talent and growing its music industry.

The Saudi Music Commission, established in February 2020, leads this transformation, focusing on equal access to education, empowering talent and boosting the local economy.

Bangladesh prepares to send trained nurses to Saudi Arabia in 2025

Shehab Sumon

DHAKA: Bangladeshi nationals make up the largest group of expatriates in Saudi Arabia, with nearly 3 million working and residing in the Kingdom. But only a few dozen clinicians are among the group, according to Bangladesh Medical Association data.

In 2022, the two countries signed an agreement on the recruitment of health workers, targeting the large numbers of certified doctors, nurses and medics from Bangladesh's more than 100 medical colleges.

Bangladeshi authorities are now preparing a batch of over 100 nurses to send to Saudi Arabia, said the Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services



Ltd., a recruitment agency under the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

"We got a request to send 150 nurses to the Kingdom... If everything goes alright, we can expect the first batch to (fly out) to the Kingdom early next year," BOESL Executive Director Shawkat Ali said.

In Saudi Arabia, nurses must undergo the Saudi Prometric Exam in order to practice in the Kingdom. Though Bangladesh has many nursing school graduates, most do not have the required Prometric certifications, he added.

"Our nurses are very skilled and industrious

... We have received huge queries for the nurses. But here they need to have the Prometric certification. If we can prepare them in line with the Saudi requirements, it will open new opportunities for our nurses."

Only around 2 percent of Bangladeshi workers in the Kingdom are skilled professionals, but the number has been on the rise since the beginning of the year, according to data from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

Though most Bangladeshi migrant workers are seeking employment in Saudi Arabia's giga-projects under its Vision 2030 transformation plan, there has also been a growing demand for health workers from the South Asian nation.

China provides platforms for global vocational education cooperation, exchanges

Xinhua

TIANJIN:—In the exhibition area of a saline-alkali-tolerant plant factory in east China's Shandong Province, green alfalfa, sweet sorghum, oats and other seedlings have grown so well that they have caught the eye of Christine Akoth Onyango, vice chancellor of Iaita Taveta University in Kenya.

"We have not reached this level yet of adapting plants to soil types. The way you are doing is very impressive," said Onyango, who has been on her second trip to China.

A previous memorandum of understanding signed by the education institutions in China and Kenya has paved the way for more Kenyan teachers and students to come to Dongying

Vocational College in Shandong to learn various relevant technologies.

"China's agricultural technology is very practical, and we should carry out more cooperation with China in the field of vocational education to improve Kenya's agricultural development level," she said.

Onyango participated in the 2024 World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference in Tianjin Municipality, north China. The conference, which ran from Thursday to Friday, attracted more than 600 overseas guests from over 100 countries and regions. They shared their experiences and achievements at the conference and jointly discussed an innovative path for vocational education

development.

Thomas Parker, CEO of Look Education New Zealand (LENZ), was touched by the ancient books and porcelain restoration skills demonstrated by hearing-impaired students from Shandong Vocational College of Special Education.

Parker said that his school is engaged in preschool education, health care, information technology and other training methods. Moreover, he looks forward to taking the opportunity to have face-to-face discussions with Chinese partners.

Jekathese, director of College Dayatech Subang Malaysia, was amazed at the high-tech vocational and technical education equipment such as robots and artificial intelligence on display

at the conference venue.

"I think we have gained a lot of knowledge and a lot of input for us to take back to our country, with more possibility for us to collaborate with China," Jekathese said.

The World Technical and Vocational Education and Training League, a vocational education cooperation organization, was established at the conference, which aims to provide the most comprehensive, balanced, representative and inclusive international platform for vocational education.

The league's first group of members consists of 89 institutions from 43 countries and regions, including higher education institutions, vocational and technical colleges, enterprises and educational organizations.

Muferihat Kamil, Ethiopia's Minister of Labor and Skills, said that the league is a timely initiative that aligns perfectly with Ethiopia's vision for global collaboration.

China has the largest vocational education system in the world and is always willing to share high-quality development programs in the field of vocational education with other countries.

Luban workshop, an international cooperation project on vocational training mainly supported by China's Tianjin, has set up 34 workshops in 30 countries and regions.

On the east African plateau with an average altitude of 1,200 meters, there is a "steel dragon" connecting Ethiopia and Djibouti. Liban Fouad Osman, a train



conductor, is one of the first 24 graduates of Luban Workshop in Djibouti.

"Luban Workshop has brought us railway knowledge and also brought hope to me. I have been determined to work in railways since childhood," he said.

According to the Report on the Development of Vocational Education in China released at the conference, China has trained many skilled talents for partner countries.

Fabio Kessler, an apprentice industrial mechanic from Germany, is on a two-week study visit in China at the invitation of Tianjin Sino-German University of Applied Sciences.

"I think it's very interesting to see all the different things here like the technology and also the craftsmanship." The 21-year-old student also expressed his interest in working for a Chinese company or working on a career related to China in the future.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 97,798.23 | 97,328.39 |
| Day's High | Day's Low |
| 99,623.03 | 97,471.11 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 34,190,274,257 | +469.84 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.48% | 22 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 8,262.08 | +112.81 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +1.38% | 22 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 44,296.51 | +426.16 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.97% | 22 Nov, 4:20 pm GMT-5 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 38,283.85 | +257.68 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.68% | 22 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9 |

| Open Market Forex Rates | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Currency | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar | 180.25 | 182.50 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 731.05 | 739.05 |
| Canadian Dollar | 198.60 | 201.00 |
| China Yuan | 38.58 | 38.98 |
| Danish Krone | 39.58 | 39.98 |
| Euro | 288.60 | 291.35 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 35.37 | 35.72 |
| Indian Rupee | 3.34 | 3.45 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.80 | 1.86 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 891.20 | 900.70 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 62.5 | 63.10 |
| New Zealand \$ | 163.14 | 165.14 |
| Norwegians Krone | 24.78 | 25.08 |
| Omani Riyal | 714.75 | 723.25 |
| Qatari Riyal | 75.62 | 76.32 |
| Saudi Riyal | 73.65 | 74.20 |
| Singapore Dollar | 206.27 | 208.27 |
| Swedish Korona | 25.82 | 26.12 |
| Swiss Franc | 311.45 | 314.25 |
| Thai Bhat | 7.93 | 8.08 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 75.35 | 76.00 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 346.75 | 350.25 |
| US Dollar | 277.30 | 278.80 |

Rwanda, Pakistan have huge trade potential, needs to promote bilateral cooperation: Ambassador Harerimana

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Rwanda to Pakistan, Ms Fatou Harerimana on Sunday said that bilateral cooperation between Rwanda and Pakistan in the health sector and public health is inevitable and there is potential on both sides in this sector. Pakistan's cuisine

There is a need to further increase the bilateral economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Rwanda, for which the role of the private sector from both sides is very important, the Ambassador said and added that Pakistan and Rwanda enjoy friendly relations underpinned by mutual respect, growing economic ties and cooperation at multilateral fora. Rwanda, Pakistan have huge trade potential; health sector needs to promote bilateral cooperation: Ambassador Harerimana Rwanda and Pakistan, with a longstanding relationship spanning sixty-two years, actively collaborate in various fields, including trade, health, and investment, she remarked. Pakistan's cuisine

She said that Rwanda's real GDP of Rwanda grew by 9.7% in the first quarter of 2024, exceeding the previous year's growth rate of 8.2% and the country has shown remarkable resilience, driven by strong consumer spending in key sectors such as services and industry.

The ambassador said that despite ongoing challenges, Rwanda's labor market experienced a strong recovery, with over half a million new jobs created in the fourth quarter of 2023, marking the most significant reduction in unemployment since the COVID pandemic.

"The labor market expansion in Rwanda was broad-based, with women benefiting slightly more than men and to leverage its youth demographic, Rwanda needs to expand labor force participation, as only 2.8 million out of 8.1 million working age individuals are employed full time.

She said that Rwanda aspires to become a Middle-Income Country by 2035 and a High-Income Country by 2050.



It plans to achieve this through the implementation of the second National Strategies

for Transformation (NST-2), a five year-development agenda underpinned by sectoral strategies focused on meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Updating on the economy, she said that Rwanda's economy continued to stage a strong growth in the first half of 2024 and after growing by an average of 8.2% in 2022-2023, real GDP increased by 9.7% in the first half of 2024. The GDP growth is expected to maintain momentum in 2025-26, with a projected average of 7.7%, to a recovery in global tourism, new construction projects, and manufacturing activities, she added.

CEO of GAK HealthCare International, Dr. Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital, and Islamabad Medical and Dental College,

Yasir Khan Niazi said that Pakistan and Rwanda have huge potential in public health sector and they are ready to work and increase bilateral cooperation in this area.

Yasir Khan said that Rwanda is a growing economy in the African region where there is immense potential in the health sector.

Daily wagers facing the problems

ISLAMABAD: A view of closed Sunday weekly bazaar at Sector H-9 due to road closed with shipping containers ahead of PTI protest, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Haji Ghulam Ali and Syed Zahir Ali Shah Inaugurate the Sarhad Business Alliance Office

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: An important meeting of the Sarhad Business Alliance was held under the chairmanship of Haji Ghulam Ali and patronage of Syed Zahir Ali Shah. The meeting focused on addressing the challenges faced by the business community in the province and devising solutions to resolve them. A significant decision was made to digitize the membership registration process in the province's chambers to simplify the process and eliminate delays.

The meeting was attended by prominent members, including Muhammad Ishaq, Ghulam Bilal Javid, Syed Sirajuddin, Adnan Jaleel, Dr. Moheb Afridi, Haji Waheed, Shehzad Siddiqui, Shakeel Saraf, Malik Inamur Rahman, and others.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Ishaq appreciated the Sarhad Business



Alliance for its commendable efforts in addressing the issues of the business community. He emphasized that the digitization process will provide traders with modern facilities and further strengthen the business environment.

During the meeting, the current economic situation and the challenges faced by the business community were thoroughly discussed. Participants stressed the need for the government to take effective measures to immediately

remove the obstacles faced by the business sector.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Haji Ghulam Ali and Syed Zahir Ali Shah thanked all attendees and reiterated their commitment to safeguarding the interests of the business community and resolving their problems. The participants unanimously agreed that unity and solidarity are key to overcoming challenges and that protecting traders' rights remains a top priority.

Afghan soil must be free from any 'propagable' activities: Iftikhar Malik



LAHORE: SAARC Chamber Commerce of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday said Afghanistan, as a sovereign state must take immediate result oriented epoch making measures to ensure its territory is not exploited by hostile elements seeking to destabilize Pakistan. and mutual cooperation can help stamp out terrorism, cross-border insurgencies, and organized crime, a major obstacles to durable peace.

In a press statement in the wake of recent waves of terrorism in KPK and Balochistan he said Army Chief Asim Munir has on several occasions categorically stated that Afghan soil should never be used

against Pakistan under any circumstances, and ensuring peace and mutual respect between two neighboring Muslim countries is vital for regional stability, security, and economic prosperity.

He said Afghan soil must remain free from any activities that harm Pakistan's peace and security. Only through mutual respect, cooperation, and vigilance can the both countries ensure lasting peace and prosperity for their people and contribute positively to regional development.

He said as Muslim countries, both states have a shared responsibility to foster harmony and reject any external attempts to sow discord.

The global community also has a role in supporting this collaboration by respecting the sovereignty of both nations and refraining from interference.

Iftikhar Malik a veteran trade said durable peace will unlock immense opportunities for economic growth as the region holds tremendous potential for trade, energy projects, and connectivity initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline.

He said such mega ventures require stability and cooperation, making it imperative for both states to prioritize trust and dialogue bringing an end to perpetual menace of terrorism.

Mian Kashif urges innovative and modern designs to attract international markets



LAHORE: CEO Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday, stressed the urgent need for adopting innovative and modern designs in furniture manufacturing to attract the international markets in line with their growing demands.

Chairing here today board of directors meeting, he said by adopting innovative approaches, Pakistan can position itself as a leading exporter of high-quality, stylish furniture, competing effectively in global markets and contributing significantly to the national economy. He highlighted that the global furniture market is rapidly evolving, driven by changing new preferences and technological advance-

ments. To remain relevant and expand market share, Pakistani furniture manufacturers must focus on incorporating contemporary designs, improving quality, and leveraging advanced manufacturing techniques, he added. He pointed out that Pakistan has a rich heritage of craftsmanship, but its traditional reliance on outdated designs and manual production processes confines its potential on the global stage. He urged industry players to invest in research and development, collaborate with international designers, and embrace automation to meet global requirements.

Mian Kashif also stressed the importance of government support in facilitating access to modern machinery and providing training programs for artisans. Such measures will not only boost exports but also create more job opportunities within the country.

Malaysians shown keen interest in importing international quality Pak food

Malaysians have shown keen interest in importing international quality Pak food and snacks products to cater their emerging demand.

According to a message received here Sunday from Kuala Lumpur, a Pak food exporters delegation led by Coordinator to Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman is currently on two week tour to Malaysia exploring the untapped export markets. He said the interest is driven by the increasing popularity of Pakistani snacks and food products, which offers a

rich blend of flavors, spices, and traditional recipes. Pak basmati rice, spices, confectionery, and processed food especially variety of international standards Nimko have particularly gained traction in the Malaysian market.

He said with Malaysia's diverse multicultural population, there is a significant demand for Halal-certified products, an area where Pakistan excels due to its robust Halal compliance standards. This alignment provides an opportunity for Pakistani exporters to further penetrate the Malaysian market.

Shahid Imran urges government to take strong action against tax evaders



LAHORE: Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Regional Chairman standing committee on Food Shahid Imran Sunday said Tax evasion undermines the country's financial stability and places an undue burden on honest taxpayers.

Talking here today to a delegation of traders led by Ch Zahid Iqbal former Vice President FPCCI from Vehari he said government must adopt stringent measures to recover all outstanding financial obligations from evaders thus fostering equity and accountability within the tax framework. He said by targeting evaders, the government can not only boost revenue but also send a strong message about its commitment to justice and good governance. He said government should also consider naming and penalizing high-profile offenders as a deterrent to others. Importantly, resistance or lobbying from influential groups must not deter these efforts.

Deputy leader of the delegation Mian Muhammad Azhar Shoukat on this occasion briefly speaking said this drive will alleviate the burden on compliant taxpayers, reduce the need for excessive borrowing, and help achieve long-term fiscal sustainability. A fair tax system is the backbone of economic growth and government must act decisively against tax evasion to lessen the financial strain on existing taxpayers, promote compliance, and ensure that every citizen and business contributes equitably to the country's development, he added. He said to ensure a fair and sustainable taxation system, the government must prioritize bringing all identified tax evaders into the tax net without succumbing to any kind of pressure.

First One Day International Cricket Match

Zimbabwe Cricket Team beat Pakistan By 80 Runs in First ODI Match



Asim Tanveer

BULAWAYO ZIMBABWE: Zimbabwe defeated Pakistan by 80 runs in the first match of the three-match ODI series in Bulawayo. The target of 206 runs required for victory has become difficult in two ways.

One, the batting line of the Pakistani team has betrayed and the other, rain has completed the work. The match was decided on Duckworth-Lewis.

The host Zimbabwe team was invited to bat first by Pakistan after winning the toss. The entire Zimbabwe team was bowled out for 205 runs in 40.2 overs. Three players made their debuts for Pakistan. Among those who made their debuts were Amir Jamal, Faisal Akram and Haseebullah Khan.

In Bulawayo, Zimbabwe has given Pakistan a target of 206 runs to win in the first match of the three-match ODI

series. The question is, is this target small, medium? Is it big or can it be competed with? The answer is that it is a competitive target.

It would be a mistake to consider it small. Pakistani batsmen will have to play with great responsibility because batting on the pitch is not easy. Pakistan won the toss and invited the host team to bat first. The entire Zimbabwe team was bowled out for 205 runs in 40.2 overs. Three players made their debuts for Pakistan. Among those who made their debuts were Amir Jamal, Faisal Akram and Haseebullah Khan. Faisal Akram made a good debut for Pakistan by taking three wickets for 24 runs in 8 overs. Apart from them, Salman Ali Agha took three wickets for 42 runs. Amir Jamal got one for 42 runs, and Mohammad Hasnain also got one player out. Haris Rauf also got one wicket. Among the top scorers from



Zimbabwe, Richard scored 48. Sikandar Raza scored 39 and Maromani scored 29. It was a good innings.

Faisal Akram took three wickets for 24 runs in 8 overs for Pakistan. Apart from him, Salman Ali Agha took three wickets for 42 runs. Aamir Jamal took one for 42 runs, Mohammad Hasnain also got one wicket. Haris Rauf also got one wicket.

As expected, and he had written at the end of the first innings, Zimbabwe's score of 205 is not low. There will be difficulties for Pakistan. That thing turned out to be true. Pakistan's batting line-up failed to chase the target of only 206 runs and failed on the Bulawayo pitch and 6 of its players were in the pavilion for a low score of 60. In such a situation, rain started due to which the

match was stopped. The match could not be resumed. Pakistan's score should have been 126 on Duckworth here, because the target was only 126 in so many overs. The match could not be played due to rain, and Pakistan lost the match by 80 runs. For Pakistan, Mohammad Rizwan remained at the wicket after scoring 19 runs. He played 43 balls. Salman Ali Agha scored 11 and Abdullah Shafiq scored one, while Kamran Ghulam scored 17 and Salman Ali Agha scored 4. Hasibullah Khan scored 0 and Irfan Khan scored 7.

Moza Rabbani, Sikandar Raza and Sean Williams took 2 wickets each for Zimbabwe.

Sikandar Raza was declared the best player. Zimbabwe has taken a 0-1 lead in the 3-match series

Four Matches Conclude in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament.

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Four more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various Grounds of the City. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Master Oil Lubricant.

Scores in Brief:

Union Sports beat M. Z. Cricket Club by 4 Wickets at Asghar Ali Shah Stadium. M. Z. Cricket Club 103 all out in 28.5 overs. Amir Yousuf 41. M. Bilwal 3/14, Musavir Ahmed 2/8.

Union Sports 108/6. Salah Khan 40 3x4 1x6, M. Mehdi 18. Amir Yousuf 3/14, M. Kashan 2/28.

In the 2nd Match Malir Cantonment Gymkhana beat New United Gymkhana by 2 Wickets at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. New United Gymkhana 222/9 in 40 overs. Najeeb ullah 73 10x4 3x6, Muhammad Rashid 50 5x4 2x6, Taha Ahmed 26, Imran Khan 17, Khalid Rasheed 2/32, Israr ul Haq 2/45.

Malir Cantonment Gymkhana 223/8 in 30 overs. Niamat Khan 31, Zeshan Bangash 29, Ishtiaq Ghouri 29, Ibad Khan 29, Yasir Munir 23, Israr ul Haq 20 not out. Hasher Shah 3/42, Anas Khan 2/43.

In the 3rd Match Korangi Friends Colts beat Orient Star Cricket Club by 5 Wickets at Afza Ground. Orient Star CC 108 all out in 24 overs. Maaz Qureshi 26, Abdul Wahab 18. Awais Iqbal 2/12, Imran Sheikh 2/17, Yousuf Habib 2/36.

Korangi Friends Colts 109/5 in 14.3 overs. Muhammad Imran 49 6x4 2x6, Noman Ikram 20. Abdul Wasay Siddiqui 2/14, Muhammad Khawaja 2/23.

In the fourth Match United Sports beat Al-Falah Cricket Club by 156 runs at Young Fighter Ground. United Sports 304/5 in 40 overs. Faazullah 76 9x4 3x6, Owais Ali Khan 60 5x4 not out, Saeed Nawab 38, Hassan Jaffri 30, Ahmed Ullah 29, M. Shehryar 25, Abdul Hadi 20. Shayan Khan 2/36.

Al-Falah CC 148 all out in 29 overs. Jasiruddin 33, Subhan Aziz 17. Darab Sheikh (rls) 4/25, Alwaz Ahmed 2/12, Saeed Nawab 2/27.

First IoBM Super League (ISL-24) Inter-University Cricket Championship-2024



Sports Desk

KARACHI: The inaugural IoBM Super League (ISL-24) Inter-University Cricket Championship 2024 continued at the Rashid Latif Cricket Academy (RLCA) in Gulberg with two thrilling matches. In the first match, Dinning Law University faced Saleem Habib University, where Dinning Law put up an impressive total of 201 runs for 4 wickets in their 20 overs. Haris Bin Tahir played a sensational innings, scoring 142 runs off 73 balls, which included 22 fours and 5 sixes, leading Dinning Law to victory. Saleem Habib University managed to score only 125 runs in 19.2 overs, getting all out. Haris Bin Tahir was named Man of the Match for his outstanding performance. In the second match, IoBM University took on KASBIT University. After opting to bat first, KASBIT struggled, managing to score only 97 runs in 18.2 overs, losing all their wickets. IoBM University, despite losing 5 wickets, successfully chased down the target in just 13.4 overs, finishing at 98 runs. The match remained intense until the very end Bilal Khalid, the captain of IoBM, was named Man of the Match for his all-round performance, contributing 35 runs and taking 3 wickets. Both Dinning Law University and IoBM University have now secured their spots in the semi-finals of the tournament.

Max Verstappen wins fourth consecutive Formula One world title

Max Verstappen claimed a fourth consecutive Formula One world title under the lights of the Las Vegas Grand Prix on Saturday.

The 27-year-old Dutchman came home in fifth place in a race won by George Russell of Mercedes as he became just the sixth man after Michael Schumacher, Lewis Hamilton, Juan Manuel Fangio, Sebastian Vettel and Alain Prost to claim four championships.

McLaren's Lando Norris, who was Verstappen's only title rival, finished in sixth place.

"Oh my god what a season, four times, thank you guys," Verstappen told his Red Bull team on the radio. "It's a little more difficult than last year, but we pulled through. Thank you so much guys."

Russell came home 7.313 seconds clear of seven-time champion and Mercedes teammate Hamilton, who had started from 10th on the grid.

The Ferraris of Carlos Sainz and Charles Leclerc were in third and fourth places respectively.

Norris, in sixth, was 43 seconds adrift ahead of McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri.

Pakistan Shaheens to take on Sri Lanka A in 50-over series from Monday

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Mohammad Huraira-led Pakistan Shaheens will take on Sri Lanka 'A' in the three-match 50-over series from November 25 onwards after Shaheens won the two-match four-day series 1-0.

The first one-dayer will be played on Monday at the Islamabad Club while the second and third match will take place on November 27 and 29, respectively at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

From the Shaheens red-ball squad, five players, including skipper Huraira, Abdul Faseeh, Haider Ali, Hussain Talat and Rohail Nazir have been joined by Abdul Samad, Maaz Sadaqat, Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Imran Jnr, Muhammad Imran Randhawa Sharoon Siraj, Sirajuddin and Ubaid Shah for the 50-over series.

Among the nine players who have joined the squad for the one-dayers, all-rounder Imran Randhawa and pacer

Ubaid, who comes fresh off an 11-wicket match haul in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, have received their maiden call-ups to the Shaheens team.

In 2024, Pakistan Shaheens have played five 50-over games of which they won the two in Darwin against Bangladesh 'A' and Northern Territory in August while the three match home series against Bangladesh 'A' ended 1-0 after two matches were washed out at the Islamabad Club in August as well.

Sri Lanka 'A' will be led by Sri Lanka international Nuwanidu Fernando while Lahiru Udara, Sahar Arachchige, Dushan Hemantha, Kavindu Nadeeshan, Eshan Malinga, Dilshan Madushanka and Nipun Ransika have joined the squad for the 50-over matches.

Mohammad Huraira, Pakistan Shaheens captain, "It is such a privilege for me to be leading this talented bunch of youngsters. We have a balanced squad and are looking forward to do well in the

series.

"Sri Lanka 'A' did really well to challenge us towards the back end of the red-ball series and we expect the same in the 50-overs so that makes it all the more exciting. Our group has prepared well for the white-ball leg and we are going to play positive game and execute our plans precisely.

"It is great to see players are getting chance to represent Pakistan Shaheens after doing well in the domestic circuit.

Nuwanidu Fernando, Sri Lanka 'A' captain, said, "It is a great opportunity for me to be leading the Sri Lanka 'A' side here in Pakistan for the 50-over matches. Some of our players really had a good time in the middle during the red-ball series which will surely help us hit the ground running in the one-dayers.

"They (Pakistan Shaheens) have got a young squad so our aim would be to put them under pressure with quality batting and bowling during the series. It is vital

that the young players in our squad make the most of this opportunity to stake a claim in the national team."

Pakistan Shaheens squad: Mohammad Huraira (captain) (Sialkot), Abdul Faseeh (Rawalpindi), Abdul Samad (Faisalabad), Haider Ali (Rawalpindi), Hussain Talat (Lahore), Maaz Sadaqat (Peshawar), Mehran Mumtaz (Rawalpindi), Mohammad Haris (Peshawar), Mohammad Imran Jnr (Swat), Muhammad Imran Randhawa (Bahawalpur), Rohail Nazir (Islamabad), Sharoon Siraj (Multan), Sirajuddin (FATA) and Ubaid Shah (Lahore).

Sri Lanka A squad: Nuwanidu Fernando (Captain), Lahiru Udara, Kamil Mishara, Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Pavan Rathnayake, Sahar Arachchige, Ahan Wickramasinghe, Sonal Dinusha, Dinura Kalupahana, Dushan Hemantha, Kavindu Nadeeshan, Wanuja Sahar, Eshan Malinga, Dilshan Madushanka and Nipun Ransika.

England suffer major blow ahead of Test series against New Zealand

Sports Desk

KARACHI: England Men's batter-wicketkeeper, Jordan Cox, has been ruled out from the upcoming Test series against New Zealand after sustaining a fractured right thumb during a net session in Queenstown.

The Essex player, poised to make his Test debut in Christchurch next week as a stand-in for Jamie Smith (on paternity leave), suffered the injury ahead of play on day two of the two-day tour match against the New Zealand Prime Minister's XI at Sir John Davies Oval.



In Cox's absence, Surrey's Ollie Pope stepped in as wicketkeeper for the final day of the warm-up fixture.

"I'm gutted for Jordan (Cox)," Test head coach Brendon McCullum said. "He has been shaping up nicely, both with the

bat and gloves, since we got to New Zealand.

"That's sport, and unfortunately, these things happen. We will get around him and look after him. He is resilient, and his time will come at some point in the future."

England will name a replacement in due course.

Squads

England: Ben Stokes (c), Rehan Ahmed, Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Olly Stone, Chris

Woakes.

New Zealand: Tom Latham (capt), Tom Blundell, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Nathan Smith, Tim Southee, Kane Williamson, Will Young

Tour Itinerary:

First Test: 28 November-2 December 2024, Hagley Oval, Christchurch

Second Test: 6-10 December 2024, Basin Reserve, Wellington

Third Test: 14-18 December 2024, Seddon Park, Hamilton

Virat Kohli goes past Don Bradman's record in Test cricket

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Indian batting maestro Virat Kohli etched his name in the history books on Sunday with his 30th century in Test cricket, going past legendary Sir Don Bradman, during the first match of the Border-Gavaskar series against Australia.

Kohli walked out to bat on the third day carrying the weight of four single-digit scores in his last five innings and a 16-month century drought. He last scored a century during the ICC ODI World Cup 2023 semi-final

against New Zealand.

However, he displayed a masterclass in strokeplay, marking his return to form with an unbeaten knock of 100 runs off 143 balls, laced with eight boundaries and two sixes.

His innings propelled India to a commanding position before skipper Jasprit Bumrah declared with a staggering 533-run lead.

Virat Kohli with his 30th Test century surpassed legendary Australian Sir Don Bradman, who had 29 Test hundreds to his name. The Indian star has now joined Matthew Hayden and Shivnarine

Chanderpaul in the elite group of players with 30 Test centuries. Only 14 players have scored more Test tons, with Kohli trailing active players Steve Smith and Kane Williamson in the tally.

Most Centuries in Test Cricket

Sachin Tendulkar — 51

Jacques Kallis — 45

Ricky Ponting — 41

Kumar Sangakkara — 38

Rahul Dravid — 36

Joe Root — 35

Younis Khan, Sunil Gavaskar, Brian Lara, Mahela Jayawardene — 34

Alastair Cook (ENG) — 33

Kane Williamson, Steve Smith, Steve Waugh — 32

Virat Kohli, Matthew Hayden, Shivnarine Chanderpaul — 30

It's worth noting that this was Kohli's seventh Test hundred in Australia, breaking Sachin Tendulkar's record for most centuries in Australia by an Indian batter.

Overall Kohli has scored 10 centuries in Australia across all formats, which is a record by any visiting batter. Previously, the record was held by Jack Hobbs, who scored nine centuries in Australia.



Protest

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters gather around a PTI leaders-laden truck en route to Islamabad on Sunday



Photo: Screenshot via social media

Arrests, extra police deployments in Punjab to prevent PTI workers from reaching Islamabad

Bureau Reports

LAHORE/ PESHAWAR/ AZAD KASHMIR: There was extensive police movement in Lahore on Sunday morning in a bid to prevent the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in the country being organised on the call of jailed leader Imran Khan.

Several police buses loaded with personnel, equipped with canes, along with prison vans left District Police Line on the Empress Road here. The personnel will reinforce deployment on various exit points of Lahore to prevent PTI workers leave the city for Islamabad to join rallies sit-in at D Chowk of the capital.

The extra police force will reportedly be deployed at

Batti Chowk on the GT Road which has already been closed to prevent PTI workers from leaving for Islamabad.

Police were also seen standing at various places with canes in their hands in an apparent attempt to keep the city calm.

There was scant traffic on the road's early morning. However, public transport - Speedo and Orange Line train - continued to ply. But Metro bus service has been suspended since Saturday.

PESHAWAR
According to the reported plan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur will lead a convoy from Peshawar to Swabi from where it will set off towards Islamabad at 11 am.

According to the Chief

Minister's spokesperson, the convoy from Peshawar will reach Islamabad come what may and stage a protest sit-in at D Chowk.

He said that the convoy would not use state machinery to open roads leading to the federal capital.

PTI leader Shandana Gulzar, in the meantime, said that whether it would take 12 hours or 100 hours, the workers would reach D Chowk at any cost.

She said the party workers would stage sit-in protest wherever they found no way.

AZAD KASHMIR
Police arrested dozens of PTI workers and leaders in an overnight crackdown in various cities of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the PTI sources, police have arrested 26 PTI workers and leaders in Muzaffarabad district. They included Khawaja Atif Bashir who is chairman of the Imran Khan Release Committee, councillors Hamid Jamil, Mazhar Awan, Sardar Mazharullah, Tariq Dar.

Police also raided the residence of Leader of the Opposition in AJK Assembly Khawaja Farooq Ahmed in Lower Plate but he could not be arrested as he was not there. Police also raided the residence of retired Justice Sardar Habib Zia in Shaikat Lines to arrest his elder brother, PTI regional president and former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi. But, he was out of Muzaffarabad.

In Jhelum Valley district,

police arrested at least 40 PTI workers. Police also raided regional party president Zeeshan Haider Kazmi's house in Chinari on Friday night and harassed and misbehaved with his family.

According to Kazmi, most of the PTI workers had quietly crossed into Garhi Habibullah in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for their onward journey to Islamabad.

Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) and the government are stick to their guns, with the former is adamant to hold a protest rally in capital for the release of its founder and the latter is determined what it claims to ensure life and property of citizens in the light of Islamabad High Court's decision against holding the rally.

Lahore's entry, exit points blocked, PTI announces protest at Batti Chowk

Bureau Report

LAHORE: All entry and exit points to Lahore have been blocked by authorities in anticipation of a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest, causing significant disruption for residents.

Containers and barriers have been placed across major roads leading in and out of the provincial capital. All connecting roads have been sealed off, and motorways leading out of Lahore to other cities are closed. The Babu Sabu area is also blocked with containers and barriers, and

heavily guarded by police.

Roads leading to Shahdara and Bhatti Chowk are blocked in both directions. Containers are also present on the Azadi Flyover, causing significant traffic congestion and frustration among citizens. Police officers are stationed on the

flyover, some wielding batons.

The motorway connecting Lahore to Islamabad is closed. All bus stations along the closed roads have been shut down. The Lahore Ring Road is completely closed to traffic at all interchanges.

The Ravi Bridge, Old Ravi

Bridge, Saggian Ravi Bridge, Eastern Bypass, and Babu Sabu are completely closed to incoming and outgoing traffic. Traffic is flowing only on Thokar Niaz Beg to Multan Road. Raiwind Road, Ferozepur Road, and Gujarpura Road remain open.

Indian Supreme Court weighs Yasin Malik's trial amid security concerns

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: In a significant legal development, the Supreme Court of India has reportedly emphasized the importance of a fair trial, drawing comparisons to the case of terrorist Ajmal Kasab, during the ongoing appeal by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) concerning veteran Kashmir

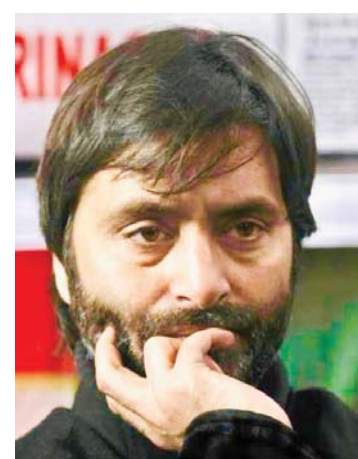
freedom struggle leader Yasin Malik, says a report reaching here Sunday from across the line of control (LoC).

Malik, the report said, is embroiled in a fake case linked to the alleged killing of an Indian Air Force personnel. As the CBI challenges a directive for Malik's physical appearance in a Jammu court, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta expressed serious security

concerns, highlighting potential risks to both Malik and witnesses involved in the trial.

The bench, comprising Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih, is currently deliberating on the matter, the report said.

The JKLF acting Chairman contends that acknowledging this perspective was essential for resolving



the longstanding issues in the region, emphasizing the need for political will to foster change, he concluded.

Former PM Abbasi has a 'solution' to PML-N's problem with PTI-ruled KP

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has come up with a solution to the PML-N government's persistent problem with the PTI-ruled Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

"The authorities should transfer Imran Khan to a jail in Peshawar, Haripur, or any other facility in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," he said while appearing on Rubaroo which was aired on Aaj News on Sunday. "If he



needs to be imprisoned, they should move him there."

He was speaking about the federal government's concerns over the KP

government's participation in the anti-government protests and alleged use of provincial resources.

KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has been the main face of PTI protests in the recent past. He has been sharing Khan's message with the supporters in rallies.

Despite being imprisoned, Khan has been calling the shots in party matters. His nod was also important when the government tabled the 26th Constitutional Amendment bill in Parliament.

When questioned about the legal complexities involved in transferring the former prime minister to another jail, Abbasi responded that a "simple case" could be registered at the new location to facilitate the move.

He made the comment in a lighter mode as the PTI founder's legal battles continue.

In response to another query, he emphasised the president's role. "The president is a third part of Parliament and should step forward to play a role in the dialogue."

Opposition-led protests costing Pakistan Rs 190bln daily, claims Finance Minister

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has revealed the significant economic losses caused by opposition-led protests.

Muhammad Aurangzeb held a press conference amid Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) planned march towards Islamabad. He highlighted the severe economic impact of such protests, emphasizing the need for political stability to safeguard the country's economy.

Addressing the media, he stated that the daily financial damage from opposition-led lockdowns and protests exceeds Rs190 billion.

He explained that disruptions caused by protests hinder tax collection, obstruct businesses, and negatively impact exports. Additional expenses are also incurred for maintaining law and order during such protests.



The minister highlighted that the IT and telecommunications sectors face separate economic losses, with their closure affecting social dynamics and the digital economy.

According to a detailed report by the Ministry of Finance, protests result in a daily GDP loss of Rs 144 billion. Export reductions cost Rs 26 billion daily, while direct foreign investment declines lead to an additional Rs 3 billion loss.

Aurangzeb added that provinces bear additional losses, including Rs 26 billion daily in the agricultural sector and over Rs 20 billion in the industrial sector.

PTI protest: These roads closed in Islamabad and Rawalpindi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Authorities have closed off major access routes to Islamabad in anticipation of a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest planned on Sunday. Numerous entry points to the capital have been blocked with containers.

Checkpoint 26 has been completely sealed off with containers and Rangers deployed. The Srinagar Highway is also closed at Zero Point.

The Expressway is blocked in both directions at Khanna Pul, where a container reportedly caught fire; the cause remains unknown. Containers have also been placed on routes



leading to the airport, and the Faisalabad-Islamabad route is closed.

The Faisalabad Interchange, a key link between the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, is closed to all traffic. The Islamabad Expressway and IGP Road are closed at various points, as is Murree Road at several locations between Faisalabad and the city center.

People of Sindh rejected PTI's protest call: Nasir Shah

Khurram Jaffrani

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Energy, Planning and Development, Sindh, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Sunday said that the citizens of Sindh, especially Karachi and Hyderabad, have rejected the PTI protest.

He said this while talking to the media at the Sindh Craft Festival under the Sindh Cultural Depart-

ment. He said that the founder of PTI would have to apologize to the people, establishment and government for the events of May 9. PTI is protesting despite the court order, it is beyond understanding to record their protest. PTI founder had waved a blank paper to gather the sympathies of the people out of fear of losing his government, which was called a cipher, where is that cipher today, Shah questioned.

Mohsin Naqvi visits D-Chowk to boost morale ...

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protecting the lives and property of citizens day and night.

He directed that all possible facilities be provided to the personnel performing their duties, saying that

it is our responsibility to take care of you.

Federal Secretary Interior, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, IG Islamabad Police, and Deputy Commissioner Islamabad were also present on the occasion.

PTI wants to sabotage national development again: Ahsan Iqbal

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irrefutable evidence against the PTI founder in the cases of Tosha Khana and Al-Qadir Trust, and his legal team was using delaying tactics in his cases. Bushra Bibi is not appearing in the court despite taking bail, as she fears that she would not be able to avoid punishment by participating in the court process, he added.

The federal minister said that Pakistan was moving on the way to development, and the stock market was showing bullish trends. He said maintaining law and order was a responsibility of the government. Necessary measures were inevitable to thwart ambitions of the "anarchist" group, he said and offered apology for the inconvenience caused to citizens due to road closures.

PTI leaders courting arrests to avoid participation in so-called final call: Tarar

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commitment with their party and the leader," he said while pointing out the inside rift among the party leadership especially between the wife of the PTI founder Bushra Bibi and Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur earlier in the day.

He said the PTI had only one demand which was to get an NRO-like concession for the release of their leader from the jail, but the government cannot do anything in this regard. This is the domain of the courts where the PTI is supposed to argue and fight for the release

of their leader who has been facing different charges, he added.

Tarar said the PTI had a track record of creating chaos and anarchy, and vandalizing public properties, citing the sit-in of 2014 when their workers torched the Parliament and injured many policemen including SSP Asmat ullah Junejo.

He categorically said that nobody would be allowed to disrupt the economic progress achieved in the last eight months which witnessed a substantial increase in remittances that jumped to \$8.8 billion in the first quarter.