

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ابو یوسف رضی اللہ عنہ سے روایت ہے، انہوں نے رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے سنا، آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا: ہر ایک بات زبان سے نکالنے اور اس کے متعلق سوچنا نہیں (یعنی کفر اور بے ادبی کی بات ہے) جس کی وجہ سے وہ روزگ کے گڑھے میں آتی اور گر پڑتا ہے جتنا مغرب سے مشرق دور ہے۔ (کنز الدقائق، حدیث نمبر 6477)

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## Former President Arif Alvi booked in Nov 24 protest cases

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, his sister Aleema Khan and former President Arif Alvi, have been booked in a case related to the November 24 protests. The case was registered at the Taxila police station in Rawalpindi under the Anti-Terrorism Act. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister and other PTI leaders, including Shehryar Riaz, Hammad Azhar, and Asad Qaiser, have also been named in the case.



## China's Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs meets with Amir Khan Muttaqi

Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Yue Xiaoyong visited Afghanistan recently and met with high-level officials of the Afghan interim government, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said on Monday. She said that during the visit, Yue Xiaoyong met with Afghan Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, to exchange views on the bilateral relations and practical cooperation in various areas.

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## Welcome to President of Belarus

ISLAMABAD: President House, Parliament House, Supreme Court and Prime Minister's Secretariat have been decorated with green lights on the arrival of the President of Belarus in Pakistan.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Belarus President arrives in Islamabad on 3-day official visit

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on Monday arrived in Islamabad on his three-day official visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The Belarus President arrived at the Nur Khan Airbase, Rawalpindi where he was received by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar, Minister for Interior, Senator Mohsin Naqvi, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, and other senior officials.

Children dressed in traditional attire presented bouquets of flowers to the President of Belarus.

During his visit, President Lukashenko will hold extensive talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discuss areas of bilateral cooperation and engagement. Moreover, several agreements and memo-



randums of understanding (MoUs) will also be signed during the visit.

Belarusian President's visit reflects the strong and growing partnership between Pakistan and Belarus.

Meanwhile PM Shehbaz Sharif in his post on X said Pakistan and Belarus enjoy strong fraternal relations and "we will work together to further strengthen these ties".

"Delighted to welcome my dear friend Aleksandr Lukashenko, President of Republic of Belarus to Islamabad. Looking forward to our discussions during this important visit," he added.

## PTI bigwigs meet party founder amid ongoing Islamabad protest

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A significant meeting between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and chairman PTI Barrister Gohar and Provincial Advisor for Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif was held at Adiala Jail.

According to sources, Barrister Gohar and Barrister Saif sought Imran Khan's permission to engage in talks with government representatives. As part of the strategy, a committee will be formed to consult party members regarding the location of the sit-in.

The government has reportedly proposed an alternative venue to D-Chowk, offering facilitation if PTI agrees to the suggestion.

PTI's leadership has reiterated its demands, which include the release of Imran Khan and all



detained party members. Sources indicate that the party is unwilling to compromise until their conditions are met.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Barrister Gohar

stated that the protest call issued by Imran Khan remains final, dismissing any speculation about its cancellation.

Discussions with government officials are expected to take place

soon, as PTI strategises its next steps to move forward with its protest plans.

Earlier on November 25, a case had been registered at Ghulam Mehmoodabad Police Station

in Faisalabad against the PTI founder, Imran Khan and 45 workers.

FIR filed on the complaint of Sub-Inspector Ashfaq includes 13 charges, including terrorism, vandalism, and damaging public property. The FIR also mentions resistance against police and anti-government slogans during the protest. PTI protesters allegedly attacked police officers and personnel with sticks, according to the complaint. 35 protesters have been arrested, while others managed to flee.

Further investigations are underway.

PTI workers on the call of Imran Khan staged a protest on November 24, while violent clashes were also reported from parts of the country as PTI workers tried to remove the containers.

## Pakistan, Belarus FMs reaffirm commitment to promote mutually beneficial cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday met his Belarusian counterpart Maxim Ryzhenkov here, wherein two sides underlined the importance of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to promote mutually beneficial cooperation.

In the meeting, the two foreign ministers discussed bilateral and regional issues and the agenda and the programme of the visit of President Lukashenko to Pakistan, who is scheduled to arrive here later in the day, according to a Foreign Office press release.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the



momentum of bilateral exchanges and high-level visits between Pakistan and Belarus and expressed the hope that President Lukashenko's visit would further boost bilateral relations.

The ministers also discussed key regional and global developments, including the situation in the Middle East. They expressed their support for a

Continued on Page 1

## Day 2 of PTI march: Protesters enter Islamabad amid shelling

Naveed Ahmad Khan

BURHAN: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf convoy led by former prime minister Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur moved beyond Hakkla Interchange and reached the Sangiani Toll Plaza on its way to Islamabad on Monday. PTI started marching from different areas to Islamabad on Sunday for Khan's release and "restoration" of democracy.

Among the participants are PTI leaders, including Omar Ayub, Asad Qaiser, Atif Khan, Shahram Tarakai, Mishal Yousafzai, and Sanam Javed.

Earlier the convoy crossed Hakla—a border area of Punjab and KP—by evening. By afternoon it reached Dhoke Ghar near Burhan.

Authorities have enforced a security lockdown for the last two days

Continued on Page 1

## Nation has rejected politics of chaos and anarchy: Tarar

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday called out the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf for pursuing the politics of "chaos and anarchy", citing its violent conspiracy of May 9 arson.

Talking to the media at the Nur Khan Airbase, the minister said the people of Pakistan wanted the politics of progress and welfare which is manifested by the people-friendly initiatives of the government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He said the national economy is taking off with the Pakistan Stock Exchange crossing the historical milestone of 100,000 points, and inflation plummeting to 6.9 per cent from 32 per cent, while foreign exchange reserves are swelling with a significant increase in exports, and also remittances that jumped to \$8.8

Continued on Page 1

## Belarusian Minister for Military Industry calls on Khawaja Asif

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State Authority for Military Industry of Belarus Mr. Pantus Dmitry called on Minister for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif here Monday.

Matters pertaining to bilateral cooperation between both countries in the field of defence and defence production came under discussion, said a press release issued here. Both sides also agreed to work together to strengthen their bilateral cooperation in mutually beneficial fields.

## Tanveer for promoting industrial, agricultural trade ties with Belarus

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain here on Monday highlighted the importance of expanding bilateral trade relations with Belarus specially in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

The minister stressed the need to explore ways and means to increase the industrial cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields.

During a meeting with Belarusian delegation, which was led by Minister for Industries Aliaksandr Yafimua, Rana Tanveer said Pakistan has considerable export potential with Belarus for items like inflatable footballs, articles of bedding and similar stuffed items, sports and outdoor games equipment, footwear, rubber, plastic and metal products, said a news release.

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the partnership

Continued on Page 1

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# PM vows to spend 'every penny' of tax-money on welfare of people

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that every single penny of tax-money would be spent on the welfare of people.

He said this while talking to different delegations that called on him here today. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the present government was committed to improve the lives of economically less-privileged sections of society. He said that the recently announced health package would be instrumental in addressing health-related problems of the people. The present government, he said, has promoted a merit-based system and transparency in public affairs. "In addition to improving infrastructure, the government has chalked out a comprehensive policy to promote tourism in the state", he added. The PM said that



tion to improving infrastructure, the government has chalked out a comprehensive policy to promote tourism in the state", he added. The PM said that

the provision of cheap electricity and cheap flour to citizens of the state were the major initiatives the present government has taken." Clean Muzaf-

farabad project worth 360 million rupees has been approved to make the capital city more attractive", the PM said. "Recruitments in different departments have been made on merit through NTS", the PM said, adding that around 3000 youth have got jobs. The PM on the occasion reaffirmed his government's support to Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for right to self determination. He said that it was high time that the United Nations should take effective notice of the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir and take practical measures to resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute which, he said, was the main cause of unrest and human rights violations in the region.

## Sardar Muhammad Hussain called on President A J K



**Bureau Report**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Social Welfare, Irrigation and Small Dams Sardar Muhammad Hussain called on President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, here today. During the meeting the duo discussed in detail the issues of mutual concern. On this occasion Mr Hussain, invited the President to visit Palandri, which he gladly accepted.

## MQM Hyderabad's response to PPP allegations

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: MQM Hyderabad has countered PPP's accusations by highlighting its own developmental contributions to the city. According to MQM, all significant progress in Hyderabad was led by their "Haqqarast" leadership. They criticized PPP's 16-year rule, stating that despite receiving over Rs. 22,500 billion under the 18th Amendment, Hyderabad remains in ruins.

MQM accused PPP of sidelining elected MQM representatives, denying them development funds while favoring their own losing candidates. They further alleged massive corruption in Hyderabad's local government, misuse of fake domiciles, and rampant bribery in government offices. Criticizing Hyderabad's PPP mayor, they stated that the claimed Rs. 1 billion development projects are invisible on the ground.

The party emphasized that issues like unpaid salaries in WASA and HDA, exploitation of municipal employees, forced taxes, and mismanagement in hospitals and schools are widespread. MQM argued that PPP has consistently marginalized Hyderabad's citizens through quota systems and fake domiciles while promoting corruption and encroachments.

MQM reiterated its commitment to raising these issues, despite facing accusations of bias, asserting that the public continues to trust their leadership for Hyderabad's betterment.

[7:00 pm, 25/11/2024] ABDUL GHAFUOR SAROHI: Marble City reflects Sindh gov't commitment to sustainable industrial uplift, economic growth, job creation, says Murad Shah

Concession agreement signed for Marble City Karachi

## Political parties must end their feud and move forward for prosperity of Pakistan: Allama Tahir

**Abdul Majid**



FAISALABAD: Political parties should overcome their differences and move forward for the development of the people and the country.

The government should take effective steps to prevent terrorism and sectarianism.

The federal and provincial governments should not turn a blind eye to the terrorist incidents in Parachinar and Karam.

Allama Tahir-ul-Hassan, Central Deputy General Secretary of the Pakistan Ulema Council, said this in his special statement and further said that political parties should jointly end their political differences and take good steps for the development and prosperity of Pakistan so that the people can get rid of inflation. Due to the differences of political parties, the whole country is in a jam today and people's businesses are being affected. Negotiations are the best solution. Politicians should have mercy on the country and the nation. Today, the fight between politicians has given an opportunity to foreign terrorists to incite terrorism and sectarianism in the country. The federal government and provincial governments should jointly take strict action against those who incite terrorism and sectarianism. Today, the situation in Parachinar and Karam has given an opportunity to foreign terrorists. Pakistan is a peaceful, Islamic and welfare state, but the governments and the opposition are spending crores of rupees of the country in protests day and night for their own purposes. Our Pakistan Army and security institutions are sacrificing their lives to eliminate terrorism.

## Pakistan Bando Federation, issued Notifications for the officials in Punjab



**Shahzad Anwar Aimrohi**

MULTAN: Pakistan Bando Federation has issued notifications for the officials in Punjab. The President of Pakistan Bando Federation, Mohammad Kishore Shafiq, issued the notifications for the officials in Punjab, including Chairman Mohammad Imtiaz Chaudhary from Pir Mahal, President Punjab Musarrat Ali Dasti from Dera Ghazi Khan, Vice Chairman Mohammad Noman Younas from Khanewal, Senior Vice President Obaidullah Safouri from Abdul Hakeem, Vice President Mohammad Imran from Nankana Sahib, Ashfaq Haider from Faisalabad, Mohammad Irshad Bao from Sahiwal, Mehwish Malik from Jahanian, Aamir Ali Maswan from Islamabad, Abdul Hamid Bhatti from Vehari, Aqsa Waheed from Nankana Sahib, General Secretary Mohammad Naem Khalid from Khanewal, Joint Secretary Mohammad Tahir Javed from Jahanian, Associate Secretary Mohammad Asghar Bhatti from Vehari, Ghulam Mustafa from Multan, Mohammad Amir Abdul Hakeem, Tanveer Anjum from Pir Mahal, Furqan Ashraf from Mian Channu, Aamna Sheikh from Jahanian, Press Secretary Abdul Waheed Bhatti from Vehari, Finance Secretary Mazhar Hussain Mughal, and Manager Technical Mohammad Tariq Mughal. The official notifications for these appointments have been issued.

## Protest

LAHORE: Civil Society activists protest against violence against women and also express solidarity with Palestine in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Sindh government signs Marble City Karachi concession agreement

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that Marble City Karachi reflects the Sindh government's commitment to sustainable industrial development, economic growth, and job creation, signalling a brighter future for the province's marble and granite sector.

This he said while presiding over a joint meeting of Sindh Investment Dept, its subsidiary organisation-Sindh Economic Zones Management Company (SEZMC) and private partners - Kainatt Enterprises & Hassan Constructions.

The meeting and signing ceremony were held at CM House and were attended by CM Special Assistant Qasim Naveed, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Secretary to CM



Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Industries Yaseen Shar, Secretary Investment Khurram Shahzad, CEO Sindh Economic Zone Authority (SEZA) Zeerat Shafqat, Azeem Uqaili, and others. From private partners-Asim Siddiqui, Churchill Shafqat and

others also attended the meeting. Special Assistant to CM on Investment Syed Qasim Naveed briefing the CM said that with its proximity to the Port of Karachi, Jinnah International Airport, and key national highways, Marble

City Karachi promises unmatched connectivity for businesses targeting both domestic and international markets.

The initiative, which represents a \$100 million investment, is expected to create 10,000 jobs and significantly enhance the value chain of marble and granite production. By fostering innovation and boosting exports, it positions Sindh as a leader in Pakistan's industrial development.

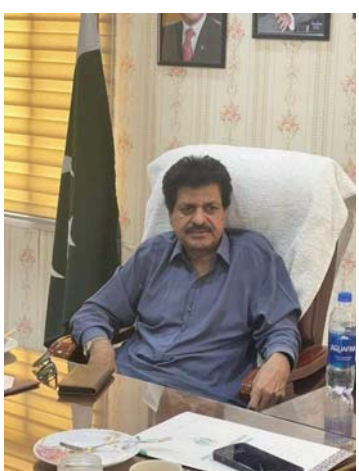
The concession agreement was signed with Kainaat and Hasas Construction (JV) during a ceremony at the Chief Minister's House, with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in attendance. The CM lauded the private sector's involvement and emphasised the importance of timely completion to ensure the project's success.

## Special Assistant to CM Sindh defends Hyderabad Mayor, slams opposition representatives

**Qayoom Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: Abdul Jabbar Khan, Special Assistant to Sindh Chief Minister, addressed a press conference at the Hyderabad Press Club, where he vehemently defended the Hyderabad Mayor against criticism from Opposition representatives. Jabbar Khan termed the criticism as baseless and accused the opposition representatives of leveling unfounded allegations.

Abdul Jabbar Khan emphasized that the Peoples Party-led government has initiated numerous projects to improve water supply and drainage in Hyderabad. He highlighted the operational Latifabad No. 4 water



plant project, which supplies water to a large population of the city. Jabbar Khan reiterated that criticism should be constructive and aimed at reform, rather than baseless allegations.

The Special Assistant invited MQM Pakistan representatives to work together with the government, emphasizing that the Peoples Party is committed to fulfilling its promises to the people of Hyderabad.

In response to a question, Khan said that the Secretary will sit with the DG in Hyderabad and solve the problems of the citizens. He emphasized that the Mayor of Hyderabad visits all areas of the city without discrimination and listens to the problems of

the people.

Peoples Party Provincial Secretary Information Mukhtiar Ahmed Ajiz Dhamrah also addressed the press conference, stating that the Peoples Party supports all parties protesting against the proposed construction of six canals on the Indus River in Punjab. Ajiz Dhamrah emphasized that Chairman Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has given a clear message that he will not allow Sindh's water to be plundered. He noted that the Ministers, including the Chief Minister Sindh, have opposed the construction of canals on water issues and are fighting for rights of the people in Sindh.

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 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**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

**Schools to remain closed in twin cities**

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Due to the ongoing protests by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the school's closure will remain in effect in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Tuesday, 26 November.

According to reports, the district administration of Rawalpindi has decided on the school's closure tomorrow. The Deputy Commissioner of Rawalpindi stated that the decision was made in light of the current situation in the district.

Additionally, the Private Schools Association of Islamabad has also announced that all private schools in the capital will remain closed tomorrow.

The association confirmed the schools closure decision, citing safety concerns due to the PTI protest.

Authorities have emphasised that the schools' closure is a precautionary measure, taking into account the uncertainty of the situation and potential security concerns due to the ongoing PTI protest.

The decision will help avoid any possible disturbances or harm to the educational community while maintaining peace and order in the city.

# PM's climate aide, Belarusian Minister meet, agree to work for environmental sustainability

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam and Belarusian Minister for natural resources and environmental protection, Sergey Maslyak have agreed to closely work together to boost cooperation for achieving common environmental sustainability and climate resilience-related goals, with focus on eco-tourism, water conservation, circular economy, green technology transfer, exchange programmes, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

Both sides met here on Monday and highlighted and discussed the potential for launching joint projects between Pakistan and Belarus to build up climate change adaptation and resilience against the exacerbating impacts of global warming, particularly floods, heatwave, droughts, groundwater depletion and renewable energy.

The PM's climate aide emphasized that collaboration between two coun-

tries on biodiversity research and innovative wetland preservation techniques by leveraging Belarus's expertise would prove to be of unprecedented value.

Romina Khurshid Alam also called for joint efforts in policy development to align strategies with international standards, aiming to bolster sustainable climate development in Pakistan.

Collaborative initiatives between two countries for enhancing biodiversity conservation would be of paramount importance, aiming at restoring native species in Pakistan, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem stability.

She also stressed the importance of preserving natural resources for achieving environmental sustainability goals, suggesting that Belarus's innovative approaches could assist Pakistan in managing its diverse climate actions.

Romina Khurshid said that Pakistan would appreciate collaboration with Belarus on exchange of academia, exchange of technical know-how, knowledge sharing and capacity building to promote green education and aware-



ness in the field of nature and environmental protection and rational use of natural resources for achieving sustainable development goals, particularly related to climate change, water, sanitation, energy, agriculture, gender equality

and women empowerment. Both the countries discussed development and protection of ecological tourism within protected areas like nature reserves, national parks and nature reservations.

Sergey Maslyak said Belarus's experience in environmental monitoring can complement Pakistan's efforts to implement eco-friendly policies and practices. Establishing joint ventures in these areas could further strengthen.

## Security Alert

ISLAMABAD: Rangers fully alert at D Chowk to tackle any untoward situation in the Federal Capital during lockdown.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Mushaal slams Int'l community's deaf and dumb approach to Kashmiri women's abuses

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of incarcerated Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik, expressed her utter dismay and frustration over the "deaf and dumb approach" adopted by the international community and women's rights organizations towards the horrific use of sexual violence as a weapon of war to quell the Kashmiri freedom movement.

Mushaal, Chairperson of the Peace and Culture Organisation, marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25 with a message lamenting the lack of action to stop the epidemic of violence against women and girls in the occupied valley.

She said that the occupation forces crossed limits of barbarism and inhuman



acts to silence the dissenting voices; however the socially human rights and women rights organisations were looking at the situation like silent onlookers.

Mushaal applauded UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for his call to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women; however she urged him to raise awareness about the

violence and humiliation faced by women in IIOK and to take concrete steps to put an end to these inhumane acts.

She emphasized that the violence against women in Kashmir is a stark example of how rape is being used as a weapon of war to crush the will of the Kashmiri people and deny them their fundamental right to self-determination. She stressed that it is essential to acknowledge the severity of this issue and work towards creating a safer and more just environment for the women of Kashmir.

Mushaal called upon the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch to press the Indian notorious government to stop the worst ongoing women rights violation and hold accountable the perpetrators of these heinous crimes.

## Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi's 21-day 'Awami Theater Festival' is in full swing

City Desk

KARACHI: 21-day "Awami Theater Festival" organized by Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi is currently underway with great success. For the first time in the history of the festival, audiences stood to watch the drama performances due to the overwhelming response. On Saturdays and Sundays, two shows were hosted per day. On the 16th day of the festival, Aftab Kamdar's first show "Dhare Ja Dhadaka" in the Memo-ni language and Rauf Lala's second show "Biwi, Batwa Aur Batwara" in Urdu were performed. The cast of "Dhare Ja Dhadaka" included Salomi, Nazar Hussain, Shahbaz Sanam, Rauf Lala, Sapna Ghazal, Abdullah Lala, Shahnila Qureshi, Rauf Alam, Nasira Noor, Hussain Rathore, Talha Bhujani, Aamir dHokla, Junaid Memon, Z. A. Mitho, and Shahida Murtaza, who all showcased remarkable performances. The play depicted the story of a small family, exploring the complex dynamics between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, and the inevitable cycle of actions and consequences. It illustrated the importance of respecting elders and maintaining harmony in family relationships. The second show, "Biwi, Batwa Aur Batwara," was directed by Rauf Lala, and the audience turnout was so high that many had to stand to watch. The cast included Rauf Lala, Shanzeh, Wali Sheikh, Sapna Qureshi, Aamir Rambo, Eram, Abdullah Lala, Zohaib Amir, and Shehzad.

## PTI peaceful struggle for reclaiming the stolen mandate, restoring the judiciary, and securing Khan's release: Eman Tahir

Raza Naqvi



ATTOCK: Former Member of the National Assembly, Eman Tahir, has stated that the release of the PTI founder is their red line. She added that their peaceful struggle over the past two years has been aimed at reclaiming the stolen mandate, restoring the judiciary, and securing Khan's release. Speaking to the media, she said that DPO Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan's "red line" was bravely crossed by PTI workers despite severe police shelling, fascism, and oppression. She stated that the DPO declared Attock as a red line, but PTI workers crossed it in no time. "Police officers are also our brothers, and their salaries come from the taxpayers' money. Their duty is to protect us, not to fight against us. Peaceful protest is every citizen's constitutional and fundamental right," she said. Eman Tahir also mentioned that the day after the DPO's red line declaration, Rangers were called in, but even with the deployment of all forces, PTI's convoy and passion could not be stopped at Katti Pahari. For the past three days, raids have been conducted on our workers' homes, violating the sanctity of privacy. The people of Attock are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with me, and the sheer number of their vehicles can be seen extending for kilometers. Not only from Attock but also from all over Pakistan, a sea of people is heading towards Islamabad's D-Chowk. She claimed, "Tonight or tomorrow's sunrise will mark the last day of this corrupt, mandate-stealing government." She further said that Major Tahir Sadiq resides in the hearts of the people.

## NADRA to install self-service machines for citizens

City Desk

KARACHI: The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) announced its plan to establish self-service kiosks, self-service machines, in Karachi aimed at streamlining the renewal process for expired smart national identity cards (NICs) and the re-issuance of NICs.

The initiative is designed to enable citizens to conveniently acquire their NICs without facing long queues and extended waiting periods. Furthermore, citizens will have the capability to perform biometric verification, capture photographs, and submit necessary documents for the application of smart computerised NICs without the need of an operator.

Through these automated kiosks, citizens will be able to finalise the application procedures for both the renewal of NICs and the re-issuance of lost cards.

Initially, this service will be available at NADRA mega centers, with future plans to expand to railway stations, airports, shopping malls, and educational institutions.

Following a successful testing period, these self-service machines will be installed at Karachi's Mega Centers before being extended to further sites. NADRA intends to incorporate a point-of-sale (POS) system in the upcoming phase to enable credit or debit card payments.

## Beaconhouse Jubilee Campus holds two-days 'Scicon 2024'

City Desk

KARACHI: The much-anticipated concluding ceremony of "Scicon 2024" held at Beaconhouse Jubilee Campus, Karachi concludes with Thrilling Competitions and Unparalleled Innovation and marking the end of a successful and eventful journey of science, creativity, and collaboration.

This year's Scicon witnessed participation of around 350 students from over 20 schools and colleges, bringing together some of the brightest young minds from across the region. Students competed in a diverse range of modules, including Craftopia, Arcane Nexus, Molecular Synergy,



and Scibotron, showcasing their talent, innovation, and passion for science and its interdisciplinary applications. The concluding ceremony promises to be a grand cele-

bration of these achievements, featuring keynote speeches from the chief guest Professor Dr. Shahana Urooj Kazmi and our regional director Mr. Ahsan Afzal, the announcement of winners, and the distribution of prizes and souvenirs.

According to Principal Ms. Tabinda Raza, "Scicon 5.0 is more than a competition; it's a platform for students to dream, innovate, and transform the future. Our guiding principles inspire bold thinking and action."

Stay tuned as we honour the efforts of these talented students and celebrate a festival of science, sustainability, and innovation.

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# The Looming Challenge to Dollar Dominance

Efforts to challenge the U.S. dollar's global dominance have historically been hindered by disparities among nations in economic strength, foreign reserves, human resource development, infrastructure, productivity, innovation, and wealth creation. However, recent advancements have enabled international and regional organizations to make significant progress in reducing reliance on the dollar for investment, trade, and reserves. Emerging economies have achieved substantial growth, enhancing their economic resilience and reducing dependence on the U.S. dollar. For instance, China's GDP has grown significantly, positioning it as a major global economic player. Countries are developing financial infrastructures that facilitate transactions in local currencies. The BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) are exploring the creation of a new reserve currency to challenge the dollar's dominance. Nations are entering agreements to conduct trade in their own currencies. For example, Russia and China have increased the use of the ruble and yuan in bilateral trade, reducing reliance on the dollar. The development of digital currencies and blockchain technology offers alternatives to traditional dollar-based transactions. China's digital yuan is a notable example, aiming to facilitate international trade without the dollar. These initiatives reflect a strategic move by various countries and blocs to enhance economic sovereignty and reduce exposure to dollar-centric financial systems. In the European Union (EU), trade and investment are dominated by the euro followed by the U.S. dollar, with the euro being the primary currency for

exports (49%) and the dollar leading in imports (50%) as of 2022. The EU's foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows increased by \$12.3 billion in August 2024, with inward FDI stock valued at approximately \$3 trillion and outward stock at \$4.5 trillion in 2022. Additionally, foreign portfolio investments rose by \$281.4 billion in June 2024. These figures underscore the euro's prominence in EU exports and investments. Trade and investment volumes between Russia, its allies, and Eastern countries have significantly shifted toward local currencies in recent years. In 2023, Russia's total trade volume reached approximately \$844 billion, with over 80% of its trade with China settled in Rubles and Yuan. A Eastern Europe and Central Asia primarily use national currencies for regional trade, though the U.S. dollar and Euro remain prevalent for international transactions. Investment flows, including Russia's \$38 billion inward FDI and \$64 billion outward FDI in 2021, are also increasingly shifting to local currencies, reflecting a broader strategy to enhance regional economic resilience and sovereignty. African nations are actively working to reduce their reliance on the U.S. dollar in trade and investment to enhance economic sovereignty and mitigate vulnerabilities associated with currency fluctuations. A significant initiative in this direction is the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), launched by the African Union, which facilitates cross-border trade using local currencies, eliminating the need for

U.S. dollar conversions. This system is projected to save the continent approximately \$5 billion annually in currency conversion costs. Additionally, countries like Nigeria and Tanzania have implemented policies to promote the use of their national currencies in international transactions. For instance, Tanzania has banned pricing in foreign currencies to strengthen the Tanzanian shilling's role in trade. Furthermore, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement encourages member states to conduct trade in local currencies, fostering intra-African commerce and reducing dependence on external currencies. ASEAN member states are actively reducing their reliance on the U.S. dollar by promoting the use of local currencies in trade and investment. Initiatives include establishing Local Currency Settlement (LCS) frameworks among countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand to facilitate direct currency exchanges without involving the U.S. dollar. Efforts are also underway to enhance regional payment systems, integrating digital platforms and standardizing QR code payments across member nations. ASEAN finance ministers and central bank governors have expressed commitment to advancing local currency usage to strengthen financial resilience and reduce exposure to external economic shocks. Middle Eastern nations are actively reducing their reliance on the U.S. dollar by diversifying currency usage in trade, strengthening regional financial cooperation, and developing alterna-

tive payment systems. For instance, in January 2023, Saudi Arabia's Finance Minister, Mohammed Al-Jadaan, announced the kingdom's openness to trading in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, marking a significant shift in its economic policy. Additionally, countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates have joined or expressed interest in joining the BRICS group, which advocates for reducing reliance on the U.S. dollar by promoting trade in local currencies among member states. Efforts are also underway to establish payment systems that facilitate transactions in local currencies, reducing the need for dollar-based settlements. In a hypothetical world where countries have developed mechanisms to conduct trade and investment exclusively in their local currencies, the U.S. dollar would lose its status as the global reserve and trade currency, leading to a sharp decline in demand and devaluation. This would result in inflation, higher borrowing costs for the U.S. government, and reduced purchasing power for American consumers. The U.S.'s ability to impose financial sanctions and influence global financial institutions would diminish, eroding its soft power and strategic leverage. Globally, the financial system would become multipolar, with regional currencies like the euro, yuan, and rupee gaining prominence. This shift would challenge U.S. economic dominance, forcing it to diversify its economy and foster innovation.



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

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

## Crime, Police, and Reporter Nexus

Zain ul Abideen Abid

While the growing trend of social media has severely impacted the newspaper industry, the increasing collusion between the press and criminals has further led the public to stop reading newspapers. The press, traditionally seen as a pillar of truth and accountability, is increasingly being shadowed by questionable practices and personal motives. In the realm of crime reporting, an alarming trend has surfaced where personal desires and vested interests seem to overshadow journalistic integrity. "The purpose of this column should not be perceived as a personal attack on any reporter or criticism for the sake of criticism. We have gathered facts, consulted senior police officials, and considered public opinions before compiling this column, as we were initially unaware of this collusion. Those reporters who are not part of this nexus deserve appreciation and recognition".

One of the most conspicuous issues in crime reporting is the inconsistency with which newspapers tackle ongoing problems. For example, reports against drug dealers often dominate headlines for a few consecutive days, creating an impression of active surveillance and accountability. However, this momentum suddenly dissipates, leaving the public wondering what changed. The reality is that drug dealing persists, drug dealers remain active, and police actions do not suddenly come to a halt. This abrupt silence raises suspicions of ulterior motives, whether financial or political, and undermines public trust in the press.

The recruitment of new sub-inspectors in police stations has coincided with an increase in crime rates. Intriguingly, many of these officers maintain close ties with local reporters, who act as their representatives or advisors. This nexus creates a murky environment where crime reporting is influenced not by facts but by relationships and personal gains. Instead of exposing crime and misconduct, some reporters may shield their allies or target adversaries, distorting the truth for personal benefit.

Another disturbing trend is the misuse of journalism by individuals involved in criminal activities such as extortion. These individuals leverage the press as a protective shield, portraying themselves as reporters while engaging in illicit practices. This phenomenon mirrors the way some criminals find refuge in political circles, gaining undeserved respectability. By using journalism as a guise, these individuals not only evade scrutiny but also manipulate narratives to serve their interests. These so-called journalists often publish fabricated or exaggerated reports, particularly against the police, to settle scores or distract attention from their own misdeeds. Their false narratives create confusion and erode public confidence in law enforcement and the media alike.

Despite receiving modest salaries from newspaper offices, these reporters often maintain lavish lifestyles, raising legitimate questions about their sources of income. If their primary role is journalism, how are they funding their extravagant expenses? The answer likely lies in undisclosed arrangements, bribery, or even extortion, further complicating the ethics of their profession. What is unfolding behind the press is a matter of grave concern. Journalism, which should serve as the watchdog of society, is being compromised by a minority of individuals driven by self-interest. This not only tarnishes the reputation of the press but also hampers its ability to hold power accountable.

To address these issues, media (print and electronic) owners and organizations must implement stricter oversight of their reporters, ensuring that personal interests do not interfere with professional responsibilities. Transparency in income sources, stronger editorial policies, and ethical training for journalists are essential steps to restore the credibility of the press. Journalism is a noble profession, but its misuse can lead to misinformation, public mistrust, and societal harm. It is imperative for both the media and the public to recognize these challenges and work towards a press that is true to its purpose: serving the people with honesty and integrity.

A reporter's duty is to uphold journalistic responsibilities with honesty and impartiality, always prioritizing the public interest. Building personal friendships or alliances with the police can compromise the transparency of reporting, damage the credibility of journalism, and erode public trust. A reporter must present facts without any pressure or personal bias, ensuring that crimes and injustices are exposed and institutions are held accountable to the people. Only an unbiased and ethical journalist can serve as a catalyst for justice and transparency in society.

"Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed; everything else is public relations." - George Orwell



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

## Bangladesh celebrates Allama-Iqbal Birth Anniversary with Pride - II

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

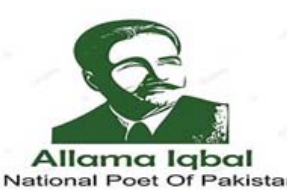
Iqbal's poetry serves as a profound exploration of nationalism and spiritual awakening, specifically tailored for the Bengali populace. Through his verses, he articulates a compelling call to embrace cultural heritage while simultaneously engaging with contemporary global ideas. This duality is crucial in understanding Iqbal's vision, as it fosters an intellectual environment that harmonizes traditional Islamic values with modernist thought. The interplay between these elements not only revitalizes a sense of identity among Bengalis but also encourages critical engagement with the broader currents of global discourse. Iqbal's work reflects a nuanced understanding of the complexities inherent in cultural identity, advocating for a synthesis that honors historical roots while embracing progressive ideals. This approach has paved the way for new literary movements in Bangladesh, inspiring writers to explore and articulate their unique experiences through innovative forms.

Ultimately, Iqbal's vision resonates deeply within the context of Bangladesh's evolving literary landscape, marking him as a pivotal figure whose contributions continue to influence contemporary thought and artistic expression. Moreover, Iqbal's influence is evident in the thematic richness and stylistic diversity of current literary works. Writers such as Humayun Ahmed and Taslima Nasrin draw inspiration from Iqbal's exploration of existential questions and his advocacy for intellectual awakening. This intertextuality dialogue illustrates how Iqbal's ideas continue to shape narratives that challenge societal norms while fostering a sense of unity among diverse voices in Bangladesh.

Iqbal stands as a pivotal figure whose contributions not only enriched early 20th-century literature but also provide a critical framework for understanding contemporary artistic expression in Bangladesh. His vision serves as both a source of inspiration and a catalyst for ongoing dialogues about identity, culture, and the role of literature in societal transformation.

In contemporary discourse, the vision articulated by influential literary figures serves as a profound source of inspiration, catalyzing critical dialogues surrounding identity, culture, and the transformative potential of literature within society. These thinkers challenge conventional narratives, prompting individuals to reflect on their own identities while considering the broader implications of cultural representation. By foregrounding marginalized voices and experiences, they illuminate the complexities inherent in identity formation and cultural exchange. A literature functions as a powerful medium for societal transformation by fostering empathy and understanding among diverse populations. Through narrative exploration, readers engage with perspectives that may differ from their own, thereby cultivating a more nuanced appreciation of cultural dynamics. This engagement not only enriches individual consciousness but also encourages collective discourse on pressing social issues. Great vision of these literary figures inspires ongoing dialogues that question the status quo and advocate for inclusivity in both literature and society at large. Their work exemplifies how literature can act as a catalyst for change, reshaping our understanding of identity and culture in an increasingly interconnected world.

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# Philippine president to make first visit to UAE

News Desk

DUBAI: Philippines, UAE to sign new agreements on energy transition, artificial intelligence

Manila: Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is set to meet his Emirati counterpart, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday as he makes his inaugural trip to the Gulf nation.

The Philippines and UAE are celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations this year, with the two countries eyeing closer cooperation across many fields to mark the occasion, including in energy transition and artificial intelligence.

The working visit will be Marcos's first to the UAE since he took office in 2022.

"The president will personally oversee the overall state of bilateral relations between the Philippines and the UAE, and witness the signing of several agreements across a wide array of areas of cooperation, such as energy



transition, artificial intelligence, judicial agreements and culture," Philippine Ambassador to the UAE Alfonso A. Ver told Arab News on Monday.

The one-day trip marks a "significant and symbolic milestone" in bilateral ties, he added.

"Bilateral relations between the two countries have reached a historic high, and have since expanded to new and

innovative forms of cooperation," Ver said, citing collaborations in space science, agriculture and digital infrastructure as examples.

"With President Marcos's visit, the Philippines is keen to further boost the positive, robust, and comprehensive state and trajectory of our relationship with the UAE."

The two countries are currently

negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which has made "significant progress" as of early October, according to the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry.

Around one million Philippine nationals reside in the UAE, making it the second-largest employer of Filipino expats after Saudi Arabia.

"The president will also convey the gratitude of the Philippine government to the leaders of a nation that has tapped Filipino talent, allowing it to flourish in an environment that fosters kindness, respect, and tolerance," the Presidential Communications Office said in a statement.

"It is expected that these productive dialogues will lead to agreements that will deepen the ties between the two countries... While the President's visit will be short, the goodwill and opportunities it will create will be substantial, resulting in stronger Philippine-UAE relations."

## India's inflation to ease amid bumper harvest: ministry report

Xinhua

NEW DELHI: The Monthly Economic Review October 2024 released by India's finance ministry on Monday predicted a slowdown in food inflation due to a bumper summer crop harvest.



While retail inflation rose to a 14-month high of 6.21 percent in October, driven by elevated food prices from supply disruptions caused by heavy rains, the report anticipated that favorable conditions will lower food inflation in the coming months.

The review highlighted India's economic resilience, with steady demand growth, strong manufacturing and service sector activity, and expanding employment, particularly in manufacturing. However, the trade deficit is under pressure from faster import growth, as merchandise exports have seen moderate growth due to weak external demand.

The report warned that India's export recovery may face challenges from softening demand in developed markets and emphasized that global interest rates, geopolitical developments, and U.S. policy decisions will influence trade and capital flows. Concerns over the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict have also affected financial markets.

## Kashmir Youth Project presents annual diversity award at Rochdale Town Hall



Spokesman Report

ROCHDALE: The annual diversity award was held at Rochdale Town Hall by Kashmir Youth Project Chief Executive Officer Zulf Ahmed and his team. Mayor Rochdale Councillor Shakeel Ahmed-Rochdale Council Leader Councillor Neil Amont, Oldham Council Leader Councillor Urooj Shah, Kashmir Youth Project Chair Shamsa Jabeen-Rochdale District Commander Danny Inglis, Kashmir Youth Project Vice Chair Saqlain Khalid-Rochdale Council Councillors Iftikhar Hussain-Shah Wazir-Muhammad Arshad-Former Principal Abdul Shakoor-Community Leader Javed Akhtar-Consultant Dr Tahir Bashir Baig-Council Officer Nazim-and others attended. Mayor Rochdale Councillor Shakeel Ahmed said that the main purpose of organizing the awards ceremony was to recognize the outstanding services rendered by the multicultural community living locally in various walks of life and to award them with awards so that mutual harmony can be created within the community. Oldham Council Leader Urooj Shah and Rochdale Council Leader Neil Amont said that those who have served the community were appreciated and it was a beautiful ceremony in which the multicultural community participated.

District Commander Police Danny Inglis said that the participation of the neighborhood council in the celebration of the ceremony allows us to serve the community more effectively. Kashmir Youth Project Chief Executive Zulf Ahmed and Kashmir Youth Project Chair Shamsa Jabeen said that we are once again organizing an award ceremony with the aim of appreciating their services along with creating mutual harmony within the intercultural community.

Vice Chair Saqlain Khalid Kashmir Youth Project and Nadeem said that it is an honor for Kashmir Youth Project to come together to celebrate the community services of the intercultural community at the local level. On receiving the special award for Crescent Radio, Ghulam Rasool Shahzad said that he appreciates the services of Crescent Radio to the local community and thanks KYP for giving him the award.-Safety Manager Rochdale Council Sajid Mir, who received three awards for his services, thanked KYP.-Principal Chief Executive University Julia Heap described today's event as memorable.-Other participants in the award ceremony also appreciated the efforts of Kashmir Youth Project and expressed their determination to play their role for mutual unity, understanding and harmony within the intercultural community.

Kashmir Youth Project Rochdale has been doing exemplary work in playing a prominent role in various projects effectively for the local community for decades.

## Saudi Arabia to host World Investment Conference in Riyadh from November 27-29

Spokesman Report



RIYADH: Saudi Arabia will host the World Investment Conference in Riyadh today, which will continue until November 27. The conference, which is being held under the patronage of the Saudi Crown Prince, is being organized in collaboration with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and Invest Saudi.

The event will bring together global figures from investment, government and international organizations. The focus will be on leveraging digital transformation and sustainable development and expanding investment opportunities.

According to SPA, Saudi Minister of Investment Engineer Khalid Al-Falih said that Saudi Arabia has become a leading international investment destination due to its ambitious Vision 2030 and is making unprecedented progress in increasing overall investment and diversifying it.

He said that we look forward to welcoming investment leaders from around the world to establish partnerships that benefit both the kingdom and the global economies.

# International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

### Ending the illegal Israeli occupation is the basis for eliminating violence against Palestinian women

News Desk

Ramla: On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in the State of Palestine affirms the right of Palestinian women and girls to live in safety and peace, and to enjoy the necessary legal protection from the crime of genocide and the ongoing, systematic and widespread aggression of the illegal colonial Israeli occupation against their rights, and the terrorism of its settlers, which can only be achieved by ending the occupation and its racist and criminal practices against them. The Ministry points out that women and girls are among the most affected and affected groups of the Palestinian people by the crimes and policies of Israel, the illegal occupation authority, since the Nakba until now, as more than 11,979 women and 17,492 children have been martyred, which constitutes (70%) of the martyrs in the Gaza Strip, and the fate of more than 10,000 Palestinians has been lost, and the Israeli occupation forces have internally and forcibly displaced more than 1.9 million Palestinians, both men and women. The Ministry also points out that women and children bear the brunt of the ongoing war of extermination on the Gaza Strip, which is emphasized by all UN insti-



tutions, experts and special rapporteurs. There are more than 155,000 pregnant or breastfeeding women in the Gaza Strip, 4,000 of whom are expected to give birth this month under tragic and inhumane conditions, without any kind of medical or living services, in violation of all international charters, agreements and resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, Security and Peace". On the other hand, more than 10,200 of our Palestinian people are languishing in Israeli occupation prisons, as part of a large-scale arrest campaign, which includes 97 women so far, who are

facing an unknown fate so far, and are languishing in harsh and inhumane conditions, and are subjected to all forms of torture at the hands of the illegal Israeli occupation forces. In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, affirms the right of Palestinian women and girls to live in security and peace like other women in the world, and that the State of Palestine will strive with all its might to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against them. The State of Palestine stresses the need to immedi-

ately stop the war of genocide and the systematic and widespread aggression against the Palestinian people, implement precautionary measures and commit to implementing UN General Assembly Resolution No. (ES-10/24) to end the illegal Israeli colonial occupation, emanating from the legal advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice, and stop war criminals by immediately implementing arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court. The State of Palestine demands the necessity of calling on international committees to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the various forms of systematic violence against Palestinian women, and to hold the Israeli colonial occupation accountable for its ongoing crimes and violations, and the terrorism of its settlers, and to provide them with international protection, and to realize the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, independence, and the return of refugees to their homes from which they were displaced, immediately and without restriction or Condition.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on the international community to intervene and lift the siege on the Gaza Strip, allowing the continued entry of food, water, fuel, medical and humanitarian aid to our people, including the special needs of women and girls.

# China-Europe freight-train service boosts shared prosperity

Xinhua

CHONGQING: European and Chinese businesses, along with relevant government departments, are preparing a welcoming ceremony to mark the historic arrival of the 100,000th China-Europe freight train, which is scheduled to reach Duisburg, Germany, this week.

The train, loaded with goods including electronics, vehicles, auto parts, machinery and household appliances, departed from Chongqing Municipality in southwest China last week, marking a significant milestone in the development of the railway service that enhances economic and trade exchanges between China and Europe.

Over the past 13 years, this service has brought substantial benefits to people in countries along its routes, improving logistics and connectivity across the Eurasian continent while advancing high-level opening up in China's inland regions.

FROM LANDLOCKED TO LINKED

Watching the departure of the 100,000th train, Kang Qinbin from Lifan Technology, a motorcycle and automobile manufacturer headquartered in Chongqing, recalled the company's memorable experience as one of the first clients of the China-Europe freight train in March 2011.

"The service solved our logistical challenges," Kang said, explaining that before the service's launch, exports from Chongqing were transported either by the slow maritime routes through coastal regions or by expensive air freight.

Since the freight train's inception, the transit time for Lifan's products bound for Eastern Europe has been cut by over 50 percent, enabling the company to secure a strong presence in overseas markets.

Over the years, cities across China



— particularly hinterland hubs such as Chengdu, Xi'an, Urumqi, Zhengzhou, Wuhan, Ganzhou, Kunming and Hefei — have joined the China-Europe freight-train network, solidifying inland China's connection to global markets.

Today, more than 50,000 types of goods, including Chongqing's machinery and electronics, Sichuan's ornamental plants, and Jiangxi's daily necessities and furniture, are transported via the service, reaching 227 cities across 25 European countries and over 100 cities in 11 Asian nations.

So far, the service has transported over 11 million twenty-foot equivalent units containers of goods, valued at more than 420 billion U.S. dollars, according to China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. (China Railway).

Wei Wei, a logistics official from China Railway's Nanchang branch, highlighted the critical role these trains play in fostering economic cooperation between China's inland regions and the rest of the world.

MUTUAL BENEFITS

The benefits of the China-Europe

freight trains extend beyond China, fostering growth in countries along its routes.

In Duisburg, Germany, the service has created new logistics activity, new industries, as well as new industrial parks and commercial centers, generating over 20,000 local jobs.

Markus Teuber, China affairs commissioner of the City of Duisburg, has closely followed the development of the service between China and Duisburg on behalf of the Port of Duisburg.

Teuber said that, initially, there were doubts about the feasibility of such a complex logistics project, however, the operations over the years have proven to be a success, fostering improved trade between Germany and China, offering both ecological and economic benefits for companies in both countries.

"The train connection has definitely led to a win-win situation for both countries," he said, adding that he is confident that the service will continue to thrive, as its benefits for imports and exports remain strong, and more companies are recognizing

its value.

Markus Bangen, CEO of Duisburger Hafen AG (Duisport), a German company running the port of Duisburg, said that the railway service is strengthening ties between Europe and China, opening up a new international transport market that benefits both economies. Duisburg's profile is steadily growing as a key stop on the railway, attracting investment, creating job opportunities and driving growth in the logistics sector, he added.

The train service is playing an increasingly important role in stabilizing global supply chains in a complex geopolitical environment, he noted.

"The China-Europe freight-train network connects domestic and international regions, establishing a comprehensive logistics system that spans the Eurasian continent," said Zhang Xiaotao, head of the School of International Trade and Economics at the Central University of Finance and Economics.

"It has strengthened trade ties and promoted deeper economic integration across Eurasia," Zhang said, adding that the network is expected to become more sophisticated, offering diverse services.

Li Chao, a spokesperson for the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said that "the 100,000th China-Europe freight train is just the beginning."

"The China-Europe freight-train service is expected to continue improving and expanding. The NDRC, in collaboration with China Railway and other relevant parties, will focus on boosting efficiency, enhancing safety management, diversifying transport routes and driving innovation. Efforts will also be intensified to accelerate the expansion of the international cooperation network, fostering the safe, stable and high-quality development of the China-Europe freight train network," Li said.

## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
98,079.78	97,798.23	
Day's High	Day's Low	
99,317.47	97,137.63	
Index Value	Change	
18,101,799,020	+281.55	
Percentage	Time	
+0.29%	25 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,291.68	+29.60	
Percentage	Time	
+0.36%	25 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
44,601.94	+305.43	
Percentage	Time	
+0.69%	25 Nov, 12:01 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,780.14	+496.29	
Percentage	Time	
+1.30%	25 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181.00	183.25
Bahrain Dinar	731.05	739.05
Canadian Dollar	199.10	201.50
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	288.85	291.60
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.80	1.86
Kuwaiti Dinar	892.70	902.20
Malaysian Ringgit	61.55	62.15
New Zealand \$	160.03	162.03
Norwegians Krone	24.77	25.07
Omani Riyal	714.75	723.25
Qatari Riyal	75.62	76.32
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	206.25	208.25
Swedish Korona	25.82	26.12
Swiss Franc	311.45	314.25
Thai Bhat	7.91	8.06
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	347.15	350.65
US Dollar	277.30	278.80

# Pakistan-Belarus minister discusses boosting trade, cementing ties amid growing economic ties

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan underscored the need for enhancing bilateral trade between Pakistan and Belarus through trade diversification, emphasizing the untapped potential in sectors such as food, pharma, textiles, logistics, and energy. Speaking at the Pakistan-Belarus Business Forum alongside Belarusian Minister for Energy Aleksei Kushnarenko, the minister highlighted that the current trade volume does not reflect the economic capabilities of the two countries.

Addressing the forum, Minister Aleksei Kushnarenko emphasized the strong demand for Belarusian products, such as agricultural machinery, industrial goods, and dairy products, in Pakistan. He noted a reciprocal interest in Pakistani light industrial goods and food products in Belarus. "The existing cooperation potential allows us to set and achieve ambitious goals for advancing economic, trade, and humanitarian ties between our countries," Kushnarenko said. He expressed confidence in the forum fostering new joint ventures in trade, industrial production, agriculture, healthcare, and education.



The forum marked a significant milestone with the signing of eight Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral trade. Both ministers witnessed the signing of these documents, which are expected to pave the way for deeper economic ties.

Jam Kamal Khan lauded the growing relationship between Pakistan and Belarus, citing the complementarity of their economies. He emphasized the need to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers to enable meaningful market access. "This forum reflects the shared commitment to advancing our trade and investment

ties," he said.

The minister also highlighted the long-standing diplomatic relationship between the two countries, including high-level visits and mutual participation in international forums such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Kamal acknowledged Belarusian tractors as a household name in Pakistan, symbolizing durability and strength. He called for expanding this cooperation to other sectors, including agricultural machinery and the automotive industry. Furthermore, he highlighted Pakistan's potential as a trade and transit hub, given its large population and rich natural resources.

With the signing of these agreements and the discussions at the business forum, both sides expressed optimism about achieving new heights in bilateral trade and investment. The ministers reiterated their commitment to sustaining the momentum by exploring additional opportunities and overcoming existing challenges.

This forum marks another step forward in the journey of strengthening Pak-Belarus ties, showcasing a mutual vision for economic growth and regional connectivity.

## New Development

ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman Capital office FPCCI present a souvenir to Belarusian Minister Alexey Kushnarenko during the Pakistan-Belarus Business Forum.



Photo: Ramzan Mughal

## ICCI President Nasir Qureshi Stresses Unity Among Political Parties for Economic Revival

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), once again passionately urged the leadership of all political parties to set aside their differences and egos. He called for a unified approach, stressing the urgent need for collaboration in order to find practical solutions to the country's pressing challenges. His appeal focused on the importance of a collective effort to navigate Pakistan out of its current economic turmoil and set it on a sustainable path toward long-term prosperity. Citing figures provided by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Qureshi highlighted the severe economic repercussions of frequent road closures and shutdowns across the country. According to the data, Pakistan



incurs a staggering daily loss of Rs. 190 billion due to these disruptions, which are triggered by a variety of reasons. This, in turn, negatively impacts tax collections and exacerbates the already fragile export sector. Qureshi further pointed out that the country's business community is deeply concerned about the lack of a conducive environment for doing business, driven by several factors stemming from government policies.

## SECP aims for greater transparency and investor confidence

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) through its centralized Supervision function, continues to maintain effective oversight of capital markets and regulated businesses. In a recent Commission meeting, a critical review of ongoing supervisory activities for regulated businesses was carried out, with a special focus on pooled investment related businesses, such as mutual funds, insurance companies and brokerage businesses. Measures were also discussed to further ensure safeguarding investors against illegal deposit taking and investment schemes.

The Commission emphasized following Standard Operating Procedures to actively deal with pending court cases. At the moment, 53 investigations and 30 criminal complaints filed by the Commission are under stay order from relevant courts.

The Commission appreciated the recently concluded review of mutual fund industry, with the main objective of protecting the investors' interest. In line with international best practices, the Commission aspires to have even stronger, robust supervisory model for



pooled investment vehicles through use of technology and modern techniques. This would enable the Regulator to get early warning signals and take remedial measures in a timely manner.

Apart from overseeing regulated activities, an objective and focused supervisory approach was adopted against unlawful deposit taking activities, fraudulent investment schemes and illegal digital lending Apps. The Commission blocked 142 illegal lending apps and reported them to Google, FIA, PTA and SBP.

More than 50 entities engaged in illegal deposit-taking and investment schemes were identified and all mandated measures were taken, such as issuing immediate public warnings, notifying on Commission's website, informing NAB/SBP/FIA, blocking of URLs through PTA, flagging sponsors/directors and initiating proceedings for closure of companies. An MOU has also been signed with FIA for timely protection of general public from illegal activities.

## Standard Chartered partners with ConnectHear to enhance accessibility

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Pakistan has partnered with ConnectHear to implement Pakistan's first ever virtual sign language interpretation application. This innovative app enables seamless communication for individuals with hearing impairments, providing them with instant access to interpretation services at the

tap of a button.

This application will be rolled out across 10 SC branches nationwide, ensuring increased accessibility and financial inclusion for the Bank's clients. Beyond improving client experience, this tool will play a pivotal role in the recruitment and support of hearing-impaired employees, fostering a more inclusive workplace. Saadya Riaz, Head Wealth

and Retail Banking, SC Pakistan commented on the occasion, "This partnership underscores Standard Chartered's unwavering commitment to breaking barriers and ensuring accessibility for all.

Arhum Ishtiaq, Cofounder and CTO, ConnectHear echoed the sentiment, stating, "This collaboration reinforces our vision of creating a truly inclusive environment where

everyone can thrive.

Standard Chartered has a longstanding commitment to removing barriers, increasing accessibility, and creating dialogue to promote financial inclusion for its clients, colleagues, and communities.

ConnectHear is South Asia's largest trailblazer in inclusion, dedicated to bridging the accessibility gap through innovative technology. With

a mission to empower individuals and promote inclusivity, ConnectHear offers a range of services, including virtual sign language interpretation, sensitivity training, inclusive job placements and awareness initiatives. By leveraging technology to create an equitable society, ConnectHear continues to set new standards for accessibility, fostering connections that transcend barriers.

## Motiwala stresses govt. to help industry survive, demands moratorium for 2 years for EOBI payment

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Dr. Javed Shaikh, Acting Chairman of EOBI, has announced to set up an EOBI Helpdesk on every Monday at the premises of SITE Association of Industry to facilitate members in resolution of their issues related to EOBI. Dr. Javed Shaikh said that the system of EOBI has been digitalized and every registered unit has been given user ID and password to enter employees details themselves and generate vouchers. He mentioned that only 4% registered units from all Pakistan are audited by the department. He added that relaxation is also being given in the audit and from the last audit, next two years' audit shall be done.

Earlier, President SITE Association Ahmed Azeem Alvi welcomed the Acting Chairman EOBI to the Association and presented a brief introduction of the SITE area.

Patron-in-Chief Zubair Motiwala, while addressing members, congratulated Dr. Javed Shaikh on his nomination as Acting Chairman EOBI. He said that the industry is passing through difficult times. Export of agro-based products have increased whereas industrial output has declined. With such highest ever rates of utilities, it is no longer possible to run industries.

President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jawed Bilwani, Former Chairman Younus, Former Chairman Majid Aziz, Senior Vice President Khalid Riaz and former SVP Abdul Kadir Bilwani, Muhammad Riaz Dhedhi (VP), Muhammad Kaman Arbi, Muhammad Kamran Lakhany, Junaid Rehman, Aman Naseem, Tahir Goreja, Anwer Aziz, Abdul Rasheed, Muhammad Hussain Moosain, Muhammad Rizwan Lakhany, Zaheer Ahmed and others also present on the meeting.

# Pakistan Shaheens outplay Sri Lanka 'A' in first 50-over match

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A sparkling century by Haider Ali and an all-round performance by Sharoon Siraj powered Pakistan Shaheens to a comfortable 108 runs victory over Sri Lanka 'A' in the first 50-over match at the Islamabad Club on Monday.

Haider Ali scored 108 and Abdul Samad contributed 56, lifting Pakistan Shaheens to an imposing 306 for seven in their allotted 50 overs. Sharoon then followed up his 48-ball 42 by claiming three wickets for 21 runs, as Sri Lanka 'A' were bowled out for 198 in 39.4 overs.

Batting at No.4, Haider faced 94 balls, striking eight fours and six sixes. He reached his half-century off 59 deliveries with two boundaries and three sixes, before accelerating to reach his century off 90 balls with seven fours and six sixes.

Haider added 120 runs from 119 balls for the fourth wicket with Abdul Samad, whose 63-ball knock included five fours and a six. Their partnership rescued Pakistan Shaheens from a shaky position at 94 for three after being put into bat.

The hosts scored 46 for one in the first PowerPlay and capitalised on the fourth-wicket stand to accelerate late in the innings. They added 85 runs in the final 10 overs, with Mohammad Harris hitting an unbeaten 36 off 25 balls (four fours and a six) and Muhammad Imran chipping in with a quickfire 15 off 10 balls



(two fours).

For Sri Lanka 'A,' Eshan Malinga was the standout bowler with figures of three for 61, while Chamindu Wickramasinghe (two for 52) and Dilshan Madushanka (two for 62) also chipped in.

In reply, Sri Lanka 'A' struggled to build partnerships, slumping to 61 for four and later to 136 for seven before being bowled out. Wickramasinghe

top-scored with 47, while Sonal Dinusha (38) and Sahar Arachchige (35) provided some resistance.

Sharoon shone with the ball, returning figures of 4.4-0-21-3, while Mohammad Imran Junior picked up two for 30.

Sirajuddin, Muhammad Imran, Ubaid Shah, and Mehran Mumtaz each claimed one wicket to complete the comprehensive victory.

Scores in brief: Pakistan Shaheens

306-7, 50 overs (Haider Ali 108, Abdul Samad 56, Sharoon Siraj 42, Mohammad Harris 36 not out, Mohammad Huraira 26; Eshan Malinga 3-61, Chamindu Wickramasinghe 2-52, Dilshan Madushanka 2-62).

Sri Lanka 'A' 198, all-out, 39.4 overs (Chamindu Wickramasinghe 47, Sonal Dinusha 38, Sahar Arachchige 35; Sharoon Siraj 3-21, Mohammad Imran Jr 2-30).

## Pakistan Under 19 Cricket Team are all set to take on Afghanistan in the Final of the U19

Imran Usmani

DUBAI: Pakistan are all set to take on Afghanistan in the final of the U19 tri-series at the ICC Cricket Academy Ground on Tuesday. The toss will take place at 10am PKT, with the first ball of the final to be bowled at 10.30am PKT.

In the seven-match series, both finalists have played four matches each, winning three and losing one, while hosts UAE remained winless. The Saad Baig-led Pakistan side defeated Afghanistan by 13 runs in the two sides' last encounter held on 20 November. However, Mahboob Khan-led Afghanistan secured a 100-run victory in their first match against Pakistan on 15 November.

Pakistan registered convincing victories in their two encounters against the hosts, winning by 10 wickets and 191 runs, respectively.

For Pakistan, the opening duo of Shahzaib Khan and Usman Khan has been in great form and have scored runs consistently. Left-handed Usman has amassed 306 runs from four matches at an average of 102, which included one century and three half-centuries. His fellow southpaw Shahzaib has accumulated 277 runs at an average of 92.33,



which also includes one century and two half-centuries from four matches. Both the batters have also provided two century-run partnerships while opening, including an unbeaten 192-run stand against UAE on 13 November.

In the bowling unit, pacers Abdul

Subhan, Ali Raza and Mohammad Ahmed have picked six wickets each, while Faham-ul-Haq has grabbed five wickets. Left-arm Ahmed is the only bowler to take a five-fer in the event, while Ali's best figures of four for 57 came in a 13-run win against Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Hassan Khan has been ruled out of the final as well as the forthcoming ACC U19 Men's Asia Cup, after the left-arm spinner injured his left ankle during a training session. Hassan's replacement for the Asia Cup will be made in due course.

Saad Baig talking to PCB Digital on the eve of the tournament, said "We have performed well in the tournament, and now we look forward to doing well against Afghanistan in the final. The coaches have clearly defined the players' roles, and they have responded positively in crucial situations, which has helped the team win matches in the competition."

"The tri-series has also given the players confidence to perform well in the upcoming Asia Cup."

Pakistan U19 squad for tri-series Saad Baig (captain, wicket-keeper) (Karachi), Abdul Subhan (Abbottabad), Ali Raza (Sialkot), Faham-ul-Haq (Lahore), Farhan Yousuf (Lahore), Haroon Arshad (Karachi), Mohammad Ahmed (Lahore), Mohammad Huzafa (Bahawalpur), Mohammad Riazullah (Abbottabad), Naveed Ahmed Khan (Karachi), Shahzaib Khan (Abbottabad), Tayyab Arif (Sialkot), Umar Zaib (Abbottabad) and Usman Khan (FATA)

## Pakistan cricket club wins Karachi region PCB inter club cricket tourney

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Club, led by former national captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, secured the Karachi Region title in the PCB Inter Club Cricket Tournament by defeating Muham-

mad Hussain Cricket Club by eight wickets in the final held at the KCCA Stadium.

Muhammad Hussain Cricket Club, batting first, was bowled out for 92 runs in 33.4 overs. Key contributions came from Aqib Rizvi (24) and



Syed Ali Zafar (15), while Pakistan Cricket Club's bowlers dominated. Muhammad Asghar took 5/19, Danish Aziz claimed 2/4, and Mir Hamza added 2/16.

In response, Pakistan Cricket Club

chased down the target with ease, scoring 93/2 in just 12.4 overs. Usman Khan led the charge with an unbeaten 41, including four boundaries and a six, while Sarfaraz Ahmed added 35 runs with two boundaries and a six.

## Lahore Qalandars announce captain for Global Super League 2024

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Two-time Pakistan Super League (PSL) champions Lahore Qalandars have appointed West Indies all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite as their captain for the highly anticipated Global Super League (GSL) 2024, set to be hosted in Guyana.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the role, Brathwaite emphasized the advantage of his familiarity with the playing conditions in Guyana.

"It's an absolute honor to lead the Lahore Qalandars. I've built incredible relationships within this team, and I'm ready to take on

this challenge," said Brathwaite.

"Knowing the conditions in Guyana, I am confident we can deliver strong performances and make our mark in the tournament," he added.

Sameen Rana, the owner of the Lahore-based franchise, also shared his excitement regarding Brathwaite's appointment.

"Carlos has been a vital part of the Qalandars family. His extensive knowledge of the local playing conditions, combined with his rapport with the team, makes him the ideal choice to lead us in this historic tournament," he stated.

In addition to Qalandars, the tournament will also feature

three-time Vitality Blast champions Hampshire Hawks, the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) team Guyana Amazon Warriors, Rangpur Riders from Bangladesh, and Victoria from Australia.

The inaugural season will be played at the Providence Stadium in Guyana from November 26 to December 6, with Qalandars facing off against Guyana Amazon Warriors in the opening match.

Lahore Qalandars Squad for GSL 2024

Adam Rossington, Arif Yaqoob, Asif Afridi, Carlos Brathwaite (c), Faheem Ashraf, Kaleem Sanar-Rehman, Luke Wells, Mirza

Tahir Baig, Muhammad Akhlaq, Muhammad Faizan, Muhammad Salman Mirza, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tayyab Abbas, Tom Abell

**Global Super League (GSL) Fixtures**  
26 Nov - Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Lahore Qalandars  
27 Nov - Hampshire Hawks vs Rangpur Riders  
29 Nov - Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Victoria  
30 Nov - Hampshire Hawks vs Lahore Qalandars

1 Dec - Rangpur Riders vs Victoria  
1 Dec - Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Hampshire Hawks  
3 Dec - Victoria vs Lahore Qalandars  
4 Dec - Guyana Amazon Warriors

vs Rangpur Riders  
5 Dec - Lahore Qalandars vs



vs Rangpur Riders

5 Dec - Lahore Qalandars vs

Rangpur Riders

6 Dec - Hampshire Hawks vs

Victoria

7 Dec - Final

## Division level events of Khelta Punjab Games begin



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Commissioner Lahore Division Zaid bin Maqsood inaugurated division level competitions of Chief Minister Khelta Punjab Games 2024 at a colourful ceremony at Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPS) Gymnasium Hall on Monday.

Commissioner Lahore Division and DG Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal launched the proceedings of next phase of Khelta Punjab Games by playing ceremonial badminton.

Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Youth Affairs Rana Nadeem Anjum, Deputy Directors Zahoor Ahmed, Ata ur Rehman, Chand Perveen, DSO Lahore Tanveer Abbas and a large number of male and female athletes were also present on this occasion.

Talking to media, Commissioner Lahore Zaid bin Maqsood expressed his delight at the participation of plenty of female athletes in the Khelta Punjab Games. "These exciting events are being organised in accordance with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz," he maintained.

He said that the division level events of CM Khelta Punjab Games will continue from November 25 to December 4. "The players from all divisions of province will participate in these competitions. Overall, 120,000 players from across the province are participating in the Khelta Punjab Games competitions," he added.

He further said that the competitions of 12 games including hockey, volleyball, archery, athletics, cricket, basketball, football, kabaddi, mat wrestling, taekwondo, table tennis and badminton will be held during this phase. "Earlier, the competitions of six games were held during district level Khelta Punjab Games," he added.

He said that Sports Board Punjab has made excellent arrangements for the smooth holding of division level competitions of CM Khelta Punjab Games. "The sports culture plays an important role in the formation of a healthy society," he added.

## Cyclists in Karachi Unite for Education at TCF's "Cycle for Change"



Sports Desk

KARACHI: More than 300 dedicated cyclists pedaled through the streets of Karachi to support The Citizens Foundation (TCF) in its annual event, Cycle for Change. This year, a prominent cycling group from Islamabad also participated in this event. Cyclists from various parts of Karachi gathered at the TCF School Shirin Sultan Dossa Campus, Qayyumabad, for the cause of education. This event is being conducted annually since 2021, by the dedicated Supporters of TCF (STCF).

"The commitment demonstrated by STCF and the leading cycling groups of Karachi, in raising awareness and funds for educational initiatives through the Cycle for Change is truly commendable. These annual events not only emphasise the importance of education, but also unite the community in support of this noble cause," said Mr. Mazhar Valjee, a devoted cyclist from Critical Mass Karachi (CMK).

"Cycle for Change is an outstanding fundraising event for The Citizens Foundation (TCF), organised by Supporters of The Citizens Foundation (STCF). When the pandemic halted everything, we struggled to raise funds for our children. That's when we came up with the idea for Cycle for Change, and to our surprise, it quickly gained tremendous support" shared Mrs. Nighat Daudi, a member of STCF.

For nearly three decades, TCF has been steadfast in its mission to educate less-privileged children in Pakistan - bringing them off the street and into schools. The organisation maintains the same fervour, passion, and commitment that fueled its inception with five schools in 1995. Presently, TCF boasts an impressive enrolment of 301,000 students studying in 2,033 school units across Pakistan.

The strong participation of cyclists from various backgrounds at TCF's Cycle for Change event reflects a collective dedication to creating a brighter future for the youth of Karachi. In the spirit of ongoing community involvement, TCF is excited to continue celebrating Cycle for Change as an annual tradition that advances its mission.

## New Era

ISLAMABAD: A view of Constitution Avenue decorated with portraits of Pakistani Prime Minister, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari and Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko on a green belt in connection with President of Belarus visiting at Pakistan, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## JCP nominates nine judges for constitutional benches in Sindh High Court

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan nominated nine judges for the constitutional benches in Sindh High Court on Monday, sources said, as Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi abstained from voting.

It was decided during a JCP meeting to the nomination of judges for constitutional benches in the high court. CJP Afridi presided over the meeting.

Justices Mansoor Ali Shah,

Muneeb Akhtar, and Aminud-Din Khan, along with Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan attended the meeting. Former senator Roshan Khurshid Bharucha, Pakistan Bar Council member Akhtar Hussain, government representatives Feroq Hamid Naek and Sheikh Aftab Ahmad were also present.

Sources added that Justice KK Agha would lead the constitutional benches and the constitutional committee

in Sindh. The committee would consist of Justice KK Agha, Justice Umar Sial, and Muhammad Saleem Jasar.

The JCP has nominated justices Zulfiqar Ali Sanghi, Arbab Ali, Yusuf Ali Syed, Khadim Hussain Soomro, and Sana Munas Ikram for constitutional benches.

The decision to form the constitutional benches was made by a majority vote within the commission, with eleven votes in favour of the nine nominated judges, sources added.

Justices Shah, Akhtar, and the SHC chief justice expressed dissenting opinions while CJP Afridi abstained from voting.

In the previous meeting, all judges of the SHC were asked to submit their nominations for the constitutional benches by November 24.

An official announcement regarding the JCP meeting would be released shortly.

It is important to note that the previous meeting did not result in a decision on the judges for the constitutional benches of the Sindh High

Court.

The government narrowly passed constitutional amendments on October 21 giving lawmakers more power to appoint top judges, who have issued a series of recent decisions favouring opposition chief Imran Khan.

Under the reforms, new benches would be formed of senior judges from across the country to weigh exclusively on constitutional issues, at the core of disputes between the government and PTI in the Supreme Court.

## Naval Chief Staff Message on The Occasion of Maritime Security Workshop

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: It is a matter of great satisfaction for me to observe the evolution of Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW) from its humble beginning in 2017 to an event of national significance with the organization of 7th edition of MARSEW at Pakistan Navy War College. The Workshop has provided a shared platform to maritime stakeholders for raising awareness about maritime potential of Pakistan and dilate upon ways and means to harness this untapped domain. The Workshop also brings together some of the

most insightful minds from the govt, military, academia, media and industry, with a common goal: to deepen our understanding of maritime security in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

As the global maritime landscape evolves, our immediate neighborhood, the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is facing unprecedented challenges including geo-political contestation and nuclearization. The growth of international trade, the rise of transnational threats and the rapid pace of technological advancements have created both opportunities and risks



in the IOR. In this background, securing our maritime domain is not merely a national priority but a necessity, requiring cooperation,

innovation, and vigilance. Besides security challenges in the maritime domain, our rich maritime resources offer great potential for economic prosperity. The country's economic future is inextricably linked to the sea which serves as mankind's last reservoir for sustenance. Despite the fact that oceans and seas are regarded as the common heritage of mankind, claims and counter claims over seas resources are spawning friction as never witnessed before. The ongoing developments within the IOR have a direct bearing on Pakistan's maritime security. In this context, exploitation of Blue

Economy for socio-economic prosperity enabled by secure maritime environment necessitates our focused attention.

I am confident that this Workshop will inspire new perspectives and lead to actionable drive that reinforces our commitment to maritime security and related economic prosperity. Together, let us work towards a secure and stable maritime environment that benefits not only our nation but the global community at large. I wish all the MARSEW participants an insightful interaction and a pleasant stay with their host, Pakistan Navy War College.

## Tanveer for promoting industrial, agricultural trade ties with Belarus

Continued from Page 1

between Pakistan and Belarus in multifaceted areas.

Highlighting the trade potential, Minister Yafimua shared that Belarus imports goods worth \$17.2 billion annually, noting that Pakistan's current share in this trade is not reflective of its true export potential.

He said that Pakistani products will be given space in the Belarusian market. He identified key products that Pakistan could export to Belarus, including inflatable footballs, bedding items, sports and outdoor equipment, footwear, and rubber, plastic, and metal goods.

Rana Tanveer discussed cooperation in the field of agricultural machinery and tractor manufacturing

## Direct flights to Moscow, trade corridor with Belarus, Central Asia on the agenda: Aleem Khan

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday emphasized Pakistan's commitment to enhancing connectivity through the launch of direct flights to Moscow and Belarus, alongside the development of trade corridors linking China, Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Belarus.

These priorities were shared during a joint meeting with Belarusian Minister for Transport Alexei Lyakhnovich, attended by senior officials from the communication sectors of both countries, said a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Alexei Lyakhnovich, accompanied by the President of Belarus, extended an invitation to the Federal Minister



to visit Belarus, emphasizing the importance of enhancing connectivity through railways and roads.

"Cross-border trade is pivotal for strengthening the economy and promoting bilateral relations," Lyakh-

novich stated, terming the visit a significant step toward fostering collaboration.

Abdul Aleem Khan welcomed the delegation comprising 68 members, including the President of Belarus and other dignitaries,

noting its potential to leave a lasting positive impact on Pakistan-Belarus relations. "We want to further enhance G2G and B2B activities with Belarus in the future for which both the countries will make serious efforts", he added.

## Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on high-level visit to Moscow in late November

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan Mr. Ayaz Sadiq at the invitation of his Russian counterpart Chairman of the Russian Duma Mr. Volodin will visit Moscow from 27-29 November. The Speaker along with a seven-member parliamentary delegation will hold talks with Chairman Duma (lower house) and Speaker of the Federation Council (upper house). The visit comes as a series of high level



interactions between Pakistan and Russia as both countries continue to work towards enhancement of bilateral ties.

## Pakistan, Belarus agree to cooperate for strengthening of justice system

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Belarus have agreed to share experiences and cooperate for betterment of law and justice system through digitalization, capacity building for prosecutors and attorneys, legal education and awareness and legislative drafting.

A meeting between Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Minister of Justice for Belarus, Kovalenko Evgeny took place on Monday. The meeting was marked by a spirit of warmth and mutual respect, as both leaders expressed their ardent desire to further fortify the existing bilateral relations between the nations.

The Belarusian Minister elaborated on the purview and mandate of the Ministry of Justice in Belarus, highlighting the potential for a bilateral accord. The key discussion points included digitalization of the legal system, capacity building for prosecutors and attorneys, legal education and awareness, legislative drafting and international cooperation, exchange of Bar councils/associates, International Mediation and Arbitration Center (IMAC), and Case



Assignment and Management System (CAMS).

The meeting yielded significant outcomes, including an invitation extended by the Minister of Justice for Belarus to the Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Pakistan, and his team to visit Belarus, which was warmly reciprocated. The Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Pakistan, provided a comprehensive briefing on previous treaties and MOUs, laying the groundwork for future cooperation.

Both Ministers expressed enthusiasm for collaboration in legal education and exchange of Bar councils/associates, and explored potential areas for future collaboration in IMAC and CAMS. The meeting concluded with a unanimous vote of thanks, as both dignitaries expressed their profound appreciation for the productive dialogue and warm hospitality.

## Petrol pumps at risk of closure amid PTI protest

## Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The ongoing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest has caused significant disruptions in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, sparking fears of a looming petrol shortage.

According to reports, the government-imposed road blockages have severely disrupted the supply chain, making it nearly impossible for oil tankers to deliver fuel to petrol stations. This disruption has heightened concerns about a petrol shortage in the twin cities.

Noman Ali Butt, a leader of the Oil Tankers Association, highlighted that the blocked routes have stalled tanker movement, further aggravating fears of a worsening petrol

shortage.

The Oil Tankers Association has appealed to the local administration to urgently reopen the roads to restore the supply chain and ensure uninterrupted delivery of petroleum products.

Butt further warned that if the blockages persist, petrol pumps in the twin cities could face complete shutdowns starting tomorrow, intensifying the ongoing petrol shortage. Such a scenario would add to the public's woes already aggravated by the ongoing protests.

The concern over fuel shortages comes amid the government's decision to keep schools closed in the twin cities on Tuesday, November 26, as the disruptions show no signs of easing.

## Pakistan, Belarus FMs reaffirm commitment to promote ...

Continued from Page 1

peaceful resolution of conflicts and underlined the need for a coordinated approach to address the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

The two sides emphasized the importance of enhanced cooperation in international and regional organizations to advance mutual interest and jointly address global challenges.

## Nation has rejected politics of 'chaos and anarchy': Tarar

Continued from Page 1

billion in the first quarter.

He said two major commodities including electricity and petrol are cheaper than previous years, while interest rate and KIBOR stood at 15 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. "This shows the economy is progressing and attracting foreign

investment," he added.

The minister said a high-level delegation from Belarus has already arrived in Pakistan the other day, while its President Alexander Lukashenko has just arrived in Islamabad. He said this is a historical visit for the bilateral relations of the two countries that enjoyed three decades of diplomatic ties.

## Day 2 of PTI march: Protesters enter Islamabad amid shelling

Continued from Page 1

to block the protesters, whom Khan has called on to march on parliament for a sit-in demonstration, while highways into the city have been barri-

caded. The government has used shipping containers to block major roads and streets in Islamabad, most of them patrolled by large contingents of police and paramilitary personnel in riot gear.