



**Purpose of political trials is to legitimise power grabs, says Justice Shah**

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah released his additional note regarding the Zulfikar Ali Bhutto reference on Tuesday, saying that authoritarian regimes utilise political trials against political opponents to legitimise their hold on power and stabilise their rule.



**ATC grants six-day remand of former PM on public incitement charges**

An anti-terrorism court has extended physical remand of PTI founder Imran Khan by six days in the case related to inciting workers to violence. Judge Anjad Ali Shah directed the authorities to produce the former prime minister before the court on Dec 2. Public Prosecutor Zaheer Shah argued that Khan's lack of cooperation was hindering the investigation.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**New development**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Belarus H.E. Aleksandr Lukashenko exchanging joint communiqué on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

**Pakistan, Belarus agree to promote bilateral ties through high-level exchanges, institutional cooperation**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Belarus on Tuesday, expressing satisfaction at the current positive trajectory of bilateral relations, agreed to maintain the momentum through regular high-level engagement and institutional cooperation.

The bilateral relations were discussed during the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, who is currently on a three-day official visit to Paki-

stan. The talks are reflective of the excellent bilateral relations between Pakistan and Belarus, according to a PM Office press release.

The two sides discussed the full spectrum of bilateral relations as well as important regional and global developments.

The two leaders reaffirmed the shared commitment of both countries to the deepening of their political dialogue, strengthening inter-parliamentary exchanges and, in particular, enhancing bilateral trade and economic

cooperation. Prime Minister Shehbaz and President Lukashenko also witnessed the exchange of several important agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) aimed at fostering closer collaboration between Pakistan and Belarus in key sectors.

The agreements and MOUs encompassed cooperation in environmental protection, disaster management, halal trade, audit institutions, financial intelligence-sharing, vocational education and science & technology. One of the key outcomes of

the meeting was the signing of the "Roadmap for Comprehensive Cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus for 2025-2027," which outlines a strategic framework for enhancing economic ties through high-level meetings, inter-governmental commissions, and targeted collaborative initiatives.

In the talks, both sides emphasised the importance of regional economic integration and connectivity, and agreed to improve the legal frameworks needed to facilitate bilateral economic collaboration.

The Belarusian president appreciated the efforts by Prime Minister Shehbaz to take the bilateral relations to new dimensions and expressed his country's full cooperation in this regard.

He also invited PM Shehbaz to visit Belarus as it would further expand the relationship.

Accepting the invitation, the prime minister said that during his visit, the MoUs will be formalized into agreements. He also issued instructions to the ministers concerned to take necessary steps in this regard as soon as possible.

**Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visits D-Chowk to review security arrangements**



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited D-Chowk to review the security arrangements upto Shaheed Millat Chowk.

Despite the ongoing shelling by miscreants, Mohsin Naqvi reached Shaheed Millat Chowk and met with the personnel on duty.

The Interior Minister stood by the personnel during the shelling, boosting their morale, urging them to bravely counter the miscreants.

He individually met with the personnel of Rangers, FC, Police, and Sindh Police, appreciating their enthusiasm. The personnel on duty chanted slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad".

Talking to the personnel, Interior Minister said: "You are all soldiers of Pakistan, and you have to deal with the miscreants according to the law."

IG Islamabad Police, Chief Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and other relevant officials accompanied the Minister.

**Bushra Bibi spearheads PTI convoys to D-Chowk after removing barriers**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists, led by party founder Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, on Tuesday reached D-Chowk after removing obstacles on the way.

Speaking to a charged gathering, Bushra Bibi reiterated that she would lead the movement for Imran Khan's release from the front. She said she would be the last woman to leave the venue. Ali Amin Gandapur also motivated the gathering near D-Chowk to stay put till achieving the objective.

Sheikh Waqas Akram denied PTI workers' involvement in killing Rangers and police personnel.

Educational institutions in Rawalpindi and Islamabad will remain closed on the third consecutive day on Wednesday.

Earlier, the caravans reached Zero Point on the main Islamabad-Srinagar Highway where they clashed with law-enforcement officials when they were stopped from marching further. Police fired tear gas shells on marchers to disperse them. The protesters, in retaliation and belted police personnel with stones.

The borderaries of Red Zone begin beyond Zero Point, where military personnel have been deployed.

Earlier, PTI leader Arbab Naseem, who was with the convoy from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, told a foreign media outlet that when the workers tried to



remove obstacles at Zero Point, police started tear gas shelling.

He also expressed the hope that they would reach D-Chowk later in the day. Meanwhile: IG Ali Nasir Rizvi said on Tuesday that police would move the miscreants out of the federal capital in line with the IHC order. He said no leniency would be shown to any miscreant and law would take its course.

The government called in army in and around Red Zone with a clear direction to "open fire on miscreants".

Government sources claimed that Imran Khan had agreed to shift the venue for the protest sit-in but Bushra Bibi was adamant and resolved to reach D-Chowk.

Bushra Bibi, on the other hand, said some elements wanted to stop the PTI march. But, Imran Khan had asked her to reach D-Chowk at any cost. Party activists were also not ready to go to any other place, she added. Sources claimed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was tight-lipped about the "decision taken in the reported negotiation [with government]." PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has also been "silent" on the march, they continued.

PTI insiders said the central leadership seemed to be unable to determine the final location for the sit-in. No one in the PTI central leadership was willing to take responsibility, they maintained.

**PM, COAS attend funeral prayers of Shaheed security personnel**



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Funeral prayers of three Rangers officials, who embraced Shahadat yesterday during the ongoing protest, were offered at Chaklala Garrison, on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Minister for Information Attaulah Tarar, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), senior serving military and civil officials attended the funeral, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

"Pakistan cannot afford any chaos and bloodshed for achieving vested political purposes. These acts of violence are unacceptable and highly condemnable which are

bordering the limits of restraint by the Law Enforcement Agencies. The entire nation pays homage to the martyred Rangers soldiers and all those police officials who have embraced shahadat and those who are injured during these riots", the press release quoted the prime minister as saying.

Naik Muhammad Ramzan Shaheed (age: 47 years, resident of District Karak), Sepoy Gulfam Khan Shaheed (age: 29 years, resident of District Rawalpindi) and Sepoy Shah Nawaz Shaheed (age: 33 years, resident of District Sibi) had embraced shahadat during yesterday's incident.

The bodies of Shuhada had been taken to their native hometowns where they would be laid to rest with full military honour.

**Federal Minister Finance holds meeting with World Bank Country Director**



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with Mr. Najj Benhassine, Country Director of the World Bank, and his team at the Finance Division today. The meeting was also attended by the Finance Secretary and senior officers of the Finance Division.

During the meeting, the Federal Minister highlighted the importance of collaboration with the World Bank to support Pakistan's economic reforms and development agenda. He appreciated the World Bank's financial and technical assistance across various sectors and reiterated the government's commitment to fiscal discipline, sustainable

**State showing great restraint against PTI rioters: Tarar**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaulah Tarar on Tuesday said that the state was showing great restraint against the protesters from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Talking to media, the minister said that the spouse of founder of PTI Bushra Bibi had come with a plan to fuel violence and get the protesters killed in clashes with the law enforcement agencies so that they could take advantage of the situation.

"Mercenaries have been brought to the front and they want to use children of the poor people", he remarked.

He said that it seemed the PTI leadership wanted to achieve the objectives of May 9 arson again.

He asked who should be



held responsible for the blood of martyrs of police and rangers.

The minister stated that the protesters wanted to sabotage the visit of the President of Belarus who was in Pakistan. He made it clear that no body would be allowed to disrupt the peace of the capital city. "The state will not allow to fulfill the targets of the rioters", said the minister.

He pointed out no one came out to participate in the PTI protest from Balochistan and Sindh. "These rioters want to hamper the process of progress and development in the country", he said adding the efforts of anti-national elements will not be successful.

# All possible resources provided to enhance the beauty of the capital: PM AJK

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the government would utilize its all available resources for the development of the state and welfare of its citizens without any discrimination. The PM said this, while addressing the launching ceremony of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Project for Muzaffarabad city, here today. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Muzaffarabad is the face of the entire state and all possible resources are being provided to enhance the beauty of the city and make it worthy of the capital", he added. He said that water problem faced by the residents in and around the capital city would be solved once the water treatment plant starts functioning. The government, he said, was trying to improve the lives of people there by improving



road infrastructure, health and education sectors. He said that health facilities and services at Cardiac Hospital and AIIMS Hospital have improved to a great extent after the incumbent government provided the required funds for medicine and machinery to both facilities." 27-crore rupees were

sanctioned for Shah Sultan Bridge for timely completion of the project", the PM remarked. He said that the construction of the judicial complex would further enhance the beauty of the capital city.

He said that the health package would be a game-changer package

for the state, especially Muzaffarabad city. The package, he said, would be announced soon.

On the occasion, the PM announced a grant of rupees 72 lakhs for the Municipal Corporation of Muzaffarabad. Pertinently, the Integrated Solid Waste Management Project, being completed at the cost of 36 crore and 20 lakh rupees, would benefit a population of over two hundred thousand people. The function was attended and addressed by government ministers including Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Mian Abdul Waheed, Diwan Ali Khan Chughtai, Abdul Majid Khan, and others, whereas senior minister Colonel (retd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Zafar Iqbal Malik, Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq, Muhammad Akmal Sargala, Sardar Aamir Altaf, Mohtarma Taqdis Gilani and others were present on the occasion.

## Sindh's Prison Minister visits Hyderabad Central Jail: Focus on reforms and legal authority

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: Sindh's Minister for Prisons, Ali Hassan Zardari, conducted a surprise visit to Hyderabad Central Jail to review facilities and address grievances. The visit emphasized restoring legal authority and improving the management of the prison system.



During the visit, the minister engaged with inmates to gather details about allegations of police misconduct, bribery, poor food quality, and lack of medical care. He inspected various sections of the jail and stressed the need to provide basic amenities to inmates.

The minister also met on-duty jail staff and police personnel to understand their concerns. He announced plans to formulate a special strategy aimed at improving prison administration and restoring legal order.

Zardari expressed his vision of transforming prisons from mere detention facilities to centers of rehabilitation and education. Under his directives, the internal management and policies of jails are being re-evaluated, with a focus on eradicating corruption and ensuring transparency.

The minister's efforts have been widely appreciated for their focus on legal authority and systemic improvement in Sindh's prisons. The initiative aims to uphold inmates' rights while reinforcing accountability and efficiency within the prison system.

## School in Takht Bhai in need of urgent action on school building

**Tariq Khan Yousafzai**

TAKHT BHAI: The lofty claims of the provincial government regarding the promotion of education and the improvement of educational institutions have proven to be an illusion.

On one hand, the provincial government asserts that educational development is the cornerstone of its agenda and that no compromises will be made in this regard.

However, the reality of these claims can be gauged by observing the dilapidated and crumbling state of the Government Primary School in Gunjai.

The school building has become severely run-down, with its roofs leaking extensively due to seepage and various parts of the deteriorating concrete ceiling falling regularly, posing a significant threat of major accidents at any time.

Despite repeated efforts by the school staff and local elders to bring this matter to the attention of the provincial government and the education department, no substantial measures have been taken to address the issue.

Haji Intiaz, the elected councilor from VC Takar Gunjai, has called on the provincial government and senior officials of the education department to issue immediate orders for the complete reconstruction of the Government Primary School Gunjai building and to ensure the students are relocated to a safe structure.

## Boulevard Mall Hyderabad and the Illusion of Golden Dreams

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: Boulevard Mall in Hyderabad, once seen as a beacon of opportunity and success, has now become the center of alleged fraud. Investors claim they poured their life savings into this project, but today, they are left with nothing but protests and shattered dreams.

The affected investors allege that the owners of Boulevard Mall, Humayun Barkat, and others, lured them with golden promises. They were assured legal ownership documents for their shops (registry) and monthly rental income. However, according to the investors, none of these promises were fulfilled. Neither have they received the promised ownership papers nor the rental income, leaving them in financial despair.

Investors revealed that they sold their homes, lands, and other assets to invest in Boulevard Mall. But today, they stand empty-handed. They claim they were deceived, and their hard-earned money has disappeared into the accounts of the mall's administration.

Protests against Boulevard Mall's management have been ongoing for years, but the situation has now escalated. Recently, the aggrieved investors have resorted to a hunger strike. They warn that if their grievances are not addressed soon, they will take even harsher steps.

The protesters allege that legal and investigative bodies have turned a blind eye to the alleged fraud by the mall's management. They question whether justice is even accessible for ordinary citizens or if these institutions only serve the powerful.

The investors have called on the authorities to take immediate action against the management of Boulevard Mall and ensure that their rightful claims are restored.

The alleged fraud involving Boulevard Mall is not just a problem for the affected investors but also erode public trust in investment opportunities. It is imperative that the government and relevant institutions take swift action, hold the culprits accountable, and deliver justice to those who have suffered.

"This is the time to stand with the oppressed and raise our voices, ensuring that no one dares to exploit the rights of the people again."

## Protesting

ISLAMABAD: Protestors of Pakistan Tehreek Insaf March reach Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## 1494 smart cards available at FDA's one-window counter for property owners

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: 1494 smart cards containing details of properties of residential colonies and commercial markets under the control of FDA are available at the FDA's one-window counter and property owners have been informed to contact them to receive the smart cards.

Director General FDA Muhammad Asif Chaudhry has directed the officers of the concerned department to take effective steps for the delivery of smart cards. In this regard, all possible means should be used to inform and contact the property owners of the prepared smart cards.

According to the details, after the digitization of records, 2367 smart cards containing all the data of the property have been prepared so far, out of which



657 smart cards have been received by the owners, while 216 smart cards will be issued to the new owners due to property

transfer. Details of undelivered smart cards have been displayed at a prominent place at the one-window counter.

Owners should immediately get the smart cards of their properties after receiving a text message or phone call. Separate color scheme cards are being issued for residential and commercial properties for clear identification.

It may be recalled that all records have been digitized by the FDA to prevent any possibility of forgery or fraud and to protect property documents and smart cards are being issued to property owners so that they can take advantage of the facility of smart cards to check property details online in addition to handling the final.

Director General FDA Muhammad Asif Chaudhry has expressed his determination to provide excellent services to the citizens by aligning the services of the FDA with modern requirements. In this regard, several reforms are being gradually implemented.

## DC announces inquiry committee for drinking water in Kotri

**Qayoom Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: Under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro, Riaz Hussain Wassan, a meeting was held at the DC office to address the issue of drinking water shortages in the municipal committees of Kotri, Bolhari, and Town Committee Jamshoro.

The meeting was attended by SSP Jamshoro Zafar Siddique Chhanga, Additional Deputy Commissioner-1 Nooruddin Hingorjo, Engineer Sulaiman Kheiro of SDA, Superintendent Engineer Irrigation Khalid Nawaz, XEN KB Feeder Atta Muhammad, officials of the Town Committees of Jamshoro, Municipal Bolhari, Kotri, and other concerned officers. The Deputy Commissioner decided to form an inquiry committee to investigate water supply projects, RO

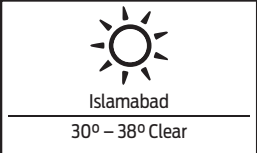
plants, UF plants, and all related schemes over the last 15 years. The committee will review funds used in these projects and inspect all water supply schemes within Kotri, Bolhari, and Town Committee Jamshoro to determine the exact number of operational schemes. The findings will be submitted to the relevant authorities for legal action.

It was decided that the XEN Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) will promptly inspect all water supply projects. MC/TC and XEN PHED were directed to resolve issues related to water supply projects and filtration plants within a week. Furthermore, a water supply and performance monitoring committee, chaired by the DC, was formed to review the performance of future projects. It will assess the performance of MC Bolhari, Kotri,

TC Jamshoro, XEN PHED, and XEN Irrigation concerning water supply and ensure timely completion of water supply schemes, RO plants, and UF plants. During the meeting, SE and XEN KB Feeder requested to shut down KB Feeder for maintenance work. However, the Deputy Commissioner did not approve this request. Instead, he instructed ADC-1 Jamshoro, XEN PHED, XEN Irrigation, and CMOs of Kotri, Bolhari, and Jamshoro Town Committee to inspect the KB Feeder and propose a plan for water storage before any shutdown.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the people of Jamshoro are his priority. Any officer failing to fulfill their responsibilities or depriving citizens of their water rights will be reported to higher authorities for action.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**  
 Fajr ..... 5:22 am  
 Zohr ..... 11:55 am  
 Asr ..... 3:22 pm  
 Maghrib ..... 5:00 pm  
 Isha ..... 6:28 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
 Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and NED, SMU, JSMU and BBSU join hands to promote Arts and Culture**

**City Desk**

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NED University of Engineering and Technology, Sindh Madressatul Islam University, Jinnah Sindh Medical University, and Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University, Lyari, to establish a creative data bank under its Youth Ambassador Program. The signing ceremony was attended by NED University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodi, Sindh Madressatul Islam University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mujeebuddin Sahrai Memon, Jinnah Sindh Medical University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Amjad Siraj Memon, Registrar Dr. Azam Khan, and Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Amjad Siraj Memon and President of Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah. The primary objective of the MoU is to promote youth development, empowerment, and unity by providing a robust platform for students to utilize their ideas, creativity, and knowledge to drive positive societal change. Speaking at the event, Muhammad Ahmed Shah emphasized the transformative potential of the Youth Ambassador Program, which aims to shape the minds and thinking of young individuals.

# 7th Maritime Security Workshop commences at Pakistan Navy War College Lahore

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Seventh edition of the Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW-7) commenced at Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore. The workshop was inaugurated by Commandant of Pakistan Navy War College, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood.

MARSEW is a national-level forum organized under the auspices of the Pakistan Navy, with the theme "Secure Seas, Prosperous Pakistan." The workshop aims to enhance knowledge and understanding of maritime security, geopolitical dynamics in the broader Indian Ocean region, and the Blue Economy, while also exploring Pakistan's untapped maritime potential. It seeks to highlight the challenges and opportunities in Pakistan's maritime sector and its critical role in supporting the national economy.

This forum provides a shared platform for participants from the public

and private sectors, including senators, parliamentarians, senior bureaucrats, maritime industry professionals, business leaders, academia, think tanks, and media representatives, to deliberate on pressing national maritime issues. A total of 38 participants from the public, private, and military sectors are taking part in MARSEW-7.

In his welcome address, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood outlined the purpose of the workshop, emphasizing the need for Pakistan's intelligentsia to shift its strategic focus towards the sea. He highlighted the developments in the broader Indian Ocean region and their implications for Pakistan's national security. The Commandant also addressed the wide-ranging challenges faced by the Pakistan Navy and its unwavering commitment to safeguarding the nation's maritime interests.

The workshop is structured in two phases: the first phase comprises



academic sessions at the War College, while the second phase includes a field tour to various naval commands and coastal installations along the Makran Coast. Participants will also visit

Gwadar Port to witness ongoing development projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Since its inception in 2017, the Maritime Security Workshop has been held

annually at Pakistan Navy War College. It plays a vital role in fostering an integrated approach to developing Pakistan's maritime sector and advancing the Blue Economy.

## Security review

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi visiting D-Chowk to review the security arrangements despite ongoing shelling by the miscreants on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## 'Artists, journalists are bearers of traditions': Asma Butt

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Asma Butt, renowned writer, director, social worker and Chairperson of Dolphin Communication, said that artists and journalists are the bearers of traditions, culture and professional duties. To whom I pay tribute for performing their professional duties.

Asma Butt, renowned writer, director, social leader and Chairperson of Dolphin Communication, said this while addressing a music concert held at Rawalpindi Press Club. On this occasion, she introduced her brand called "Catchy". The chief guest of the event was Usman Shaukat, President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

On this occasion, Pakistan Union of Journalists President Afzal Bath, President National Press Club Azhar Jatoti, Secretary Nayyar Ali, Abid Abbasi, Abdul Waheed Abbasi, Ahmed Bhatti, photographers, President Youth Wing Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Naeem Pasha, Nirmal Ali, Kaleem Khan, Mehboob Ilyas, Naem Khan, Sapna Shah, Kashif, Imran Rushdi, Shehzadi and a large number of other artists and journalists were present. Who



highly appreciated Asma Butt's positive efforts. Asma Butt gifted products of her brand "Catchy" to the artists and journalists and thanked them. On this occasion, she said that the professional services of journalists and artists are a valuable asset.

President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Usman Shaukat

appreciated Asma Butt's efforts and said that women constitute more than half of the population.

From the platform of the Rawalpindi Chamber, I appreciate their professional services and assure them that the Chamber will continue to support the struggle of women.

## The Committee calls for strict oversight and zero tolerance for malpractices in the MDCAT retest

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination convened today to deliberate on the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT), which is set to take place as a retest following earlier concerns. The meeting was focused on reviewing the progress and arrangements made for the examination, particularly in light of past challenges. During the meeting the Committee Members emphasized the importance of implementing stringent measures to ensure a smooth and transparent MDCAT retest. The Committee stressed the need for strong monitoring systems to be in place throughout the examination process.

The meeting was attended by MNAs, Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi, Dr. Shaista Khan, Dr. Darshan, Ms. Sabheen Ghoury, Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, Ms. Aliya Kamran, Ms. Farah Naz Akbar and Raja Khurram Shehzad Nawaz. The meeting also included participation of senior officers from the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination and its attached departments.

## Aga Khan University launches 'Psychoanalytic Sociology' by Dr Duane Rousselle



**City Desk**

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University, Faculty of Arts & Sciences (AKU-FAS) celebrated the launch of Psychoanalytic Sociology: A New Theory of the Social Bond, the latest work from Dr Duane Rousselle, Associate Dean and Professor at AKU-FAS. This new book challenges traditional concepts of social bonds, urging readers to reconsider how we connect in a world that feels increasingly divided. Dr Rousselle's exploration delves into a question that resonates deeply today: "How can we relate to others?" in a time marked by 'social narcissism'. This self-centred approach, he argues, weakens collective bonds as individuals prioritize personal satisfaction over communal ties. He contends that as digital immersion intensifies, even social theorists must now grapple with the blurred boundaries between private and public spaces brought about by social media - a transformation he warns diminishes the 'sociological imagination' by eroding its critical lens.

One of the book's central ideas is the role of "strangeness" in human interactions. In today's 'era of singularities', Dr Rousselle suggests, social bonds are no longer forged through common prohibitions but by celebrating unique identities that defy universal norms. By embracing individual "singularities," society can foster empathy and tolerance in ways that once seemed impossible. "The singular cannot be made common," he asserts, pointing to a new landscape in which differences are not merely tolerated but embraced.

# Pakistan-U. S. relations have the potential to grow; Daniel Runde and Robin Raphel

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Relations between Pakistan and the U. S. have the potential to grow and scale up in the years to come, provided both sides recalibrate their relations meticulously.

This was stated by two visiting strategic analysts from the U. S - Mr. Daniel F. Runde Senior Vice President at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and Former Ambassador and Senior Assistant Secretary of the State Robin Raphel - at an event that was hosted by the Centre for Law and Security CLAS.

Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, Chairman & CEO Roots Millennium Education Group & TMUC, welcomed the guests and CLAS Executive Director Rehman Azhar moderated the session.

Welcoming the guests, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq said that he will ensure to consolidate and connect the two countries through education to an advanced level now by collaborating TMUC with the prestigious universities in the USA.

Mr. Daniel Runde, a Republican, who has held senior positions at USAID and the World Bank Group observed that Pakistan and US should foster ties beyond security and defense areas and mineral trade with Pakistan can be utilized to strengthen its ties. He also said that both countries can become partners in energy.

Amb. Robin Raphel, who had served in Pakistan as a diplomat and held the important position of Assistant Secretary of South Asia and Ambassador to Tunisia, also struck a note of optimism for the growth of Pak -U. S. relation. She said that new administration will reassess and review its ties with Paki-

stan, but much will continue to be the same. She stressed that United States would continue to engage with Pakistan and the engagement goes beyond just measures of security.

Ambassador Masood Khan, currently President of TMUC and Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship MITE, said that Pakistan looked forward to working with President Trump's administration, adding that it had done so during the previous Trump Administration. He said that Pakistan and the U. S. over the years, had developed mutual interests bilaterally and in the region that cannot be sidelined or imperiled.

The event was attended by TMUC and CLAS faculty, researchers, scholars and corporate executives.

CLAS Executive Director Rehman



Azhar, a renowned anchorperson, said that CLAS would hold a series

of such dialogues to promote closer ties between Pakistan and the other

nations and foster better trade and investment ties with them.

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# Shaping A Peaceful Future: Education can end the Cycle of Violence

**Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq**

**E**ducation plays a pivotal role in shaping a peaceful future by breaking the cycle of violence. Throughout history, societies have faced conflicts and violence, often stemming from ignorance, prejudice and lack of understanding. Education has the power to transform mindsets, promote tolerance and empathy contributing to a more harmonious and peaceful world. Today education provides individuals with knowledge, critical thinking skills and values that promote non-violence. In modern days, education creates a ripple effect that transcends generations and cultures. Nowadays the world is plagued by conflicts, wars and injustices. The role of education in fostering peace can't be underestimated. Education equips individuals with tools to understand complex issues and embrace diversity.

When people are educated about different cultures, religions and perspectives it fosters mutual respect and understanding that reduce the likelihood of conflicts. An example of this is schools that incorporate peace education programs have shown to decrease violence among students and promote conflict resolution skills. Basic aim of education is to cultivate problem solving skills that are essential in resolving disputes. Teaching individuals how to evaluate peaceful solutions that promotes a culture of dialogue and negotiations. In an increasingly interconnected world, the role of education in shaping a peaceful

future cannot be overstated. Education serves as a powerful tool for breaking the cycle of violence that plagues many societies. Fostering critical thinking, empathy, and conflict resolution skills, educational institutions can cultivate individuals who are more likely to engage in constructive dialogue rather than resorting to aggression.

An increasingly globalized world, educational institutions are uniquely positioned to bridge cultural divides. Through curricula that emphasize multicultural perspectives, students gain insights into the values, traditions, and histories of various communities. This exposure cultivates empathy and appreciation for differences, which are essential components of social harmony. Collaborative learning environments encourage interaction among students from varied backgrounds.

Group projects and discussions enable individuals to share their experiences and viewpoints, breaking down stereotypes and prejudices. Such interactions not only enhance interpersonal skills but also reinforce the notion that diversity enriches society as a whole. Education is instrumental in building social cohesion by encouraging understanding and respect among diverse cultural groups. By prioritizing inclusivity in educational settings, we can foster a more harmonious society where differences are celebrated rather than feared.

The act of sharing personal narratives within a group setting encourages empathy among members. When individuals listen to each other's stories, they begin to recognize the common humanity that transcends superficial differences. This process not only

dismantles stereotypes but also cultivates an atmosphere of respect and inclusion. As students confront biases through open dialogue, they develop critical thinking skills essential for navigating a pluralistic society. Group projects and discussions are indispensable tools in promoting diversity awareness and combating prejudice. By facilitating interaction among varied voices, these collaborative efforts contribute significantly to personal growth and societal change.

A group setting serves as a powerful catalyst for fostering empathy among its members. It provides individuals with an opportunity to articulate their experiences, participants engage in a process that transcends mere storytelling; it becomes an avenue for emotional connection and understanding. This communal exchange allows members to confront their biases and preconceptions, as they are exposed to diverse perspectives that challenge their own lived experiences.

However, while the benefits of sharing personal narratives are significant, there are potential drawbacks that merit consideration. For instance, the vulnerability inherent in such sharing may lead to discomfort or anxiety among participants who fear judgment or misinterpretation of their stories. Furthermore, if not facilitated effectively, the exercise can inadvertently reinforce existing power dynamics within the group, privileging certain voices over others. Therefore, it is crucial for facilitators to create a safe and inclusive environment where all narratives can be shared and valued equally. In an era marred by conflicts, wars, and injustices, the role of education in fostering peace cannot be underesti-

mated. Education serves as a powerful tool for social transformation, enabling individuals to cultivate critical thinking skills and develop empathy towards others. By imparting knowledge about diverse cultures and historical contexts, educational institutions can promote understanding and tolerance among students from various backgrounds.

Education equips individuals with the ability to engage in constructive dialogue rather than resorting to violence. Programs that emphasize conflict resolution and negotiation skills prepare students to address disputes peacefully. Additionally, education can empower marginalized communities by providing them with the knowledge necessary to advocate for their rights, thereby contributing to social justice and equity. Education serves as a fundamental tool for promoting understanding, tolerance, and empathy among individuals from diverse backgrounds. By equipping learners with critical thinking skills and ethical reasoning, education empowers them to engage constructively in societal discourse rather than resorting to violence.

Educational institutions have the potential to act as platforms for dialogue and reconciliation. Programs that emphasize conflict resolution and multicultural understanding can help dismantle prejudices that often fuel animosity between different groups. Nurturing a culture of peace within these institutions, we can cultivate future leaders who prioritize diplomacy over warfare.

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## U. N. climate summit ends in Baku with urgent need for actionable solutions

**T**he 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference concluded in the capital of Azerbaijan on Friday with climate activists, world leaders and investors reflecting on climate change's global impacts and the urgent need for actionable solutions.

This year's event emphasized financing mechanisms, particularly to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable nations, and especially the developing countries most affected by climate change.

COP29 — the 29th Conference of the Parties under the United Nations climate organization UNFCCC — ran from Nov. 11 to 22 and brought together policymakers, researchers, and environmentalists from 200 countries.

A dominant theme was energy transition, as fossil fuel emissions remain the biggest driver of global warming.

The UN reports that burning coal, oil, and gas accounts for more than 75 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and roughly 90 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions.

Policymakers argued that reducing reliance on traditional fuels and adopting modern energy solutions could significantly shrink the global carbon footprint and bring the world closer to net-zero targets.

The University of Exeter's Global Carbon Budget recently projected total CO2 emissions to rise from 40.6 billion metric tons in 2023 to 41.6 billion in 2024.

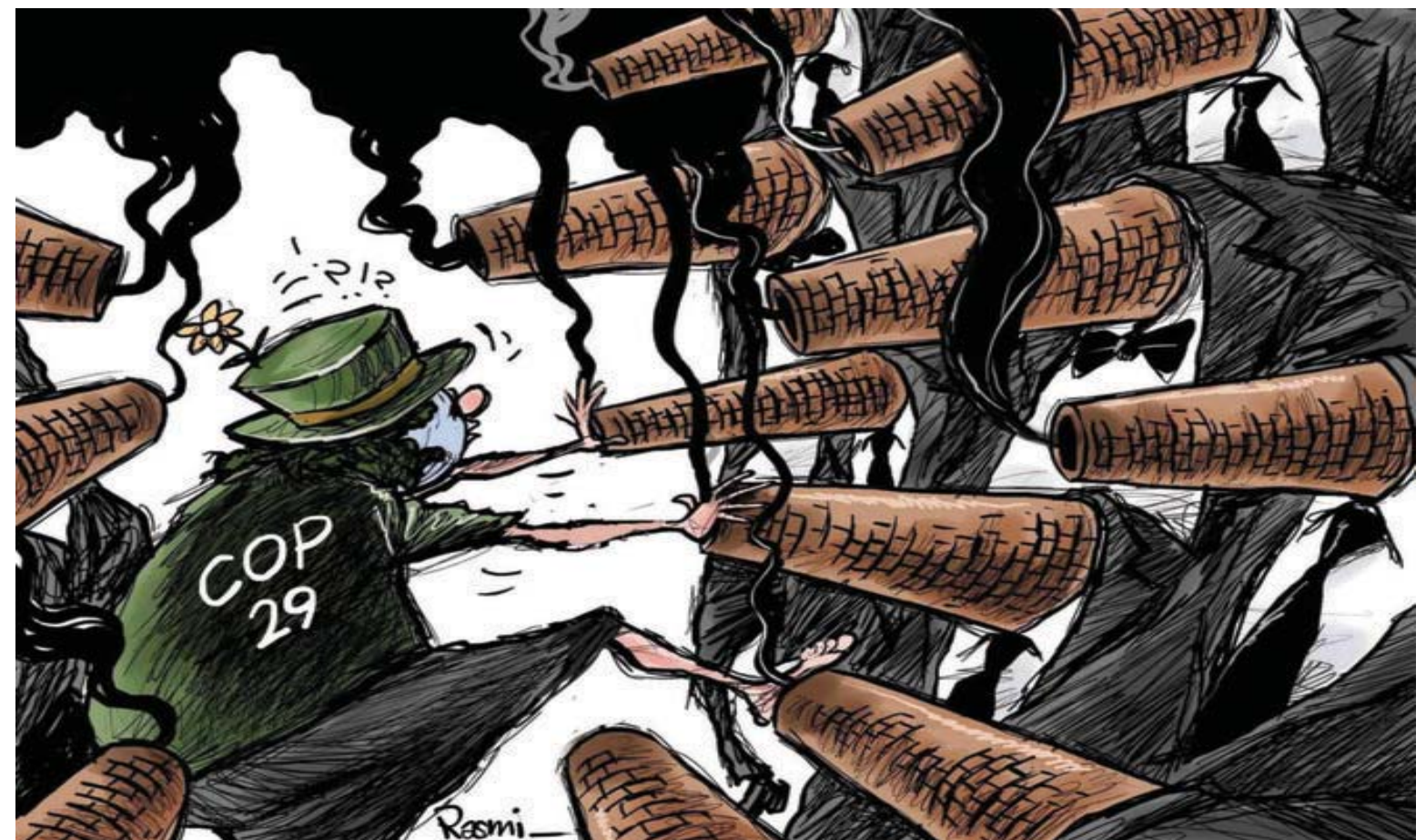
Sharing his perspective on the COP29 negotiations and the change he hopes to see, climate activist Philip McMaster, known on social media as SustainaClaus, told Arab News he is campaigning for a healthier environment for children.

"The message of SustainaClaus is 'Make childhood great again.' Why? Because we all had a childhood before," he said on the sidelines of the conference. "It was either great or not, but it was a very important period of time, and that is what these negotiations should be about: how we make the world a better place for the next generations."

Ukraine accounts for 35 percent of Europe's biodiversity, including 70,000 plant and animal species, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature. Among its endangered animals are the sandy blind mole-rat, the Russian desman, and the saker falcon.

The country's ongoing conflict with Russia has caused significant damage to that biodiversity, according to Lermak.

"I hope that the negotiations held here bring great solutions, something that will help us to move forward," she said. "I hope it is not just conversations, not just talking, but real action after this."



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

## PTI's Agitation and the State's Leniency: A Test of National Stability

**T**he recent political tensions between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the government have plunged the nation into a precarious situation. PTI Chairman Imran Khan's final call for protests from jail has ignited an extraordinary wave of enthusiasm across the country.

Despite hunger, thirst, and injuries, the people have resolved to march toward D-Chowk. While PTI's protests have disrupted public life and questioned the state's authority, the state's approach has largely remained measured and restrained, showcasing its commitment to maintaining peace amidst chaos.

Despite the provocations by PTI supporters—marching toward Islamabad in large numbers, disrupting daily life, and clashing with law enforcement—the state has displayed remarkable patience. Law enforcement agencies have suffered casualties, with four Rangers and two police officers killed and over 112 injured. Yet, the government has refrained from launching a full-scale crackdown or resorting to excessive force.

This leniency reflects a government focused on preserving order while avoiding actions that could escalate tensions further. In the past, such situations have often led to harsh crackdowns, but this time, the state's approach reflects a mature and democratic response.

Furthermore, PTI's leadership has chosen a path that undermines the sanctity of state institutions. From inciting their supporters to defy state authority to using provincial resources for political gains, PTI's actions raise questions about their commitment to democracy and the rule of law. The misuse of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's government machinery for a political march is

particularly troubling and risks inviting Governor's Rule in the province.

PTI's aggressive stance and the chaos it has created have not only destabilized the internal situation but also tarnished Pakistan's image internationally. With foreign dignitaries currently visiting the country, the protests send a negative message about Pakistan's ability to ensure stability and hospitality.

This unprecedented scenario has drawn the attention of the world, particularly Pakistan's adversaries. Indian media and some Indian journalists have openly encouraged Pakistanis to persist in their protests, claiming that if the nation stands firm for 70 hours, the state will surrender. Indian media has further exploited the situation, portraying Pakistan as a fragile state on the verge of collapse. Such narratives are damaging to Pakistan's global standing and embolden its adversaries. PTI's inability to consider these broader implications reflects a lack of responsibility in its actions. Such remarks also raise critical questions about external motivations behind internal unrest.

While PTI continues to challenge the state's authority, the government has acted like a mother, showing restraint and prioritizing dialogue over confrontation. However, every mother must enforce discipline when her children cross the line. The state's patience should not be mistaken for weakness. It is imperative for the government to take decisive steps to maintain law and order without compromising democratic principles.

According to Islamic jurisprudence and Shariah principles, it is the duty of an Islamic state to crush with firmness any elements that take up arms, raise voices against the state, or declare rebellion. From the era of the Prophet (PBUH)

to the time of the Rightly Guided Caliphs, from the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties to later periods, Islamic governance has consistently maintained the responsibility of suppressing rebellious factions in accordance with Shariah.

The state of Pakistan is often likened to a mother, offering care and protection to its citizens. However, the events of last night beg the question: Was this a repeat of May 9? Despite the turmoil, the state has yet to file cases or take severe actions against the protestors. This leniency, while commendable, raises concerns that PTI might exploit the state's patience and softness to further its agenda.

The KP government has been accused of misusing its authority and resources to march on the capital. This has led to growing speculation about the imposition of Governor's Rule in the province.

The current situation demands accountability on all fronts. PTI's leadership must be held responsible for actions that disrupt public life, damage state property, and endanger the lives of citizens and law enforcement personnel.

Registering cases against PTI leadership for inciting violence

**Ensuring legal action against the misuse of KP government machinery**  
 Reassessing PTI's status as a political entity if it continues to challenge the state unlawfully  
 The state's leniency has been a testament to its commitment to democracy and peace. However, PTI's aggressive tactics risk pushing the country toward chaos. The government must strike a balance between restraint and authority, ensuring that no political group is allowed to destabilize the nation for personal or political gain.

In these challenging times, the state must remain steadfast in its role as a protector and enforcer of law, ensuring that Pakistan emerges stronger and more united.

## 'PML-N, Trapped in the Web of Coalition Politics'

**T**he political landscape in Pakistan has been fraught with tensions and uncertainties, particularly concerning the dynamics within the federal coalition government. The media has amplified this turmoil by presenting statements and disputes as breaking news, inadvertently harming the political unity and stability of the country.

Recent controversies revolve around the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leaders' claims regarding the unfulfilled agreements with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN), made before joining the coalition.

This friction is not limited to PPP alone. The Governor of Punjab recently expressed dissatisfaction, stating that there is no proper coordination between him and the Chief Minister. According to him, the Chief Minister has not been cooperating, prompting him to notify his leadership about the PMLN's role in the coalition government. Such statements are not unprecedented; since this government assumed power, similar grievances have emerged repeatedly.

Another internal issue was the controversial decision to replace Nawaz Sharif with Shahbaz Sharif as the Prime Ministerial candidate. This move not only caused divisions within the party but also led to skepticism among the public about the party's unity and vision. The PMLN's recent underperformance in elections has further dented its image, raising questions about its future prospects.

Coalition politics, by its nature, involves compromises and constant negotiations. For PMLN, being the senior partner in the coalition has proven to be a double-edged sword. While it provides the party with a central role in

governance, it also makes it a target for blame when things go awry.

The PPP's recent complaints about unfulfilled agreements appear to be part of a calculated strategy to position itself as an independent and critical voice within the coalition. This tactic allows the PPP to maintain its relevance and appeal to its voter base while distancing itself from the government's failures. Similar strategies have been employed by other coalition partners, including MQM, who use their leverage to extract concessions from the PMLN.

The challenges faced by the PMLN in its coalition government highlight the complexities of Pakistani politics. The party's willingness to endure these difficulties for the sake of state stability reflects a degree of maturity and commitment to democratic principles. However, this strategy comes with risks, including erosion of public trust and weakening of internal unity.

The current tensions with PPP and other coalition partners underscore the need for better coordination and communication within the government. If PMLN wishes to overcome these challenges, it must address the grievances of its allies while simultaneously strengthening its internal structure and public outreach.

Ultimately, whether PMLN is genuinely in trouble or being strategically trapped by its partners remains a matter of perspective. What is certain, however, is that the party is at a crossroads. Its ability to navigate these turbulent waters will determine its future role in Pakistan's political landscape.

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**Kiran Asim**



**M Azam Tariq**

## Israel launches blitz on Beirut

### Spokesman Report

BEIRUT: Israeli attacks on Lebanon escalated unexpectedly on Tuesday, about two hours before a scheduled meeting of Israel's security cabinet to discuss and possibly approve a ceasefire agreement with Hezbollah that, if ratified, would take effect at 6 a.m. on Wednesday.

Heavy missiles, some containing concussion bombs, rained down from low-flying warplanes in Beirut and its southern suburbs after residents were warned to evacuate. Towns in southern Lebanon and parts of the Bekaa were also targeted at the same time.

An Israeli alert warning people in Naqoura to leave the area immediately and move north of the Awali River raised fears that the intention was to destroy neighborhoods in the border town that had escaped damage during previous airstrikes.

In Beirut, without any advance warning, an airstrike hit a building in the Nowayri area housing displaced persons. It was close to a medical center affiliated with Khatam Al-Anbiya Mosque. As rescue teams worked to rescue survivors trapped in the rubble, initial figures from the Ministry of Health suggested that at least three people were killed and 26 injured in the targeted building, which partially collapsed, and neighboring properties.

Minutes after this attack, Israeli authorities issued 24 warnings to residents of the city's southern suburbs. Within 10 minutes of these alerts, warplanes simultaneously attacked neighborhoods in Haret Hreik, Burj

Al-Barajneh, Bir Al-Abed, Chiyah, Ghobeiry, Hay Madi, Jamous, Sfeir, Tayouneh, Old Saida Road, and Ouzai. Maps that accompanied the warnings indicated that most of the targeted locations contained residential buildings, cafes, restaurants and schools.

A security source said the raids destroyed or damaged more than 100 residential buildings, the greatest destruction in a single series of attacks since conflict between Israel and Hezbollah escalated 64 days ago.

The Israeli army said it hit "seven Hezbollah funds management and storage targets, in addition to Hezbollah command centers and Qard Al-Hassan (financial institution) branches."

Other attacks targeted Baalbek-Hermel governorate, where warplanes carried out strikes on Bouday, Yamouneh, Al-Ansar and Taraya. One raid targeted the area around a Lebanese army outpost in Douris, close to Dar Al-Amal University Hospital, which was hit last week. The head of the hospital and a number of doctors were reportedly among the dead.

Lebanese people posted messages on social media expressing their fears that Israeli authorities intended to take out their anger on Lebanon with constant attacks throughout the final day before a ceasefire agreement comes into effect. Amid the unprecedented escalation, however, it remained unclear whether a peace deal would be reached or the negotiations would collapse, potentially resulting in further escalation.

Israel's Army Channel reported that

"Minister of Defense Israel Katz and the Chief of the General Staff of the Israel Defense Forces Herzi Halevi approved plans to continue attack operations on the northern front."

Following a meeting with the UN's special coordinator for Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Katz issued a series of strongly worded statements in which he said Israel "will act against any threat, at any time and anywhere" and "we will call on the UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon) to effectively implement the (ceasefire) agreement."

He added: "Any rebuilt house in southern Lebanon that contains a terrorist base will be destroyed, any armament will be attacked, any attempt to smuggle weapons will be foiled, and any threat to our power and Israel's citizens will be destroyed immediately."

Israeli media reports stated that any agreement approved on Tuesday "will not be the end of the war but a ceasefire that will be evaluated on a daily basis."

The head of Hezbollah's parliamentary bloc, Mohammed Raad, said that "the Israeli enemy might act disingenuously to impose amendments to the ceasefire agreement ... in order to end the resistance's effectiveness."

He added: "Any modification, whether it involves adding to or removing from the text of Resolution 1701 is something that no rational person would accept."

Resolution 1701 was adopted by the UN Security Council in 2006 with the aim of resolving the conflict that year between Israel and Hezbollah. It calls



for an end to hostilities, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, the withdrawal of Hezbollah and other forces from parts of the country south of the Litani River, and the disarmament of Hezbollah and other armed groups.

The Israel Broadcasting Authority reported: "Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to a ceasefire agreement following US assurances to provide Israel with prohibited weapons."

It said that "the call for residents of northern towns to return to their homes will occur two months after the implementation of the agreement" and "any indirect threat not addressed by UNIFIL forces will be dealt with by Israel itself, which will thwart any attempts to smuggle weapons to Hezbollah."

In a report citing information provided by an unnamed official, Israel's Channel 12 news said: "The agreement has now entered the phase

of refining the wording and clarifying details without altering the essential terms, pending official approval."

Other media reports said the agreement stipulates "a gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from the areas they have entered in southern Lebanon within 60 days" to allow the deployment of the Lebanese army, while a five-member committee, with representatives of the US, France, Lebanon, Israel and UNIFIL, will oversee the implementation of the ceasefire.

## Palestine welcomes UNESCO's urgent response decision against the closure of UNRWA

### News Desk

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates welcomed the adoption by the UNESCO Executive Board, at its eighth extraordinary session, of a resolution on the importance of the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and supporting the continuation of its work and mandate, especially in the field of education, which is one of the main axes of the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that this decision carries important dimensions related to the mandate of UNRWA and the areas of work of UNESCO in culture, education and science, which are values that Israel, the illegal occupying power, is



constantly seeking to undermine, especially with regard to the rights of Palestinian refugees. The Ministry indicates that the illiteracy rate in Palestine is the lowest in the world, thanks to the efforts made by UNRWA in supporting education and providing educational opportunities for Palestinian children and youth and its refugees.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its deep appreciation to the

countries that supported this resolution, whether by sponsoring it or voting in favor of it, and to the role of the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, all Arab countries and friendly countries within UNESCO that held this extraordinary session, and to the tireless work and efforts made by our mission to UNESCO to negotiate the adoption of this resolution unanimously. Unfortunately, the positions of some countries prevented this consensus from being achieved, but the vote of 50 countries in favor of the resolution out of 58 countries is a new victory in support of the rights of Palestinian refugees and strengthening the role of UNRWA in this regard. It called on the countries that did not support the resolution, led by the United States, to reverse their positions and join the legal and

moral majority supporting the work of the two organizations, UNRWA and UNESCO. In this context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stresses that UNRWA cannot be replaced, reduced or prevented from working, as there is no entity that possesses the capabilities, expertise and institutional fabric that can replace UNRWA or compensate for its extensive knowledge and accumulated experience. The Ministry also calls on all countries and international actors to support and protect UNRWA's mandate until the rights of Palestinian refugees are achieved and a just solution to their issue is reached, in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions, especially Resolution 194, which guarantees the right of refugees to return to their homes from which they were forcibly displaced.

## Sri Lanka A tour of Pakistan put on hold due to political protests



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The remainder of Sri Lanka A's tour of Pakistan has been indefinitely postponed due to mass protests in Islamabad by supporters of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), a political party led by former Pakistan captain and prime minister Imran Khan. The two remaining one-dayers were scheduled to be held at the Rawalpindi Cricket Ground, the international cricket stadium in Rawalpindi.

The PCB said the postponement was due to "political activity" in Islamabad, Rawalpindi's twin city and the capital of Pakistan. "The Pakistan Cricket Board, in consultation with Sri Lanka Cricket, has postponed the last two 50-over matches of the Pakistan Shaheens-Sri Lanka A series due to a political activity in the federal capital," a PCB statement said. "The last two matches were scheduled for Wednesday and Friday at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. Both boards will collaborate to finalise new dates to complete the series."

The PCB had been concerned about the impact the PTI protests would have on the series since the previous week. A few days ago, it announced that the first one-dayer, which was also scheduled to take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Ground, would be moved to Islamabad Club. The remaining two games, according to the PCB, would have been played as scheduled at the Rawalpindi Cricket Ground on 27 and 29 November. The change in venue for the first game was seen as necessary because it was scheduled for 25 November, the day after Imran Khan has issued what he termed as a "final call" for his supporters to march to the capital to demand, among other things, his release from prison.

The protests, which have brought the capital to a virtual standstill, have resulted in a tense standoff between Imran's supporters and the federal government. It has also demanded the attention of the PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who is also the country's Interior Minister.

Pakistan led the one-day series against Sri Lanka, having won the first 50-over match by 108 runs. They had also won the preceding two-match first-class series 1-0.

## ELECTE'24 kicks off at The University of Lahore with inspiring opening ceremony

### City Desk

LAHORE: The 2024 3rd International Conference on Emerging Trends in Electrical, Control, and Telecommunication Engineering (ELECTE'24) commenced today with a grand opening ceremony at The University of Lahore. Organized by the Department of Electrical Engineering and technically co-sponsored by IEEE Lahore Section, the two-day conference has brought together leading researchers, industry professionals, and students from across the globe to discuss advancements in Electrical, Control, and Telecommunication Engineering.

The event began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by the



National Anthem of Pakistan, evoking a sense of unity and pride. Dignitaries, including the Rector of the University, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Technology, and the General Chair of ELECTE'24, warmly welcomed the

audience and highlighted the significance of this international conference as a platform for collaboration and innovation.

A special address by Mr. Kashif Bashir, Chair of IEEE ComSoc Lahore

Section, emphasized the importance of IEEE's role in fostering research and knowledge-sharing in emerging technologies.

The highlight of the morning session was four insightful keynote speeches. Prof. Dr. Maria Pia Fanti from Politecnico University of Bari, Italy, Dr. Muhammad Tayyab from Nokia Standards Finland, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad from NUST Islamabad, and Dr. Muhammad Ahsan Nacem from UET Lahore inspired the audience with their presentations on the latest topics and trends.

ELECTE'24 is poised to be a landmark event, fostering international collaboration and showcasing cutting-edge research that will shape the future of engineering and technology.

## Global Harmony event concludes with celebration of Egyptian culture in Riyadh

### Spokesman Report

RIYADH: The Global Harmony initiative concludes its third edition with a week-long celebration of Egyptian music, art and tradition in Suwaidi Park as part of Riyadh Season.

Running from Nov. 24-30 and organized by the Ministry of Media, the event invites visitors to experience Egypt's rich heritage through a range of cultural activities.

Egyptian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Tarek El-Meligy highlighted the deep-rooted connection between the two nations. "The Egyptian community is the most harmonious, coexistent and understanding in a positive way within Saudi society," he said.

"If you ask any Egyptian which country they would like to live in after Egypt, they will say Saudi Arabia."

Sarry Shaaban, an executive and consultant at the General



Entertainment Authority, said: "We are talking about millions of visitors, both residents and Saudis, entering the park. Whether I'm a resident, a Saudi or from a country hosting the

event, it provides an opportunity for residents to learn about your culture, colors, explore its arts, food, crafts, and traditional industries."

Live music and dance perfor-

mances displaying Egypt's cultural traditions, with the rhythm of drums and flutes and performers in traditional costumes, have brought the life and spirit of Cairo's streets to

Riyadh.

A separate bazaar area has been set up featuring Egyptian cuisine, traditional clothing and handcrafted items.

"An event like this carries positive messages and highlights something we strive to emphasize every day, that we are one people, united by love and affection," said El-Meligy.

Egyptian Sameh Nabil emphasized the feel of unity: "This initiative brought us closer together as Egyptians, and with Saudis here, I feel like we are brothers. I always feel like we are not expatriates."

And visitor Khaled Zahir said: "This event reflects the love, connection and affection between Egyptians living in the Kingdom and Saudis."

Egyptians make up 11 percent of Saudi Arabia's population, according to the Saudi Census, meaning such exhibitions are important in promoting mutual respect and harmony.



El-Meligy said Saudi Arabia hosted the largest Egyptian expatriate community abroad, with remittances from those in the Kingdom forming a significant part of their home nation's income.

"In recent months, remittances from Egyptians abroad have increased substantially, thanks to the facilities between the two countries and the confidence in both the Saudi and Egyptian economies," he added.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt continue to strengthen their political relationship through agreements in trade, tourism, energy and culture. In his October visit to Cairo, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met

with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to discuss investment opportunities and the establishment of a supreme coordination council to deepen bilateral relations.

Trade between Saudi Arabia and Egypt saw a 35.16 percent annual increase in the first half of 2024, according to the General Authority of Statistics. The increase was driven by a 73.44 percent surge in Saudi imports from Egypt, totaling \$4.18 billion.

Egypt has also shown a growing interest in investing in Saudi Arabia, with a 71 percent rise in licenses granted to Egyptian firms in the second quarter of 2024.

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

**Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index**

Current	Prev. Close
94,574.16	98,079.78
Day's High	Day's Low
99,819.59	94,180.59
Index Value	Change
31,142,452,972	-3505.62
Percentage	Time
-3.57%	26 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

**Europe: FTSE 100 Index**

Index Value	Change
8,258.61	-33.07
Percentage	Time
-0.40%	26 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

**USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average**

Index Value	Change
44,617.53	-119.04
Percentage	Time
-0.27%	26 Nov, 12:19 pm GMT-5

**Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average**

Index Value	Change
38,442.00	-338.14
Percentage	Time
-0.87%	26 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180.25	182.50
Bahrain Dinar	731.85	739.85
Canadian Dollar	197.60	200.00
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	289.00	291.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.81	1.87
Kuwaiti Dinar	892.75	902.25
Malaysian Ringgit	61.55	62.15
New Zealand \$	160.03	162.03
Norwegians Krone	24.77	25.07
Omani Riyal	715.50	724.00
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	346.15	349.65
US Dollar	277.30	278.90

# Islamabad High Court upholds SECP orders against Siddiq Moti

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has delivered a landmark verdict, upholding the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's (SECP) orders against the legal heirs of Siddiq Moti.

The Court dismissed the appeal filed against the decisions of SECP's Securities Market Division and its Appellate Bench. The judgment, issued on November 19, 2024, reaffirms SECP's regulatory authority and underscores the importance of safeguarding investor securities.

The case originated from a complaint alleging unauthorizedly transferred shares by brokerage house of Siddiq Moti from sub-accounts maintained by the complainant with Central Depository Company. The SECP, following an investigation, determined that these transactions were carried out in violation of the Central Depositories Act, 1997 and the findings were subsequently upheld by the SECP's Appellate Bench in 2015.

The Islamabad High Court found no legal or procedural flaws in SECP's handling of the case.



It observed that broad authorization clauses in account-opening forms do not grant brokers the authority to transfer securities from clients' sub-accounts without explicit and specific approval. The court emphasized that factual

determinations made by SECP and its Appellate Bench, as specialized regulatory bodies, cannot be overturned in a second appeal unless substantial legal errors are clearly established. The SECP rigorously defended the case

and after comprehensive hearings, the High Court dismissed the appeal and imposed costs of PKR 100,000, payable equally to SECP and the complainant. It is pertinent to mention that the SECP has been actively pursuing cases of misuse of client assets in courts to ensure investor protection and maintain market integrity.

To prevent misuse of client funds in the brokerage industry, the SECP has implemented several measures including imposing stricter regulations on brokers holding custody of clients' assets, mandating fortnightly submission of client asset segregation statement by brokerage houses to Pakistan Stock Exchange and automating the transfer of securities directly from the seller's account to the buyer's account to eliminate the need for manual intervention through a broker's main account.

This judgment reinforces SECP's commitment to safeguarding investor interests and ensuring market integrity by upholding transparency and accountability in Pakistan's capital markets.

## MoU

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Belarus H.E. Aleksandr Lukashenko witnessing the MoUs and Agreements exchange ceremony held in Prime Minister's House on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Belarusian President visit to boost bilateral ties: Iftikhar Malik

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Tuesday said President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, current visit to Pakistan marks pivotal step in bolstering bilateral relations and fostering cooperation across various sectors, including trade, investment, and technology.

Welcoming his visit here today popular octogenarian trade leader of South Asia, in a statement said delegation will hold series of comprehensive results oriented discussions focused on enhancing economic ties, streamlining trade mechanisms, and exploring joint ventures in agriculture, manufacturing, and information technology. The two sides will underline the vital importance of expanding bilateral trade, which currently holds untapped potential. He said the Belarusian delegation, comprising 4-3 influ-



ential business leaders, will hold detailed dialogues with their Pakistani counterparts and several agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) will be inked, aiming to facilitate knowledge exchange and promote direct investment in industries, textile production, machinery manufacturing, and green energy.

Iftikhar Malik said visit will also highlight cultural and educational cooperation, expressing a desire to strengthen people-to-people connections and academic exchanges. President Lukashenko's visit underscored a shared vision for mutual growth and partnership, reinforcing the importance of strategic collaboration for long-term regional and global stability, he concluded.

## PHMA concerned over notices for gas disconnection, extra payment

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: While expressing serious concerns over the threats of gas supply termination and notices of additional security payment by the SNGPL the Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA) on Tuesday urged the government to withdraw these notices and ensure smooth gas supply to the export-oriented value-added textile industry so that the exports could not be suffered, which have just started to show a positive trend after a long time.

PHMA North Zone Chairman Abdul Hameed, in a letter to Commerce and Textile Minister Jam Kamal, has argued that at a time when the exports data have showed some growth the government agencies, instead of taking business-friendly measures, are creating hurdles for the exporters. He quoted the latest exports data and said the exports of readymade garments rose 23.17pc by value in the first quarter and 16.16pc by quantity, while knitwear rose 14.13pc by value and 2.17pc by quantity while bedwear posted a growth of 13.31pc in value and a growth of 14.55pc in quantity, which is an encouraging sign. The

government should extend its full support to continue this positive trend of exports growth through uninterrupted gas supply to the captive power plants at affordable



and competitive rates.

It is to be noted that the exports of textile and clothing recorded an increase of nearly 9.51 per cent in the first quarter of FY25 amid concerns that the industry was experiencing a slump.

The exports from the sector had a negative growth of 3.09pc in July, which

rebounded 13pc in August and 17.92pc in September. Many experts believe that the textile sector may struggle to compete with regional rivals due to the implementation of harsh taxation measures in the current fiscal year. However, the disruption in supply from Bangladesh has also increased the demand for Pakistani garments.

The PHMA Chairman said that the textile and clothing exports have stayed the same in the last two years despite having a \$25 billion installed capacity. According to textile exporters, exports from the same sectors have been static for the past two years due to structural issues.

"We would like to bring to your kind notice an important issue which would hurt industrial units and their production activities."

He said that the notices have been issued to our members having captive power facility, demanding additional security payment based on revision of share of system gas and RLNG (e.g. 25:75). These notices are not only unwarranted but also harsh steps, given the decision to terminate the gas supply from these members from Jan 1, 2025 and simultaneously serving notices for enhanced security.

## Bank Alfalah partners with CEIF IMSciences

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Bank Alfalah has entered into a strategic partnership with the Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance (CEIF) at the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences), Peshawar. This collaboration aims to drive progress in the Islamic finance sector by fostering innovation, developing talent, and promoting sectoral growth.

Through this partnership, Bank Alfalah and CEIF IMSciences will offer sponsorships to deserving students, launch joint research projects to address emerging industry challenges, and create plat-

forms for knowledge-sharing through seminars and workshops.

"We are excited to partner with CEIF IMSciences to promote Islamic finance education, research, and innovation," said Atif Bajwa, President and CEO of Bank Alfalah. "This partnership reflects our commitment to supporting the growth of the Islamic finance sector and developing the next generation of leaders in this field."

Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan, Director General IMSciences, added, "We are delighted to collaborate with Bank Alfalah to advance Islamic finance education and research."

## PRGMEA Advocates for Social and Environmental Sustainability in the Textile Sector

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA) has emphasized the need for a collaborative approach in policymaking, uniting key stakeholders such as government ministries, academic institutions, and industrial bodies.

These views were expressed by the PRGMEA North Zone Chairman Dr. Ayyaz Uddin, in a letter addressed to the Federal Minister for Commerce Mr. Jam Kamal Khan.

The letters were also sent to the Standing Committees on Climate Change



and Human Rights of the Senate and as well as the National Assembly.

He said that the textile industry, which contributes \$16.5 billion annually to Pakistan's exports and serves as a cornerstone for employment generation, faces increasing global pressure to align with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. Highlighting the importance of compliance with international frameworks like the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and ILO conventions, Dr. Ayyaz called these evolving global standards both a challenge and an opportunity for Pakistan's export sector.

In his correspondence, Dr. Ayyaz recommended to Engaging representatives from government, academia, and industry associations to develop actionable strategies for compliance and sustainability and Establishing two task forces under the National Compliance Center (NCC): one dedicated to textile export challenges and the other addressing non-textile export sector issues, ensuring targeted solutions for sector-specific governance concerns.

## foodpanda launches smog protection initiative for delivery riders

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: foodpanda Pakistan, the country's leading online food and grocery delivery platform, is prioritising the health and safety of its delivery riders this winter with the distribution of 6,000 smog protection kits. Delivery riders will also be provided winter essentials like jackets and bike mittens to stay warm and protected from the cold. As air quality worsens across Pakistan during smog season, foodpanda is taking proactive measures to support its riders.

"Our heroes' health and safety are our top priorities, especially in the current environment," said Farhan Khan,

Director Operations foodpanda Pakistan. "Our heroes work tirelessly to ensure customers receive their orders, and it is our responsibility to support and protect them as they work through the challenging smog. By providing smog kits, winter jackets, mittens, and health guidance, we aim to make the delivery experience safer for everyone involved."

This initiative reflects foodpanda's commitment to setting higher standards for rider welfare and creating a healthier work environment. The company remains firmly committed to innovation and setting industry standards for quality and service in the country's digital landscape.



## 2nd One Day International Cricket Match

# Pakistan Cricket Team excellent performance against Zimbabwe

Asim Tanveer

BULAWAYO- ZIMBABWE: Saim Ayub's aggressive but incredible century against Zimbabwe, Pakistan leveled the series, cricket breaking news is that the Pakistan cricket team has avenged its first defeat against Zimbabwe. In the second match of the 3-match ODI series, the score has been leveled one-on-one with a 10-wicket win and now the series will be decided in the deciding match on Thursday, November 28. The heroes of today's victory were Abrar Ahmed and Saim Ayub. This is the 15th bilateral ODI series between the two countries. For the first time in history, Pakistan has averted the threat of defeat from Zimbabwe, but it is not over, it is still left, for this it will be necessary to win the third and decisive ODI. Out of the 14 bilateral series played so far, Pakistan has won 13. The 1995 series was tied



The Zimbabwe cricket team, batting first against Pakistan, was dismissed for just 145 runs in 32.3 overs. Pakistan completed the target in the 19th over. Zimbabwe's decision to

bat first after winning the toss did not go down well today and its entire team could only set a target of 146 runs for Pakistan. Zimbabwe's leading players and his Sikandar Raza could



not stay at the wicket for long. Devon Meyer scored 33 runs. Craig Aaron scored 18 runs. Sean Williams scored 31, Sikandar Raza scored 17 runs. Abrar Ahmed, who made his

ODI debut for Pakistan, took four wickets for 33 runs in 8 overs and Salman Ali Agha took 3 wickets for 26 runs in 7 overs. Saim Ayub and Faisal Akram took one wicket each.

In reply, Pakistan started attacking the Zimbabwean bowlers this time. Both openers Saim Ayub and Abdullah Shafiq showed aggression. Saim Ayub completed his

half-century in 32 balls, for which he hit 9 fours and a six. He completed his half-century with the help of 100 runs in the 14th over. After that, the task became easier.

Saim Ayub, who played the sixth ODI of his career, made an effort for his first century that is not usually within the target of 146 runs, he took charge in his own hands. The other opener Abdullah Shafiq felt this and batted slowly. Saim Ayub completed his first century in 53 balls, becoming the third Pakistani player to score a fast century.

He achieved this honor with the help of 16 fours and 3 sixes. Pakistan completed the target of 146 runs in just 18.2 overs and won by 10 wickets. Abdullah Shafiq was unbeaten on 32 and Saim Ayub was unbeaten on 113.

Pakistan has won by 10 wickets for the 5th time and by 10 wickets against Zimbabwe for the second time.

## Pakistan Blind cricket team defeat Bangladesh team by 8 wickets in a match of Blind T20 Cricket World Cup

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Blind cricket team defeated Bangladesh Blind cricket team by 8 wickets in a match of Blind T20 Cricket World Cup at Bagh-e-Jinnah cricket ground on Tuesday. Pakistan chased the target of 146 runs in just 12.4 overs.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial was the chief guest on this occasion. He gave away a cheque of Rs 25,000 to Pakistan's Man of the Match Bader Manir at the end of the match.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial congratulated Chairman Pakistan Blind Cricket Council Syed Sultan Shah and his team on the successful conduct of the Blind T20 Cricket World Cup. He also congratulated the National Blind Cricket Team for winning the match against Bangladesh.

Talking to media on this occasion, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs



Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that the respect of the country has been increased to a great extent due to the Blind T20 Cricket World Cup being held in Pakistan.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that

Pakistan will be the winner of the Blind World Cup. "Punjab government is extending every kind of help in organizing the Blind T20 Cricket World Cup."

Chairman Pakistan Blind Cricket Council Syed Sultan Shah on this

occasion thanked Secretary Sports Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial for extending full support for the smooth holding of Blind Cricket World Cup. "Our team is performing well and hopefully we will win the World Cup," he expressed his hope.

## 43rd Punjab Open Golf Championship commences today

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The 43rd Punjab Open Golf Championship will commence at the par 72 Royal Palm Golf and Country Club Golf Course from Wednesday 27th November and continue till Sunday, 1st December 2024. This title bearing mega event will lure the highly adept ones of the national golf circuit to enter this championship and while the champion golf professionals seek to earn huge cash rewards through quality performances, also seeking cash earnings will be senior golf professionals and junior golf professionals. As for golf amateurs, senior golf amateurs and lady golf amateurs the big attraction is the participation experience and recognition as players of eminence.



This is an open golf championship endorsed by Gourmet and hence the professional golf players will be the ones in the limelight. These professional entrants will be many with the top ranked amongst them representing a special breed; they have worked hard over the years and acquired enough golfing skills that enable them to perform superbly in golf competi-

tions of this stature. Yes they may not win titles every time but they play brilliantly and cast a spell over the events they participate in. Distinguished names whose presence will attract considerable attention are Shabbir Iqbal who has won over 200 titles in his golfing career, Matloob Ahmed, a classy professional player and quite a few other immensely skilled ones like Muhammed Alam, Muhammed Shahzad, Muhammed Munir, Minhaj Maqsood, Waheed Baloch and Muhammed Ashfaq. And lest we forget, our international star Ahmed Baig who is steering the national flag in the Asian Circuit Golf will also be seen in action at the alluring Royal Palm Golfing arena.

Besides the highly skilled professional golf players, also participating in this tournament are established amateur golf players and also upcoming golfers, rich in talent but devoid of titles; of course in times to come they will perform well enough to make a name for themselves. Total prize money at stake is Rupees six million. Muhammed Zakir of Punjab Golf Association stated that Royal Palm Golf Course is a challenging layout with a yardage of 6683 and some comprehensive work has been done on the fairways and greens to ensure excellent playing conditions. No doubt the out of bounds possibility on many holes will spread nervousness in quite a few minds and also threatening the players ability will be many bunkers and huge trees but then this is where the test of skill comes.

## How can India qualify for WTC final after crushing Australia in Perth Test?

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: India, under the stand-in captain Jasprit Bumrah, defeated Australia by a massive 295-run margin in the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Perth and claimed the top spot in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) standings on Monday.

Australia, while chasing a mountainous 534, crumbled to 238 all out in the final session on day four. A counter-punching Travis Head made a gritty 89 while Mitchell Marsh chipped in with 47.

But it was never going to be enough against an inspired attack led by the irrepressible Bumrah, who took 3-42 to claim eight wickets in the match. He was ably supported by Mohammed Siraj with 3-51.

It was an astonishing turnaround for India, who arrived in Australia on the



back of a humiliating 3-0 home series defeat to New Zealand. They needed four victories in the five-match series to earn their place in the WTC final.

With the victory in the Perth Test, India successfully ascended to the top of the WTC standings, boasting a PCT of 61.11 after winning nine out of their 15 matches in the ongoing cycle.

In contrast, Australia, who had previously held the leading position in the WTC standings, fell to second place following this match, now possessing a PCT of 57.69 after securing eight wins out of 13 matches.

However, the win in Perth did not guarantee India a spot in the WTC final. To ensure their place in the final,

the Indian team would need to win three out of the remaining four matches during their Australian tour.

A 5-0 clean sweep or a 4-1 victory in the series would provide them with the coveted ticket to the final. In case they fail to achieve these results, their fate will depend on the outcomes of other teams in the championship.

## Pakistan Shaheens, Sri Lanka A last two 50-over matches postponed



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board, in consultation with Sri Lanka Cricket, has postponed the last two 50-over matches of the Pakistan Shaheens-Sri Lanka A series due to a political activity in the federal capital.

The last two matches were scheduled for Wednesday and Friday at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. Both boards will collaborate to finalise new dates to complete the series, said a press release.

The Shaheens lead the series, having won the two four-day matches 1-0 and the opening 50-over match on Monday by 108 runs.

## Pacers put Sialkot ahead on day 1 in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sialkot had a productive day against Peshawar after they closed the first day with 74 runs on the board in 20.3 overs before bowling them out for 171 in the triangular stage of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Abbottabad.

After Peshawar opted to bat first, only No.4 batter, Ubaidullah (35, 44b, 8x4s) managed to cross 30-run mark as wickets tumbled regularly. Peshawar had lost half their side for 93 runs before the last five wickets added 78 runs combined.

Test fast bowler Mohammad Ali returned figures of 16.1-7-35-4, while he was backed up by former Pakistan U19 pacer Awais Ali who also snapped four wickets for 73 runs in 15 overs. Shoaib Akhtar picked up two wickets.

In turn, Sialkot's opening batters, Azan Awais (38 not out, 63b, 6x4s) and Ashir Mehmood (31 not out, 61b, 5x4s) put on unbeaten 74 runs in 20.3 overs when the stumps were drawn early due to bad light. Sialkot will begin the day two with a 97-run first innings deficit and ten wickets in hand.

Scores in brief (Day 1 of 4): Peshawar 171 all out, 46.1 overs (Ubaidullah 35, Zubair Khan 23, Mohammad Amir Khan 21, Abuzar Tariq 20; Mohammad Ali 4-35, Awais Ali 4-73, Shoaib Akhtar 2-50) Sialkot 74-0, 20.3 overs (Azan Awais 38 not out, Ashir Mehmood 31 not out).

## ICC summons board meeting to mull Champions Trophy future

KARACHI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday called a board meeting on November 29 to deliberate on the future of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, scheduled to be hosted in Pakistan in February-March next year.

The meeting will be held online, and all board members have been provided with the agenda, an ICC spokesperson confirmed.

According to sources, the meeting will discuss the future of the tournament following India's refusal to tour Pakistan for the tournament. The ICC board members will be discussing various options including adopting a hybrid model, relocating the event entirely, or postponing the tournament. Sources further revealed that the ICC board is inclined toward implementing a hybrid model as a primary solution. However, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has already voiced its opposition to this approach.

The ICC Board is expected to make a final decision after considering feedback and recommendations from its members during the meeting. The board comprises 12 full members, three associate members, and one independent director.

Earlier on November 20, it was reported that the ambiguity surrounding the tournament was expected to linger on due to the likelihood of a delay in the announcement of the schedule.

The ICC had officially demanded a written explanation from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) over its refusal after the PCB requested the ICC to provide a copy of India's written response regarding the decision against attending the mega-event.

Apart from the PCB's stance, the refusal of broadcasters and commercial partners to accept a schedule that does not feature a Pakistan-India match — which brings significant eyes and therefore generates valuable revenue — has also added to the ICC's woes.

## High alert

ISLAMABAD: Pak Army soldiers stand alert on a container at D-Chowk during supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party protest in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

# President, PM condemn as protestors' vehicles mow down security personnel

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President, Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday strongly condemned as the vehicles of the PTI protestors mowed down the Rangers and police personnel at Srinagar Highway.

Expressing their deep grief over the martyrdom of Rangers personnel in the incident, they prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in the hereafter and strength for the bereaved families



to bear the loss.

The prime minister directed the authorities concerned to identify the perpetrators and take them to task and extend the best possible medical treat-

ment to the injured security personnel.

"Attacking the police and Rangers in the name of so-called peaceful protests is condemnable. The insurgent group is deliberately targeting the law enforcement agencies who are deployed to maintain peace in the city. They have destroyed the lives of the families of the martyred security personnel," the prime minister said.

He said that the insurgent group was accountable to the innocent children and families of the security personnel

martyred on the day as well as on Monday.

"The anarchist group does not want revolution, but bloodshed. This is not a peaceful protest, it is extremism. Pakistan cannot afford any chaos and bloodshed. Bloodshed for nefarious political purposes is unacceptable and highly condemnable," he remarked.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the entire nation paid tribute to the martyred Rangers and police personnel.

# Pakistan, Belarus sign 15 different MoUs, agreements on cooperation in different sectors

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko witnessed exchange of some 15 different memorandums of understanding, treaties and agreements intended to augment bilateral cooperation in different sectors.

The MoUs and Agreements signed between Belarus and Pakistan included roadmap for cooperation between Belarus and Pakistan, MoU between the Ministry of Commerce Pakistan and Ministry of Anti-Monopoly Regulation of Belarus on Electronic Commerce Cooperation, Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, MoU in



field of accreditation between Pakistan National Accreditation Council of Pakistan and Republican Unitary Enterprise Belarus, and MoU on cooperation between the Committee of State Control of Belarus and Office of the Audit General of Pakistan.

It also included MoU between department of Financial Monitoring of the state control committee of Republic of Belarus and Financial Monitoring Unit Government of Pakistan, MoU between Pakistan Customs, FBR and State

Customs Committee of Belarus, Agreement between National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Agreement between Govt. of Pakistan and Govt of Belarus on International Road Transport, MoU on cooperation

in the field of Environmental protection between Ministry of Natural Resources Belarus and Ministry of Climate change Pakistan, MoU between Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus and NDMA Pakistan in fields of prevention and elimination of emergencies, MoU between NAVTTC Pakistan and Educational Institution of Belarus, Treaty between Republic of Belarus and Republic of Pakistan on extradition, MoU on cooperation between DRAP, Ministry of National Health Services Pakistan and Republican Unitary Enterprise Belarus for expertise and Tests in health services, and MoU for cooperation in Halal Trade between Pakistan Halal Authority Ministry of Science and technology and Belarusian Halal Standardisation and Certification Center of Belarus

# Lahore Ring Road closed for traffic once again

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Authorities have once again closed Ring Road in Lahore to traffic in anticipation of further PTI protest activity. Police sources cite security concerns as the reason for the closure, noting that the road had been reopened the previous evening.

The closure came when the party's protest reached D-Chowk in Islamabad.

Previously, the Punjab provincial government had sealed all entry and exit points to Lahore to preempt the protests, partially reopening some routes the day before. Ring Road was also temporarily reopened with heightened security measures.

However, the PTI protest convoy's arrival to D-Chowk has prompted the renewed closure in Lahore.

The continued road closures are causing concerns about fuel short-



ages in the Gujranwala region, and are already leading to shortages and price increases (doubled in some

cases) for vegetables, fruits, and poultry.

Similar concerns about fuel

shortages and disruptions are being reported in Head Marala due to road closures affecting travel and daily life.

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# Speaker National Assembly arrives in Moscow



## Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq arrived in Moscow today along with a six-member parliamentary delegation. At the airport he was received by Vice Chairman of the Russian State Duma Mr. Alexander Babakov.

Honourable Speaker arrived in Russia at the invitation of Russian State Duma Chairman H. E. Mr. Vyacheslav Volodin.

In his comments on his expecta-

tions about the visit, Mr Sadiq noted that Pakistan wants to have excellent relations with Russia, which are already developing in a very positive way.

The Speaker also plans to invite his Russian counterpart Mr. Vyacheslav Volodin to visit Pakistan.

The delegation led by the Honourable Speaker includes Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel,

Syed Rafullah, Mr. Sher Ali Arbab, Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sattar, Rana Muhammad Hayat Khan.

# Abdul Aleem Khan grieved over death of rangers 'jawans'

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications and President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Abdul Aleem Khan has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic incident of crushing of Ranger personnel on Srinagar Highway. He added that his heart is extremely saddened to hear about the martyrdom of security forces "Jawans" and Constable Mubashir and the injury of more than a hundred law enforcement officials. Abdul Aleem Khan has strongly condemned the incident



and termed it a national loss. While expressing condolences to the families of the martyrs, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs and said that may Allah Almighty forgive the deceased and grant speedy recovery to the injured of the incident of Srinagar Highway.

# Karachi traders announce new airline 'Air Karachi'



## Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Traders in Karachi have announced the establishment of a new airline named 'Air Karachi', according to reports.

Discussions with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) are under way and 'Air Karachi' has been registered.

Businessmen, including Aqeel

Karim Dhedhi and Arif Habib, are jointly bringing this airline to fruition. Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Imran has been appointed as the CEO of Air Karachi.

This new venture aims to enhance air travel options in the region and is expected to contribute to the local economy. Further details regarding the launch and operations of the airline are anticipated in the coming months.

# Islamabad administration orders closure of markets amid PTI protest



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad administration has started enforcing market closures in response to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf protests while security in the Red Zone has been further tightened.

Sources said that orders have been issued to close markets in various sectors, including directions for shutting down businesses in sectors F-10

and F-11. Markets in G-6, G-7, G-8, as well as F-6 and F-7, have also been instructed to close.

Furthermore, power supply has been cut off in areas around Blue Area and telephone services have been suspended.

The PTI activists are present on the main road in Blue Area, adding to the tensions in the capital. The measures reflect the authorities' efforts to maintain order amid the ongoing unrest.