

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے عروہن سلم نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے
ابو قادیس رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ کہ نبی
کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم ہر تہمت سے پاک اور
مقدس ہے اور اللہ تعالیٰ نے اس کو اپنے
سے شان مبارک پر جس پر چھری کریم صلی
اللہ علیہ وسلم نے نماز پڑھی جب آپ کو
کرتے تو انہیں اتار دیتے اور جب کھڑے
ہوتے تو پھر اٹھاتے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 5996)
Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited



Bushra Bibi, Gandapur booked in seven cases in Attock

Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Ms Shazia Marri on Monday stressed the need to focus on law and order in the country by the joint sitting of the parliament as durable peace could help address all other problems, including the economic crisis.



PIMS refutes PTI's death claims, confirms no fatalities

The Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has issued a clarification, refuting the rumours circulating on social media regarding the alleged deaths during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest. According to the hospital administration, reports of fatalities among protesters lack credibility. During the PTI protest, 66 security personnel and 36 civilians were brought to the hospital's emergency department.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko met with General Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan.



Photo: ISPR

President Aleksandr Lukashenko meets COAS, praises Pak Armed Forces

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko Wednesday met with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), in Islamabad.

The discussion encompassed matters of mutual interest, prospects for defense cooperation, and regional security dynamics, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news

release. The COAS emphasized Pakistan's appreciation for Belarus's contributions to global and regional affairs, expressing a desire to strengthen and expand bilateral ties.

President Aleksandr Lukashenko praised the Pakistan Armed Forces for their significant role in fostering regional peace and stability, as well as their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

Gen Asim discusses regional security with Chinese general



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of China, visited General Headquarters (GHQ) along with a high-level delegation.

The distinguished guest held a one-on-one meeting with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), followed by delegation-level discussions.

The engagements focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, measures for regional stability, and enhancing bilateral defense cooperation. General Asim Munir underscored the enduring and all-weather nature of Pakistan-China relations, emphasizing their foundation of mutual trust and cooperation. He affirmed that this historic partnership has

withstood the test of time and is poised to grow further. The COAS thanked Chinese leadership for standing firmly with Pakistan, irrespective of changes in the international and regional environment.

Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia expressed China's deep appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast commitment to their strategic partnership. He commended the Pakistan Army's resolve and professionalism in its ongoing counter-terrorism efforts and reiterated China's determination to further strengthen this enduring relationship.

Earlier, upon his arrival at GHQ, General Zhang Youxia laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, paying homage to Pakistan's martyrs. He was accorded a warm reception, including a guard of honor presented by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army.

PM for firm decisions to end future mayhems, sit-ins

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his zero tolerance for any future violent onslaught and sit-ins by a group of miscreants in Islamabad and resolved to take stern decisions to put an end to repeated string of violent chaos and damages to the country's economy.

Addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet, the prime minister without mentioning the name of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led recent onslaught on the federal capital, said that repeated attacks by a clique of miscreants had forced them to rethink.

With the collective deliberations, they had to take strict measures, to quell such scenes in future as they could no longer put all their resources and ener-

gies into it, leading to economic destruction, he observed.

"They should have only one option before them; that is progress and prosperity of Pakistan. As a Prime Minister, chief executive, as members of the cabinet and parliamentarians, they will not let that coterie of anarchy to inflict further harm on country's economy," he maintained.

The prime minister said that once again an assault was mounted on Islamabad, but on previous night, all the law enforcement agencies had collectively and with good strategy dispersed the protest and provided relief to the public.

As a result of such riot, Islamabad in particular and the country in generally, witnessed huge economic losses as businesses were closed, traders were



raising hue and cry, owners of the factories were in distress; daily wagers found it hard to get one time meal while the patients were stranded, he added. In twin cities, the prime minister said the life was paralyzed. In the larger context, the

economic losses were manifold, the country's stock exchange market which had crossed the historic mark of 99,000 points few days back, lost 4,000 points in one day due to chaos.

These miscreants had become the permanent enemies of Pakistan's progress. But after restoration of peace, the PSE rallied and crossed the earlier figure, he said, adding the trend in business was like a flight of a soaring bird and investments poured in where the peace and opportunities existed.

The prime minister regretted that such like dangerous trend of upheaval and attacks was set by a party of troublemakers as it was not visible prior to the year 2014, because none of the political parties had ever thought of mounting attacks on the federal capital.

Continued on Page 7

Naqvi commends security forces for restoring peace in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi conducted a visit from D-Chowk to Khyber Plaza on early Wednesday morning, where he reviewed the efforts of law enforcement agencies in restoring order.

During his visit, Naqvi met with security personnel on duty at D-Chowk and praised their bravery and dedication in

handling recent unrest.

The minister lauded the collective efforts of the Rangers, Islamabad Police, Punjab Police, Sindh Police, FC, and the Pakistan Army for successfully clearing the area of miscreants. He expressed gratitude for their role in maintaining peace and ensuring the safety of the capital city.

Naqvi also inspected the damage caused to buildings and installations during the disturbances and directed the Capital



Development Authority (CDA) to immediately begin cleanup operations.

He emphasized the importance of removing obstacles from roads to restore normalcy.

"We thank Almighty Allah that the conspiracy to spread unrest has failed miserably," Naqvi said, adding that the valiant efforts of law enforcement had ensured a peaceful outcome.

The minister congratulated all security forces for their courageous role and declared it a victory for a peaceful Pakistan.

Cleanup, restoration of services in Islamabad after PTI protesters removed

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Following a large-scale operation against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters in Islamabad, cleanup efforts are underway, and containers blocking various roads in the city have been removed.

This has allowed all types of traffic to resume on the motorways, and the internet service, which was suspended for three days due to the protests, has now been restored.

With the completion of the operation, normalcy is gradually returning to the federal capital. Business activities are expected



to resume today, while educational institutions will reopen tomorrow.

The area shows signs of the protests, with clothes, shoes,

and several abandoned vehicles left behind. Roads that had been closed due to the protests are now accessible again.

Cleanup operations, including

the removal of containers from key locations such as the Red Zone, are ongoing under the directive of Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Islamabad, Irfan Memon, who has instructed assistant commissioners to clear their respective areas.

Murree Road Clearance Continues Simultaneously, the removal of containers from Murree Road, which was sealed off for three days due to the protests, is in progress. Businesses along Murree Road, Faizabad, Shamsabad, and Stadium Road have been closed during this period.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi recently visited the D-Chowk to Khyber Plaza area, where he commended law enforcement for their efforts in clearing the protests.

He ordered immediate road cleanups and directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to facilitate these efforts.

Motorway police confirmed that Motorway M-2 has reopened for traffic between Lahore and Islamabad, and Motorway M-11 is now open for Lahore to Sialkot traffic. Additionally, Motorways M-4, M-14, and M-3 have also resumed operations.

Media should play a constructive role as per established norms: PM AJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that a positive change can be brought about in society provided the media plays a constructive role in accordance with established code of conduct and ethics of journalism.

The AJK premier said this while talking to the AKNS delegation which was led by its president Amjad Chaudhry here on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion the PM, while highlighting the importance of



the media, said, "The media should promote positive thinking to bring improvement in the society."

The role of the media is essential to rid the state of the menace of corruption, prejudices, and regionalism", the

PM remarked. The Prime Minister said that the AKNS and the Ministry of Information should jointly form a task force to look into all matters including media policy.

Stressing the need for promoting investigative journalism, he said that the essence of responsible journalism was to bring truth and expose wrongdoing.

He assured the visiting delegation that the problems faced by the media industry and publishers would be resolved on priority basis. "Fair distribution of advertisements to newspa-

pers will be ensured at all costs", the PM maintained. The government, he said, was using all possible resources to improve the quality of life of the citizens of the state.

He said that protecting the rights of citizens was the government's responsibility. Senior Minister Colonel (ret'd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, government ministers Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah, Mian Abdul Waheed, Sardar Aamir Altaf Khan, Ms. Taqdis Gilani, Secretary Information Adnan Khurshid and members of the AKNS were present on the occasion.

Burned container

ISLAMABAD: PTI's burned container at Jinnah Avenue in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

GCHU's computerized entry test series successfully completed: Vice Chancellor

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Professor Dr. Tayyaba Zarif, Vice Chancellor of Government College University Hyderabad, has said that the computerized entry test series for the four-year BS program 2025 has been successfully completed. After the entry test for the BS program, computer tests will also be held for MS, MPhil and PhD. Our goal for the future will be a quality testing service that government and private institutions can benefit from for educational institutions and jobs. He expressed these views at a media briefing on the last day of the BS program entry test at Government College University Hyderabad.

Director Admissions Professor Dr. Imtiaz Ali Birohi said that the score of the entry test is available to each student at the end of the test. The result of each day's test is provided on the website of GC University Hyderabad.

About 7000 students registered themselves in this admission test and four thousand students participated in the test. In the test, 200 in one shift and five shifts a day and this test was conducted in the best possible manner for four days.



People's AJK have a constitutional, political and moral right to peaceful protest

Abdul Majeed Tahir

GHAZIABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: President of Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that present promulgated Ordinance has revived the memories of the Sikka Shahi As a result of the government ordinance, the ideological, defense and integrity requirements of Pakistan in the Azad region are being harmed.

The Muslim Conference cannot be a part of any legislation that creates chaos in Azad Kashmir and harms the integrity of Pakistan.

These views were expressed by the President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, while talking to media representatives on the current situation in Azad



Kashmir. A large number of workers from all over Azad Kashmir were also present on the occasion.

The people of Azad Kashmir in

general and the people of Kotli district in particular are very civilized and polite. The situation in a district like Kotli is a cause of concern for all of us.

The entire political leadership of Azad Kashmir should sit together and find a political solution to all these issues. The President of the Muslim Conference further said that under the leadership of Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan this region of Azad Kashmir was liberated in the name of Islam and Pakistan. Pakistan is the safest last refuge of the people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The Muslim Conference will not allow the ideology of accession to Pakistan to weaken under any circumstances. He further said that the Presidential Ordinance is not a document that cannot be withdrawn. In these circumstances, the Muslim Conference cannot remain silent. All stakeholders will have to play their role to bring Azad Kashmir out of the current crisis he added.

UAJK officers reaffirm commitment to university's integrity, warn against false allegations

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: An emergency meeting of the Officers' Welfare Association of the University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (UAJK) was held on Wednesday at the Chehla Campus. The meeting presided over by President of the Association Sardar Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, attended by a large number of university officers.

During the meeting, a unanimous resolution was adopted, strongly condemning the continuous filing of baseless and fabricated complaints by a few retired employees and a convicted individual against the university in the Accountability Bureau. The resolution highlighted that these complaints, aimed at blackmailing and achieving personal objectives, continue despite the university's satisfactory responses to each one.

The association also expressed gratitude to the government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir for extending financial assistance to the university. It acknowledged the contributions of President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, the Chief Secretary, the Secretary of Higher Education Commission, and the Secretary of Finance, among others.

The meeting concluded with a renewed pledge to promote higher education, safeguard the university's prestige, and play a proactive role in its development.

Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi's 21-day 'Awami Theater Festival' play 'Manto Mera Dost' steals the show on Day 19

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi's 21-day "Awami Theater Festival" continues to captivate audiences, with the 19th day featuring the play "Manto Mera Dost," which added a special touch to the festival. Written by Anwar Jafri and directed by Sheema Kermani, the play's cast included Imran Khan, Tabitha, Shazia Adnan, Haris Khan, Shazia, and Naem Khan. The play revolves around renowned writer Saadat Hasan Manto, as narrated by his close friend Ismat Chughtai. The story is based on Chughtai's memories and reflections, penned after Manto's death. Every word in the performance was authentically drawn from the writings of Manto and Chughtai, portraying their relationship, camaraderie, arguments, and shared experiences, including their courtroom battles. The partition of the subcontinent was also a significant theme. The play delves into the issue of how literature is categorized, or resisted, in the name of religion—a subject that deeply troubled Manto. It opened with Ismat Chughtai documenting her memories and concluded poignantly with Manto's death. This compelling drama has previously been performed in cities across Pakistan, India, and the United States, receiving widespread acclaim.

Thar Festival to celebrate rich cultural heritage of Thar Region

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Indigenous and Traditional Crafts Company (STCO) and Besant Hall Cultural Center (EFT) are jointly organizing a two-day Thar Festival, scheduled to take place on November 29 and 30 at Besant Hall Hyderabad. Director of Besant Hall, Sobhia Ali Shaikh, stated that Chief Secretary Sindh Syed Asif Haider Shah will attend the festival as the special guest. This amazing event will showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Thar region, featuring an array of folk music, Rajasthani and Thari dances, and Thari ragg, including the mesmerizing Borindu. The festival will also include a panel discussion on the second day, highlighting the unique aspects of Thari culture, folk literature, and the concept of Thar.

The Thar Festival aims to promote and preserve the distinctive cultural heritage of the Thar region, which has long been a source of inspiration for poets and artists. The event will provide a platform for artists, artisans, and scholars to showcase their work and share their knowledge, celebrating the diversity and richness of Thari culture.

The festival is expected to be a vital celebration of the Thar region's unique cultural identity, and will provide a unique opportunity for attendees to experience the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Government College Women University Faisalabad honored

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Government College Women University Faisalabad's excellent position of 301-350 in the Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025

According to the Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025, the overall achievements of Government College Women University Faisalabad are as follows: Government College Women University's second position among women's universities around the world, second position among women's universities in Pakistan, thirteenth position among public sector universities in Pakistan and eventeenth position among all universities in Pakistan, while Overall position worldwide: 301-350.

This ranking has been created in collaboration with Summit Science Fellows, which aims to recognize interdisciplinary science in higher education and highlight its importance.

Interdisciplinary scientific research is the key that brings together different fields of knowledge to provide solutions to complex global challenges. Vice Chancellor Government College Women University Professor Dr. Kanwal Amin congratulated the Quality Enhancement team and the entire GCWUF family on this wonderful achievement and said that let us all together move towards more achievements and raise the prestige of GCWUF by maintaining the tradition of high quality education and excellent research.

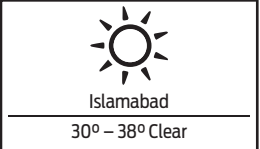
Muhammad Yousuf warns of economic repercussions of Petroleum (Amendment) Act

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Muhammad Yousuf, Ex-Senior Vice Chairman of the Pakistan Coating Association (PCA), and senior member of FPCCI, has sounded the alarm over the severe economic repercussions of the Petroleum (Amendment) Act, 2023. He highlighted that the abrupt enforcement of these amendments, particularly the reclassification of products with flashpoints up to 93°C, has plunged Pakistan's coatings industry, alongside chemical, pharmaceutical, construction, and textile sectors, into an unprecedented crisis.

The coatings industry, which is heavily reliant on hydrocarbons as raw materials, is facing acute shortages due to disrupted supply chains and stalled imports. The rising costs of raw materials have further exacerbated the situation, leaving manufacturers struggling to sustain operations. This crisis has resulted in production slowdowns, missed export commitments, and imminent risks of industrial shutdowns, painting a grim picture of Pakistan's already fragile economy.

Mr. Muhammad Yousuf emphasized that delayed clearance of shipments and lengthy licensing processes are compounding the challenges, pushing the manufacturing sector into chaos.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:23 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 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
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

BZU Admission Committee Plans for Spring 2025 Enrollment

Special Correspondent

MULTAN: A meeting of the Admission Committee of Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, was held under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Zubair Iqbal. Chairman of the Admission Committee, Professor Dr. Javed Ahmed, briefed the participants about the advertisement for Spring 2025 admissions.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasized that as the largest university in South Punjab, Bahauddin Zakariya University is committed to providing the maximum opportunities for quality higher education to the people of the region. He stated that the Spring 2025 admissions are a continuation of this mission. Highlighting the university's state-of-the-art laboratories and infrastructure, he appreciated the efforts of all members of the Admission Committee in ensuring maximum enrollment.

During the meeting, a briefing was given about the newly established Centralized Admission Office, which aims to simplify the admission process for new students through a one-window operation. This system will eliminate the need for students to visit multiple offices, as was the case in the past.

The meeting was attended by Professor Dr. Tahir Sultan, Professor Dr. Asif Yasin, Professor Dr. Javed Aslam, Professor Dr. Sohail Arshad, Professor Dr. Irfan Anwar, Professor Dr. Fawad Rasool, Professor Dr. Azra, Professor Dr. Abdul Qudoos Sohaib, Dr. Tariq Ismail, Dr. Samza Fatima, and Dr. Jaweria Abbas. The secretarial duties were performed by Khalid Bin Talib Deputy Registrar, (Registration).

Dr. Iffat Zafar Aga selected for Prestigious 2025

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Tällberg Foundation has announced the selection of Dr. Iffat Zafar Aga, Cofounder and COO of SehatKahani, as one of 14 global emerging leaders for the 2025 Tällberg Leaders Mentoring Leaders (TLML) Fellowship Program. Dr. Aga was chosen from a competitive pool of 818 applicants from 109 countries for her exceptional leadership in transforming healthcare through technology.

The TLML program is designed to accelerate the growth of emerging leaders by pairing them with accomplished mentors from the Tällberg Foundation's global network. The year-long mentorship will begin with a workshop at the University of Pavia in Italy from January 20-23, 2025.

Alan Stoga, Chairman of the Tällberg Foundation, emphasized, "Our world faces

unprecedented challenges, and we need courageous, innovative leaders to navigate these complexities.

Michael Niconchuk, TLML Program Lead, highlighted, "This cohort includes leaders who are already driving meaningful change.

Her leadership and contributions have earned her recognition on global platforms, including the Study UK Alumni Award 2024, USAID SHIFT Prize 2023,

Heroines of Healthcare Award 2022, and the MIT Elevate Prize 2020.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), the lead supporter of the Tällberg Foundation, celebrates the diversity and multidisciplinary vision of the program. Andreas Dracopoulos, SNF Co-President, remarked, "The breadth of this roster of mentees and mentors reflects the Tällberg Foundation's truly global vision of leadership, a vision that transcends disciplines and traditional frameworks of power. The flood of interest in TLML demonstrates real optimism in the face of global challenges."

Beyond her professional achievements, Dr. Aga is a passionate traveler and a devoted mother to two daughters. Her selection for the TLML Fellowship underscores her commitment to creating sustainable, technology-driven solutions to improve healthcare access and outcomes globally.



Life begins again

ISLAMABAD: Traffic has been resumed after a four-day standoff at different bus stations, in the Federal Capital.

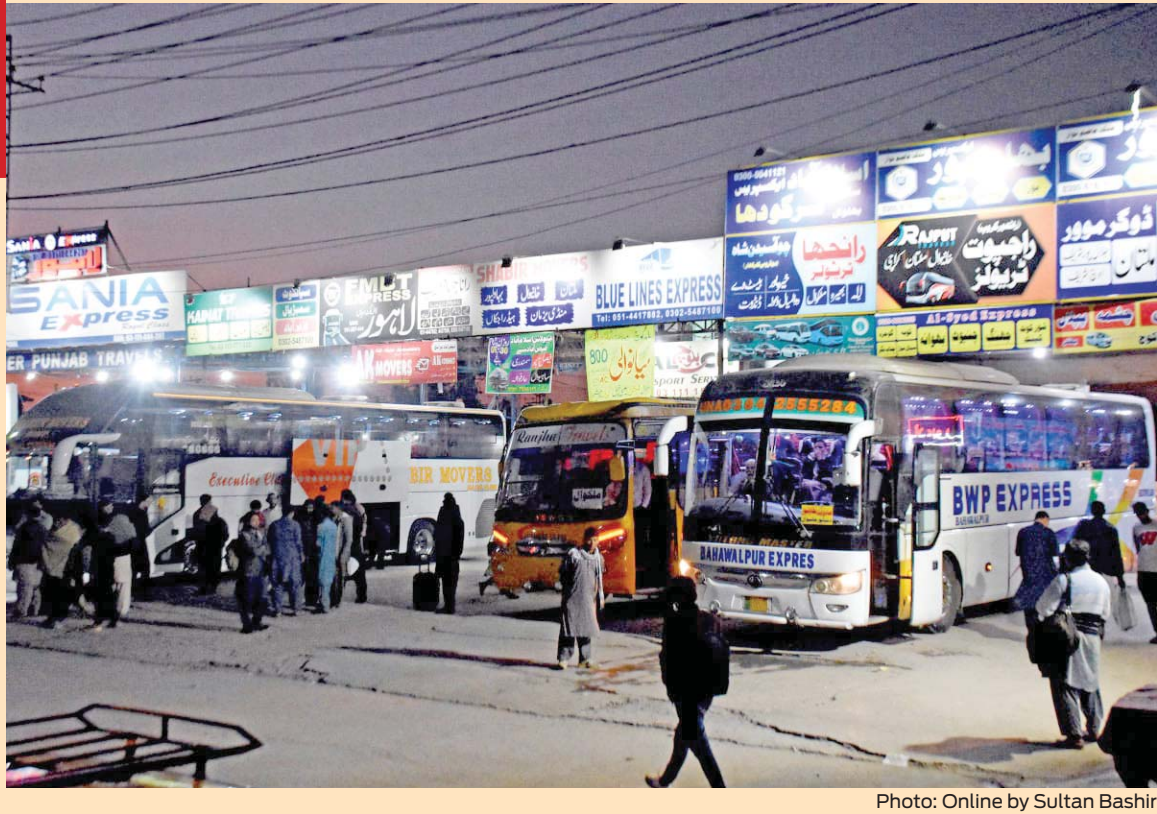


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Mall traders demand end of smart lockdown in Multan

Arahad Raza Zaidi

MULTAN: President of the Traders Association of Sadar Bazar Cantt Chaudhry Mahmood Ali, Chairman Mall Plaza Cantt Ijaz Karim, Chief Coordinator Multan Cantt Ghazanfar Malik General Secretary Mall Plaza Agha Qasim Shah, Clube Abid Khan, Sheikh Rehan and Bilal Baloch while holding a press conference said that the cantonment business community demands the government to lift the ban on closing commercial centers at 8 pm and targeted fines. In the worst business and economic conditions, smart lockdown is an economic exploitation of white-clad small traders and the hard-working class.



Despite the end of smog, the implementation of smart lockdown is a meaningful step. The traders of the cantt have always cooperated with the administration and police in the matter of law enforcement.

Businesses have already come to a standstill due to the worst inflation and unbearable increase in electricity and gas prices. Smart lockdown and heavy fines have done their part. We demand the

government to have mercy on the conditions of white-clad and poor people and allow all businesses to continue until 10 pm and restaurants to remain open until 12 pm. Relief should be given.

Multan Jasmine Lions Club distributed gifts and toys to children suffering

Shahzad Anwar Amrohi

MULTAN: Multan Jasmine Lions Club distributed gifts and toys to children suffering from autism syndrome at Dream Children Rehabilitation and Special Education Center Multan, while a microwave oven was given to the institution.

On this occasion, Multan Jasmine Lions Club President Shaista Zeeba said that children suffering from autism syndrome are a test from Allah for their parents and we all have to face this test together with them.



It is important to take time for these children and their future is important in terms of mental health so that their words are listened to and their inner thoughts can be assessed

from their speech, walking, behavior and other activities, as well as mental stress can be detected.

Shaista Bano, Head of Dream Children Rehabilitation and Special Education Center Multan and Paleo Organization, said that like other countries of the world, millions of children in Pakistan are suffering from autism and Down syndrome. However, there is a lack of awareness about it.

Children with autism syndrome often face challenges related to their cognitive, physical and social development.

A Digital Computer Lab Activated in Main Library of Women's University Multan



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: A digital computer lab worth more than Rs 10 million has been activated in the main library of Women's University. According to the spokesperson, the digital library project under the project "Building Women's University" of the Higher Education Department of Punjab has been completed at Women's University Multan. This entire project was worth Rs 24.8 million, which was opened for female students. This library of Women's University is the only library in South Punjab where there is a modern computer lab. An inauguration ceremony was held in this regard, in which the special guest was Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha. On this occasion, Project Director Asad Bhatta gave a briefing and said that this library and its extension block have been constructed on 7,000 square feet. This building was completed on August 23. Teachers should try to make the students book-loving so that they can achieve great achievements in the field of research. Librarian Samira Rasool said that the students, teachers and staff will have direct access to research materials from around the world through various databases and the HEC Digital Library. Later, Vice Chancellor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha The lab was inaugurated on this occasion by Registrar Dr. Maimuna Khan, Librarian Gulnaz Batool, teachers and other officers.

IRC launches Community Event as Part of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Rescue Committee (IRC), in collaboration with MERRF and SPO, and with funding support from the European Union, organized a dynamic community event in Khairpur, Sindh under the global campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). With the theme "Unite to End Gender-Based Violence: Empower, Advocate, and Act!", the event sought to raise awareness about the pervasive impacts of GBV and its connection to malnutrition and health disparities while promoting gender equality and grassroots empowerment. The initiative is generously funded by the European Union.

The event brought together community members, representatives from civil society organizations including SEWA, BSWA and WADO, students, and advocates to engage in impactful discussions and activities designed to challenge harmful norms and inspire action.

Prominent guests graced the event, including Additional Deputy Commissioner Shahrukh Manganhar (Khairpur), Deputy Director of Social Welfare Zulfiqar Shaikh, Assistant District Health Officer Dr. Naila Abbasi, Child Protection Officer Qamar Channa, District Nutrition Coordinator (PPHI) Arsalan Ahmed, and Secretary of Women Gymkhana Khairpur, Syeda Hina Shah Gilani. Their presence underscored the collaborative commitment of government, civil society, and community stakeholders in addressing GBV.

The day began with a warm welcome and an opening ceremony, where IRC representatives provided an overview of the 16 Days of Activism campaign and its objectives. A panel discussion followed, featuring Advocate Dr. Ayesha Khand, Advocate Bakhtawar, Social Activist Salma Rajpoot and writer/social activist Amar Iqbal, who shared insights on the causes and consequences of GBV, its linkages with broader social issues such as malnutrition and economic inequality, and the role of various stakeholders in creating safe, inclusive communities.

The event concluded with closing remarks, a vote of thanks to all participants, and a pledge to continue advocating for gender equality and safety for all.

954 suspects arrested, over 200 vehicles seized; says IGP



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said on Wednesday that the law enforcement agencies has so far arrested 954 suspects with impounding over 200 vehicles during the grand operation launched last night to clear D-Chowk and adjoining areas from protestors in the Federal Capital.

The IGP, in a joint press conference with Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa, revealed that the authorities have also recovered around 39 weapons of different sorts, including Kalashnikovs from the protestors.

IG Rizvi claimed that the protestors were armed, used tear gas shells, and employed large fans to blow tear gas fumes towards security forces.

He said the law enforcement agencies responded with non-lethal measures, such as tear gas and batons, to regain control of D-Chowk and adjoining areas.

The violence, Rizvi said, resulted in 71 security personnel injured, 27 by gunfire, while three Rangers personnel tragically lost their lives. The protestors also damaged 167 Safe City cameras and caused significant disruption to public life.

"Armed terrorists used the guise of protests to attack law enforcement personnel," said Rizvi, vowing that such acts of violence would not be tolerated. Search operations were underway to locate suspects and weapons linked to the unrest.

Chief Commissioner Randhawa reaffirmed the state's commitment to law and order, emphasizing that no Afghan national without a valid no-objection certificate (NOC) will be allowed to reside in Islamabad.

He assured citizens that normalcy has been restored, with all roads reopened.

"No one will be allowed to challenge the writ of the state," Randhawa stated, commending the sacrifices of security forces in restoring order. Legal action against the protestors and their abettors is already underway.

The Chief Commissioner pledged to bring all perpetrators to justice, ensuring the safety and security of its residents.

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Islamabad Massacre: A Tale of Brutality

Last night at Islamabad's D-Chowk, an incident unfolded that will forever remain a dark stain on the nation's history. This was not just another tragedy but a glaring example of the ever-widening chasm between a powerless public and an oppressive government. At D-Chowk, peaceful protesters were met with unimaginable violence as the state unleashed its full force on its own citizens. This was not a moment of governance but a display of tyranny, a deliberate massacre designed to instill fear and silence dissent.

Peaceful protesters, expecting rubber bullets and tear gas, were instead met with live ammunition. Over 100+ innocent lives were lost, 1500+ critically injured, and many are still missing. They were not armed, not rioting, not endangering lives. They were ordinary people, carrying nothing but water bottles and their party's flags. Yet, the state's response was brutal: live bullets were fired into the crowd, leaving over hundreds of people dead and injured. The blood of the innocent now stains the streets of the capital, and their cries echo across the nation.

"Even non-believers don't act this way!"
 A protester, unarmed and praying, was mercilessly shoved off a container by paramilitary forces. What kind of forces are these, who don't even spare someone in prayer? What kind of oppressive force brutalizes those who stand defenseless before them? This is not governance, this is barbarism.

Even in the most hostile parts of the world, protesters are treated with dignity,

yet here, the state has set new standards of cruelty.

"*You sow bullets and wash the nation's face with blood.

Believing the path is clear, but losing the destination."*

(From the words of Habib Jalib)

The protesters knew they would face resistance—rubber bullets, tear gas, perhaps arrests—but they never imagined they would face live rounds aimed to kill. The very same state, claiming to protect its people, turned off the streetlights and launched an attack in the dark, as though ambushing an enemy. Is this how a government deals with its own citizens?

A Shameful History Repeated

Five years ago, in this very city, opposition parties such as PML-N, PPP, and JUI staged a massive sit-in. For two weeks, they camped out in the same streets, challenging the PTI government and even threatening to storm the Prime Minister's house. Back then, the PTI government responded with tolerance, even providing medical camps for protesters suffering in the cold.

But today, under this regime, a peaceful protest of PTI is met with bloodshed. The very right to assemble, to raise voices against injustice, has been stripped away. How did we arrive at this moment? How did a state once claiming to protect its people become their greatest oppressor?

The government, in its arrogance, thinks it is asserting control. But by spilling innocent blood, it has only deepened the wounds of division and alienation. The government's brutal actions have not silenced dissent; they have fanned the flames of resistance.

A Divided Nation

They embraced their people only to turn on them later, severing ties and breaking trust. Today, families of the missing protesters are left searching for their loved ones, calling out for answers. Messages, calls, and news reports indicate that hundreds of workers remain unaccounted for.

Nothing the government imposes can erase what happened last night. The blood on their hands will forever haunt them. How can the divide between the public and institutions ever be bridged when the state itself desecrates the dignity of its own citizens?

Families in Despair

Reports pour in of missing protesters—hundreds of families left in agony, unable to contact their loved ones. Messages, calls, and news reports reveal the extent of this tragedy, as families remain in the dark about whether their relatives are dead, alive, or imprisoned. Meanwhile, the government has stolen not only lives but the dignity of the dead, refusing to release the names or bodies of those who lost their lives in this horrific act of violence.

What Happened Last Night Cannot Be Forgotten

The lights were turned off, the forces moved in, and in the darkness, they opened fire. The protesters thought they would face tear gas or rubber bullets; they never imagined live rounds would be aimed at them. This was not just a crackdown; it was an ambush, a calculated assault on unarmed civilians by a state determined to silence opposition.

"Even the world's strongest armies do not behave like this," said witnesses. The same state that prides itself on its discipline and professionalism abandoned every principle of humanity last night.

An Open Wound

They embraced their people, only to sever ties with violence. The state has created a chasm between itself and its citizens so wide that reconciliation seems impossible. Nothing the government imposes—no justification, no narrative—can erase the horror of last night.

The Islamabad Massacre is not just an attack on protesters; it is an assault on the soul of the nation. As the blood of innocents stains our soil, the question remains: will we ever heal? Or has the government crossed a line from which there is no return?

This is not just an attack on protesters but an assault on democracy, humanity, and the right to dissent. If this isn't tyranny, what is?

This was not governance; this was betrayal. The people will not forget, and history will not forgive.

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect Daily The Spokesman's point of view

Belarusian President winds up 3-day Pakistan visit

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko departed for Belarus on Wednesday after completing a three-day official visit to Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif personally bid farewell to the visiting leader at the airport.

During the visit, both countries signed several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and agreements in order to enhance economic cooperation and trade. A delegation of prominent Belarusian businessmen and investors accompanied President Lukashenko, engaging in successful meetings with Pakistani business leaders.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presented President Lukashenko with a specially prepared photo album documenting the highlights of his visit.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar were also present at the farewell ceremony.

Moments before he left, the visiting dignitary met with PML-N President Nawaz Sharif in Murree. Upon his arrival, President Lukashenko greeted Nawaz Sharif with open arms and a heartfelt hug.

In return, the former premier, accompanied by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, warmly welcomed the Belarusian leader. During their interaction, President Lukashenko expressed his happiness at the opportunity to meet his "esteemed brother" after a long time.

The Belarusian president was also accorded a special luncheon in his honour, hosted by Nawaz Sharif.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko underscored their commitment to strengthening bilateral trade and economic ties during a meeting at the Prime Minister's House.

Welcoming President Lukashenko, Prime Minister Shehbaz said Pakistan highly values its relations with Belarus and expressed optimism that the visit would pave the way for enhanced cooperation in various sectors. The talks focused on political relations, trade and investment, defence cooperation, and regional issues, reflecting a shared vision for mutual growth.

The leaders expressed satisfaction with the progress in bilateral relations over the past decade and agreed to implement agreements expeditiously to solidify the partnership.

Furthermore, MoUs were also signed on climate change, health, science, and technology, and extradition of wanted suspects. In addition, an MoU on cooperation in the e-commerce sector and emergency management was also signed.

Agreements on halal food trade and accreditation were also signed between the two countries; besides, a roadmap agreement for 2025-2027 was also inked between Pakistan and Belarus. Sixteen key agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed during the visit. These included:

Cooperation in science and technology.
 Collaboration between the Auditor General's Office of Pakistan and Belarus' State Control Committee.



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

Clean drinking water: A persistent challenge for KP govt

Hussna Khattak

At a time when the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government was busy in sheer politicking, millions of its residents were clamoring for clean drinking water—a challenge haunting the PTT's provincial government.

Thousands among them were already suffering from water borne diseases and millions of others either lacking this facility or have to travel miles for fetching few liters of portable water.

Poor Malyar Khan, a 28-year-old resident of Mohib Banda village in Pabbi tehsil is one of among them who are used to bring two gallon of clean drinking water daily from a 10 kilometer away tehsil municipal filtration plant as groundwater in his hometown had become unhealthy for drinking.

"It is tiresome for me to travel that much, after a daylong labor work, to bring water," Malyar said. "Groundwater of my village got contaminated after 2022 flood, leaving me with no other option than to fetch water daily from TMA filtration plant."

"There are thousands of others in different localities bearing this pang like me," he said and demanded from the provincial government and elected representatives to resolve this problem urgently.

Like Malyar, majority of residents of Mohib Banda, Amankot, Dheri Mian Ishaq, Bela, Bara Banda, Korvi and adjoining villages were also seen bringing drinking water on bikes, rickshaws, bicycles and vehicles from tehsil Pabbi, Nowshera and Peshawar.

Taxi driver Nasir Khan, a resident of Hayatabad Peshawar also undergoes the same hassle as sometimes he has to purchase water from companies to meet daily needs. "Water table in Hayatabad had gone down over the years due to its imprudent use by domestic and commercial consumers."

He complained that despite Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's third term in power consecutively, the

provincial government could not improve the situation. "Rather it was worsening with every passing day especially for in Hayatabad and Khyber."

As thousands of people have to compromise their health by using contaminated water, Dr Tahir Ali Khan, Principal Sardar Begum Dental College, Peshawar says that drinking contaminated water exposes residents to diseases like intestinal infection, diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, hepatitis and even cancer.

"Around 40 per cent of annual deaths in KP including erstwhile FATA are caused by unhealthy water," he claimed. "Besides other ailment, many patients in Mardan and Khyber also suffer from teeth diseases due to presence of toxin fluorine in water, not knowing about dangerous effects of fluoride contamination."

Besides contamination, another expert Dr Jahangir Shah, Director General, Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) has also warned of rapidly depleting water resource in many KPK districts.

He mentioned to bacteria contamination in water in different areas including merged tribal districts and said, leakage from lines due to rusted water pipes especially in interior Peshawar was a major reason of contamination.

"Water distribution system in Peshawar is worn and clean water supplied from tube-wells mixes with sewage due to ruptured pipes in Gunj, Kohati, Kakshal and some other areas of interior Peshawar," he claimed. He said most of people do not clean storage tanks on time exposing themselves to serious health hazards as he also feared water scarcity due to rapid depletion of water resource. "We need to promote water conservation practices, to avoid impending water shortage, tentatively during next 10 to 12 years."

Although the situation prevails over decades, the provincial government is yet to adopt a holistic approach to address this issue at grassroots.

Hassan Khan, an official of Water and Sani-

tation Services Program (WSSP) Peshawar said, his organization and Initiative for Empowerment Axis (IDEA) have recently signed an agreement to provide clean drinking water to Peshawarties.

He said the Federal Government and International Cooperation Agency have upgraded over 45 water testing laboratories in Pakistan including KPK under a US\$ 4.5 million project installing latest equipment at laboratories for swift water quality testing. "These mobile laboratories travel to remote areas of KP for water testing as this project would benefit over 60 million people across Pakistan."

As challenges of water scarcity and clean drinking water coincide, Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering, Pakhtoon Yar mentioned to construction of Jabba dam as part of Peshawar Greater Water Supply Scheme to provide clean drinking water to residents of Peshawar, Hayatabad and Khyber districts.

He said feasibility study of Jabba dam, having 38,000 gallons water storage capacity, has been completed and its construction would help provide clean water to over one million people.

Bara dam, another project in pipeline, he said, would also provide sufficient potable water to Bara Bazaar and eight million cuses to Hayatabad.

"Bara dam is very important for Peshawar with its estimated life span of 80 to 100 years and its storage capacity of 88,000 acre feet water," Pakhtoon Yar said.

Likewise, he said, under Swat Greater Water Supply Scheme, water from River Swat would be treated and supplied to residents of Mingora City. "Streams and springs' water would also be channeled to a treatment plant near Choona in Abbottabad."

Amidst all these efforts, the experts hoped that the provincial government would accelerate efforts to address clean drinking water issue to ensure a healthy society and saving billions of rupees being spent each year to treat water borne diseases.

Islamabad in Turmoil: Protests, Violence, and Global Pressure

Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, is currently the epicenter of intense political unrest, widespread protests, and violent clashes. The arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan has exacerbated tensions, disrupting the fragile peace in the city and raising significant concerns at both national and international levels.

Following Imran Khan's arrest, thousands of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters took to the streets in Islamabad and major cities across the country. Key roads, government buildings, and sensitive installations were blocked as demonstrators staged sit-ins to demand Khan's release.

The protests quickly turned violent as clashes erupted between demonstrators and security forces. Several incidents of arson were reported, with government properties and vehicles being set ablaze. Law enforcement responded with tear gas, water cannons, rubber bullets, and, in some instances, live ammunition to disperse the crowds.

The violent clashes have resulted in several fatalities and hundreds of injuries, overwhelming local hospitals. The growing unrest has instilled fear among the citizens, with many choosing to stay indoors for their safety. Schools, offices, and businesses have been shut down, further disrupting daily life in the capital.

The arrest of Imran Khan has heightened tensions between the ruling government and PTI. Government officials maintain that the law applies equally to all citizens, emphasizing

that Khan's arrest is a legal matter. In contrast, PTI leadership has termed the arrest a politically motivated act of revenge and an attack on democratic principles.

This political deadlock has not only deepened the divide within Pakistan but has also severely impacted the economy and social fabric. Businesses remain shuttered, transportation services are halted, and essential institutions, including hospitals, are struggling to operate.

The ongoing political crisis in Pakistan has drawn the attention of the global community. The Biden administration, Amnesty International, and other international organizations have expressed serious concerns about the country's escalating instability. Both the Biden and Trump administrations have called for Khan's immediate release, urging Pakistan to uphold human rights and the rule of law.

The current turmoil underscores Pakistan's urgent need for a unified national strategy to address the political and social unrest. It is imperative for the government and opposition to engage in constructive dialogue to de-escalate tensions and prioritize the nation's stability over political rivalries.

Islamabad is navigating one of the most critical periods in its history. The protests, violence, and political stalemate have not only jeopardized the country's internal peace but also its international standing. The onus now lies on all stakeholders to rise above partisan interests and work collectively for the greater good of Pakistan. Failure to do so risks pushing the nation further into chaos and uncertainty.

Saudi Arabia's King Salman inaugurates Riyadh Metro project

SPA

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman inaugurated the Riyadh Metro project on Wednesday, Saudi Press Agency reported.

The project is considered the backbone of the public transport network in Riyadh, SPA said.

King Salman watched an introductory film about the project, which is distinguished by its exceptional design and technical specifications.

The Riyadh Metro consists of a network that includes six train lines measuring 176 km and 85 stations, including four main stations.

"The Public Transport Project in Riyadh City, with its train and bus components, is the fruit of King Salman's efforts and is based on his insightful vision when he was



Chairman of the High Commission for the Development of Riyadh, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said.

The Public Transport Project in Riyadh City was launched based on various studies prepared by the High Commission for the Development of Riyadh, which is currently the Royal Commission for Riyadh City.

The studies considered the current and future needs of the public transport sector in the capital and identified the best solutions and options for establishing a sustainable public transport system that is compatible with the city and its characteristics.

The metro will begin to be available for public use from Dec. 1 and will operate daily from 6 a.m. to midnight.

The lines will open over the next two months in stages — with the blue, yellow and purple lines opening on Dec. 1, the red and green lines opening on Dec. 15, and the orange line opening on Jan. 5, 2025.

UAE President pardons prisoners ahead of Eid Al Etihad

WAM

UAE: President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has ordered the release of 2,269 inmates from correctional institutions across the UAE on the occasion of the 53rd Eid Al Etihad. His Highness also pledged to cover all fines and penalties imposed on the inmates, who had been sentenced for a variety of offences. This initiative reflects His Highness' commitment to providing released prisoners with an opportunity to rebuild their lives, achieve family stability, and contribute once again to their communities.



Pakistan's envoy makes farewell visit to IPSP in Niamey



Spokesman Report

NIAMEY: His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Niger, paid a farewell visit to the Private Institute of Public Health (IPSP). During the visit, the founder of IPSP, Mr. Abdoulaye Sanda Maiga, gave the Ambassador a guided tour of the facilities and presented him with gifts as a token of gratitude for his efforts in fostering collaboration between IPSP and Pakistani universities. In return, the Ambassador also offered a gift of appreciation, further strengthening the bonds of cooperation and friendship between Pakistan and Niger in the fields of health and education.

China welcomes ceasefire accord between Lebanon, Israel

BEIJING: China on Wednesday welcomed a ceasefire agreement reached between Hezbollah in Lebanon and Israel.

China is closely following the current situation between Lebanon and Israel, and has always been calling on all parties to earnestly abide by UN Security Council Resolution 1701, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said during her regular briefing. "We support all efforts conducive to deescalating the tensions and realizing peace, and welcome the ceasefire agreement reached by relevant sides," she added.

The spokesperson said that in the meanwhile, China believes that the protracted fighting in Gaza is the root cause of this round of turmoil in the Middle East, and all parties need to work together to realize a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire in Gaza at an early date.

According to media reports, a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon took effect on Wednesday after more than a year of fighting that has killed thousands of people.

Pakistan Stock Exchange signs MoU with IBA Karachi to enhance capacity building

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange and the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi have formalized their collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing capacity building and data sharing. This MOU marks a significant milestone in their shared commitment to advancing financial education and market research in Pakistan.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari, Managing Director & CEO of Pakistan Stock Exchange, and Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director of IBA Karachi, during a ceremony held at the IBA Karachi Main Campus.

Under this MOU, IBA Karachi will gain access to PSX's comprehensive market information and products, enhancing the institution's capabilities in market data analytics and related research. This initiative is



designed to equip students and faculty with advanced tools and resources, promoting academic excellence and providing practical insights into Pakistan's capital markets. In parallel, PSX staff will benefit

from specialized capacity-building programs offered by IBA Karachi, aimed at strengthening their professional skills and knowledge in areas critical to the rapidly evolving financial landscape.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari stated, "This partnership represents a shared vision to promote financial literacy, enhance the market research capabilities at IBA, and provide both IBA students and PSX professionals with opportunities for continuous learning. We are confident that this collaboration with IBA Karachi will yield significant benefits for both the financial sector and academia."

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director of IBA Karachi, added, "This collaboration highlights the importance of bridging academia and the financial industry. Together, we aim to drive innovation, research, and professional development in Pakistan's financial sector."

This strategic partnership between IBA Karachi and the Pakistan Stock Exchange underscores a commitment to fostering innovation and enhancing professional development within the Pakistani financial landscape.

President gets acquainted with transformation progress of Uzbekistan Airports, Uzbekistan Airways and Uzbekistan Railways

Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev familiarized himself with a presentation on the progress of transformation in state-owned railway and aviation companies—Uzbekistan Airports, Uzbekistan Airways and Uzbekistan Railways.

According to the presidential press service, six independent enterprises were created within Uzbekistan Railways. 1,200 new freight cars were purchased, and the timelines for transporting goods on domestic routes was halved.

Following digitalization, the process of ordering a car was reduced from 7 stages to 3, and the timeline for its execution was reduced from 72 hours to 12 hours. The capacity of trains around Tashkent increased by 30%. Reportedly, a

company, which previously operated at a loss, is making a profit of 30 billion soums this year.

The number of flights by the Uzbekistan Airways has increased by 25%. Eight new aircraft were added for flying to domestic routes, and the number of domestic flights increased by 2.5 times. The share of the national airline in Central Asia reached 20%. The annual passenger flow is expected to exceed 6 million people.

Uzbekistan Airports, which manages airports and services aircraft, cargo and passengers, is also showing a positive trend. 44 airlines from around the world operate flights to Uzbekistan. This year, the airport will serve over 13 million people, and the goal is to increase the figure to 15 million.

The President emphasized that the importance of transport routes is increasingly growing in the current difficult political situation in the world. Therefore, he called it important to diversify routes, speed up transportation and reduce the cost of transport services.

"Uzbekistan's economy and international trade are growing every year, the income of the population and the tourism potential of the provinces are growing. We have set ourselves the goal of increasing the gross domestic product to US\$ 200 billion by 2030. Therefore, we must pay special attention to transport arteries," said Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

On November 26, the President signed the Railway Transport Bill into Law in a new version, which should open up new opportunities for attracting



private companies and investments, as well as for developing infrastructure.

Now, industry leaders have been instructed to radically change their working methods and approaches to achieve results. First of all, it is necessary to accelerate the transformation of the sector, and to qualitatively implement construction and modernization projects. Among the most important

tasks are obtaining an international credit rating, attracting funds without a state guarantee and efficient use of investments.

At the meeting, Shavkat Mirziyoyev underscored that air traffic in Uzbekistan had not yet reached a level that satisfies the population. Obtaining an international rating and entering the external financial market are delayed. As a result, the high cost of services does not allow for a significant reduction in the cost of air tickets. Cost-cutting measures are being implemented slowly.

In this regard, the head of state set a goal to develop a specific program and a "road map" for transformation with the involvement of a consulting company.

The main thing in the Uzbekistan Airports system is called an increase

in the volume of services provided and the expansion of private partnership terms. After the hand-over of Samarkand airport to private management, the number of flights and passengers increased fivefold, the report says. Now similar tasks are facing the airports of Namangan, Andijan, Bukhara and Urgench. By the end of the year, it is planned to double the number of additional (non-aviation) services at airports and increase revenues by 25%.

The President defined measures to attract independent resources from the international market and fully utilize the terminal of Navoi airport.

The head of state gave instructions to expedite digitalization in three companies, revise development plans and improve economic efficiency.

The Spokesman Special Report

A brief history of Aktau – Futures capital of the Turkic world

With Aktau set to become the capital of the Turkic world in 2025, here is everything you need to know about its history, attractions and role in Kazakhstan's economy.

Located on the northwestern shores of the Caspian Sea, Aktau is a key port city in Kazakhstan. It serves as a vital gateway along the Middle Corridor and plays an important role as an oil industry hub. The city's name, "Ak Tau," meaning "white mountain" in Kazakh, reflects the striking white cliffs that line the Caspian coast, visible from afar.

Brief history

In the spring of 1956, a group of Soviet geologists arrived in the Mangystau Region to find the mineral riches buried in the Karagiye hollow, setting up camp on Cape Meloyvi. By mid-1957, they reported on uranium ore reserves at the Meloyvi deposit at shallow depth – ideal for open-pit mining. Aktau celebrates its city day on Sept. 19, commemorating the start of work on the Meloyvi deposit in 1958.

Uranium mining became the foundation for Aktau's growth and industrialization. In 1959, the settlement, initially named Guriev-20, was classified as a working



settlement and renamed Aktau. The first two-story log houses, shipped from Siberia, formed the basis of the city's present-day third microdistrict.

Born out of the uranium exploration in the middle of the vast steppe, Aktau evolved into a significant industrial and tourism hub in Kazakhstan. The development of oil and gas fields in the 1990s further spurred the city's growth. **Interesting facts about the city**

One remarkable feature of Aktau is that the first nuclear power plant was opened near the city as a means to provide it with desalinated water. Lacking local freshwater sources, Aktau relies on desalinated seawater to meet its needs, a process that consumes significant amounts of heat.

As the city's population grew, traditional heat and power plants could not keep up with demand.

To address this, a nuclear facility was built in 1964 and began operation in 1973. It supplied heat and power for more than 25 years. Though experts believed it could run until 2003, stricter nuclear safety standards required costly upgrades. In 1999, the Kazakh government decided to decommission it.

Another interesting fact is that from 1964 to 1991, the city was named Shevchenko after the great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko, who was exiled in Mangystau from 1850 to 1857.

Aktau also stands out for its unique approach to city planning: many of its streets are nameless. Instead of traditional street names, the city uses a system based on microdistrict numbers and house numbers. This gives the city a distinct character, where navigation relies more on recognizing the



area's numerical designations than memorizing street names.

Aktau – an ideal seaside vacation

Despite its name, the Caspian Sea is actually the world's largest lake, an enclosed inland body of water. But this does not stop locals and tourists from enjoying everything a seaside vacation has to offer.

The beach season in Aktau opens in May and runs until September or October. During the summer months, temperatures can soar to 45 degrees Celsius, with almost no rainfall throughout the season.

The best time for a beach vacation is July, when the Caspian Sea reaches a pleasant 26-27 degrees Celsius. While August and September still see high temperatures, the sea begins to cool noticeably by October. Still, some thrill-seekers continue swimming

despite the drop in temperature.

The Caspian Sea's seabed is rocky, with most beaches covered in fine pebbles, though some areas feature sand. In the central area, the coast is steep and rocky, attracting cliff-jumping enthusiasts and offering stunning panoramic views of the sea bay. There are several public beaches within the city, well-equipped for a comfortable vacation experience.

Exploring the city Aktau is incredibly beautiful year-round. In winter, the coastline becomes a serene haven for snow-white swans. During spring and autumn, the city becomes a stopover for flocks of flamingos on their migratory journey to warmer climates. The sight of these elegant birds adds a vibrant touch to the coastal landscape, further enhancing Aktau's allure in the changing seasons.



One of the city's highlights is the Rock Trail (Skalnaya Tropa), a popular pedestrian path running along the shoreline between the sea and the cliffs. Stretching 1.5 kilometers, the trail offers stunning sunset views from observation platforms, inviting benches for rest after a short hike or run, and charming evening illumination to enhance the atmosphere.

Another unique attraction is the Botanical Garden, a source of pride in Aktau's rocky terrain, where fertile soil is scarce. By the early 1960s, as the city began to take shape with houses and cultural centers, greenery such as trees, shrubs, and grass was completely absent. Addressing the need for vegetation in the scorching steppe became a critical priority.

In 1971, an experimental botanical garden was established to promote greening efforts in

the city, nearby industrial enterprises, and settlements across the Mangystau Region. The botanical garden became a hub for experimenting with and selecting the most resilient ornamental plants from around the world, while also developing cultivation techniques suited to the area's challenging climate. The garden's dedicated team pioneers innovative landscaping techniques tailored to the arid climate, showcasing the region's potential for green transformation.

Aktau serves as a gateway to the beautiful Mangystau Region, known for its unique landscapes and natural beauty. From Aktau, visitors can book a jeep tour to explore the breathtaking Bozhira Plateau, known for its dramatic cliffs and valleys, or visit the surreal underground mosque of Shakpak Ata, carved directly into the rock.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
99,269.25	94,574.16
Day's High	Day's Low
99,549.81	97,188.27
Index Value	Change
29,738,449,629	+4695.09
Percentage	Time
+4.96%	27 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,274.75	+16.14
Percentage	Time
+0.20%	27 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
44,832.16	-28.15
Percentage	Time
-0.063%	27 Nov, 12:19 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,134.97	-307.03
Percentage	Time
-0.80%	27 Nov, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180.25	182.50
Bahrain Dinar	731.05	739.05
Canadian Dollar	197.60	200.00
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	289.10	291.85
Hong Kong Dollar	35.37	35.72
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.83	1.89
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	346.80	350.3
US Dollar	277.50	279.00

Minster Finance Senator Aurangzeb visits SECP Head Office

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb visited SECP Head Office in Islamabad. During the visit, he was briefed by the Chairman SECP, Mr. Akif Saeed and the management team on upcoming initiatives, key reforms and achievements to date.

The Honorable Minister was briefed by the Chairman SECP on efforts towards ease of doing business in Pakistan and reaping the benefits of advancement in technology through regulatory reforms, digitalization of services and access to finance. He was also briefed on areas related to market development and innovation such as regulatory sandbox and efforts to promote startups. The Minister expressed keen interest in SECP's initiatives towards sustainability reporting and investor education & protection and expressed satisfaction on SECP initiative to launch the ESG Sustain Portal.

The Minister appreciated the steps being taken by SECP to provide one window solution to companies and digital filing of documents and other initiatives aimed at facilitating investors such as Central Gateway Portal and Emlak Financials. While acknowledging the contribution of SECP in launch of Government Debt Securities (GDS), he highlighted the need



to create liquidity in the secondary market.

The Minister emphasized the need for creating awareness regarding positive initiatives taken by SECP to provide maximum

benefit to stakeholders. He also advised SECP to maintain close liaison with the government for effective introduction of pension reforms and to work with other regulatory bodies to

provide seamless and efficient services in the financial sector. The Minister assured SECP of the Government's support on the legislative reforms.

SCM Conference

KARACHI: Majyd Aziz, former President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and the Employers Federation of Pakistan, speaks as the Guest of Honor at the Logistic Onex Maritime, Ports & Shipping, Logistics, and SCM Conference. Ethiopian Ambassador H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula, is also prominent.



PPL Management visit to BME stall at Expo



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Bolan Mining Enterprise (BME), a joint venture of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and the Government of Balochistan, showcased its prominence in the mining sector by hosting a stall at the 12th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS 2024) at the Karachi Expo Centre.

The stall attracted notable attention, including a visit by Mr. Imran Abbasi, MD & CEO of PPL, and Mr. Sikandar Ali Memon, COO of PPL. Welcomed by Mr. Zeeshan Asghar (Head BME/BLZ) and his team, the leadership was briefed on BME's mil-

stones, including its innovative projects and contributions to harnessing Balochistan's mineral wealth for Pakistan's economic growth. MD PPL praised BME's efforts, and dedication to transforming natural resources into national assets exemplifies innovation and sustainability.

The BME stall highlighted its expertise in Barite production, sustainable resource management, and welfare projects, drawing interest from national and international delegates. This participation reinforced BME's role as a key player in the mining sector and its commitment to expanding global partnerships.

Emirates officially unveils its first A350 aircraft

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Emirates has officially unveiled the very first Airbus A350-900 to join its fleet at an exclusive event showcase in Dubai.

The event, led by Sir Tim Clark, President Emirates Airline in the presence of His Excellency Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy, was attended by VIP guests, aerospace partners, government officials and dignitaries, members of the media, as well as aviation enthusiasts. Guests were able to experience the aircraft's interiors, equipped with its next generation products and latest technologies.

The Emirates A350 features three spacious cabin classes, accommodating 312 passengers in 32 next-generation



Business Class lie-flat seats, 21 Premium Economy seats and 259 generously pitched Economy Class seats. The latest onboard products reflect the airline's commitment to delivering a premium passenger experience while optimising operational efficiency. The Emirates A350 is the first new aircraft type to join Emirates' fleet since

2008. His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline & Group said: "Today is an exciting milestone for Emirates as we showcase our first A350 and usher in a new era for our fleet and network growth. This aircraft sets the stage for Emirates to spread

its wings further by offering added range, efficiency and flexibility to our network, enabling us to meet customer demand in new markets and unlock new opportunities in the cities that we serve.

Phillipe Mhun, Executive Vice President Programmes & Services for Airbus said: "We are proud to further expand our strategic partnership with Emirates which has flourished nearly 4 decades ago with the A300, the A330, the A340 and the A380.

Omar Ali Adib, SVP Customer - Middle East and Africa for Rolls-Royce, said: "The collaborative effort between Emirates, Airbus and Rolls-Royce exemplifies what can be achieved when we share a commitment to excellence and build a long-term partnership that makes us all stronger.

Galaxefi And Skillsrator Enters into Strategic Alliance to Revolutionize Cross-Border Trade

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Galaxefi, an innovative tech company, and Skillsrator, a member of Extreme Commerce Incubation Network (ExCIN), has announced their strategic alliance aimed to revolutionize the cross-border trade in Pakistan. The strategic alliance, INEP or the One Network for Pakistan Cross-border Trade, aims to empower and create more traders, manufacturers, service providers, and logistics partners by incubating and offering a unified digital platform that simplifies and streamlines complex trade processes.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr.

Asif Pervez, CEO Galaxefi said, "we at Galaxefi aims to streamline the largely offline freight forwarding and shipping industry, where approximately 80% of operations still rely on outdated methods. To overcome this, we have partnered with the top organizations from the relevant sectors.

Sharing his thoughts, Mr. Gulfam K. Bhagoor, CEO stated, "The strategic alliance between Galaxefi and Skillsrator is a monumental step toward digitizing Pakistan's trade infrastructure and fostering economic growth. By offering businesses one unified network from A-to-Z, where supply chain visibility and operational transparency are

at the forefront, the partnership is creating a streamlined ecosystem for Pakistan's importers, exporters, and logistics providers.

The strategic vision is to enable Pakistan's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to compete on a global stage by providing them with the digital tools they need to reduce operational costs and increase efficiency. Whether it's through creating new manufacturers that produce world-class goods or empowering existing traders to reach new markets, this partnership has the potential to unlock billions of dollars in export potential, boosting the economy and creating a ripple effect of growth.



AGTL Partners with Punjab Government on Landmark Green Tractor Scheme



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited (AGTL) is proud to announce the signing of a historic agreement with the Punjab Government for the Chief Minister Green Tractor Scheme, marking a significant milestone in agricultural mechanization across the province.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Minister for Agriculture Punjab, Syed Muhammad Ashiq Hussain Shah Karmani, and Secretary Agriculture Punjab, Mr. Iftakhar Ali Sahoo.

The partnership aims to strengthen Punjab's agricultural sector by making modern farming equipment more accessible to the farming community. Through this initiative, AGTL will play a crucial role in supporting the government's vision of agricultural modernization and sustainable farming practices.

"This collaboration represents our commitment to empowering Pakistan's farmers with reliable and efficient agricultural solutions," said Sakib Eltaff, Chief Executive Officer of AGTL. "By partnering with the Punjab Government, we are taking a significant step toward agricultural modernization while supporting the backbone of our economy—our farmers."

Third and Final One Day International Cricket Match Between Pakistan and Zimbabwe today

Asim Tanveer

BULAWAYO/ ZIMBABWE: third ODI match between Zimbabwe and Pakistan will be played on Thursday, November 28.

At the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo, the teams of Pakistan and Zimbabwe will face off in the final match of their ongoing ODI series. Both teams will be engaged in the decisive battle of the series on Thursday, November 28. In the first two matches of the series, Zimbabwe won the first match, while Pakistan managed to win the second ODI.

Due to rain, Zimbabwe won the first match via the DLS method, while Pakistan dominated the second ODI. The Men in Green made a comeback by defeating the hosts by 10 wickets.

The question is: who will win this match? It is worth noting that this is the 15th bilateral series between the two nations. Pakistan has won 13, with one drawn. Zimbabwe has never won a series against Pakistan. Pakistan will need to avoid embarrassment, but it's worth remembering that this team often slips up.

The pitch at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo has been known to assist



fast bowlers. Batters will need to be cautious in the initial stages of the game and should accelerate towards the back end of the innings. Opting to bowl first could be a wise decision. The Pakistani captain is expected to win the toss.

Pakistan and Zimbabwe have faced

each other in 64 matches. Zimbabwe has won 6, while Pakistan has emerged victorious in 55 games.

Zimbabwe Team:

Joylord Gumbie, Dion Myers, Sean Williams, Craig Ervine (captain), Brian Bennett, Sikandar Raza, Clive Madande (vice-captain), Richard



Ngarava, Blessing Muzarabani, Faraz Akram, Trevor Gwandu.

Pakistan Team:

Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique, Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Rizwan (wicketkeeper), Agha Salman, Irfan Niazi, Aamir Jamal, Mohammad Hasnain, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Shahnawaz Dahani.

Saim Ayub could prove to be Pakistan's standout batter in the third ODI against Zimbabwe. His stellar performance in the second ODI helped Pakistan secure a win. The opener scored an unbeaten 113 runs off 62 balls, leading Pakistan to victory.

In the upcoming match against Zimbabwe, Pakistan's Agha Salman could emerge as the top performer. Salman was in exceptional form during the second ODI, where he claimed three wickets while conceding only 26 runs in seven overs. Pakistan will be hoping for another strong performance from him.

Fast bowlers Ahmed Daniyal and Shahnawaz Dahani have been ruled out of the ongoing ODI series against Zimbabwe. They returned to Pakistan on Wednesday. Ahmed sustained a hamstring injury, while Dahani injured his left ankle during a training session

on Sunday. Initial scans and medical evaluations have confirmed their injuries.

Upon their return to Lahore, both players will report to the National Cricket Academy, where they will undergo rehabilitation and follow protocols to ensure a safe return to cricket.

In their place, Abbas Afridi and Jehanzeb Khan have been added to the squad. Both players have arrived in Bulawayo and will be available for selection in Thursday's decider. They are also part of Pakistan's T20 squad, scheduled to play three matches on December 1, 3, and 5 in Bulawayo.

Meanwhile, Aamir Jamal has replaced Ahmed Daniyal in the T20 squad. Jamal is part of the ODI squad and has played both ODIs in the series so far.

Pakistan T20 Squad:

Agha Salman (captain), Aamir Jamal, Arfaat Minhas, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wicketkeeper), Jehanzeb Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Irfan Khan, Omair Bin Yousuf, Qasim Akram, Sahibzada Farhan, Sufyan Muqem, Tayyab Tahir, and Usman Khan.

Pakistan Cycling Federation to host Men's National Road Cycling Championship in Lahore

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) has announced the much-anticipated Men's National Road Cycling Championship, set to take place from December 2nd to December 4th, 2024, at DHA Lahore. This championship is being organized in collaboration with the DHA Sports Department, marking a significant milestone in the revival of competitive cycling in Pakistan.

In a press briefing, Mr. Idris Haider Khawaja, President of the Pakistan Cycling Federation, and Mr. Moazzam Khan Klair, General Secretary, expressed their enthusiasm for this landmark event. "After a long time, all affiliated units of the PCF, including Pak Army, Pak WAPDA, Pak Railway,

and HEC, along with the four provinces, have confirmed their participation. We anticipate a fiercely competitive championship," said Mr. Idris Haider Khawaja.

Mr. Moazzam Khan Klair outlined the details of the championship, which will feature three exciting events:

1. 120 KM Road Race
2. 70 KM Team Time Trial
3. 40 KM Individual Time Trial

These events promise to showcase the endurance, strategy, and skills of Pakistan's top cyclists.

The opening and closing ceremonies will feature distinguished guests as chief guests on their respective dates. Their presence will underscore the significance of this championship in promoting cycling at a national level.

The Pakistan Cycling Federation, in



collaboration with DHA Sports Department, is committed to delivering a high-standard event and fostering the growth of cycling in the country.

Young Women Cricketer Shehar Bano From Tareen Cricket Academy Lodhran

Ghazanfar Reehan

LODHRAN: Young Women Cricketer Shehar Bano, player from Tareen Cricket Academy Lodhran, has been selected for the national Under-19 women's cricket team for the Asia Cup. Hailing from Chak No. 48/M in Lodhran, Shehar Bano represents and plays for the Tareen Cricket Academy team. The owner of Tareen Cricket Academy, Ali Khan Tareen, has congratulated Shehar Bano on her selection for the national Under-19 team.



Afghanistan's Rashid Khan dethrones Shaheen Shah Afridi as top ODI bowler

DUBAI: In a significant shake-up in the International Cricket Council (ICC) men's ODI bowling rankings, Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi has been dethroned from the top spot by Afghanistan's leg-spinner Rashid Khan.

The latest rankings, released on Wednesday, show South Africa's Keshav Maharaj holding steady in third place.

However, Afridi, who climbed to number one following a stellar performance with eight wickets at an average of 12.62 during Pakistan's historic ODI series victory over Australia, was rested during the ongoing series against Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, his bowling partner, Haris Rauf, who was instrumental in the 2-1 win against Australia and was named Player of the Series, has also slipped two positions to 15th.

Emerging opener Saim Ayub, who scored a swashbuckling century in Pakistan's 10-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the second ODI of the ongoing three-match series on Tuesday, jumped 80 places to 90th in the men's ODI batting rankings, continued to be led by star batter Babar Azam.

On the other hand, India's right-arm speedster Jasprit Bumrah reclaimed the top position in the Test bowling rankings after leading his side to a historic 295-run victory over Australia in the opening Test of the five-match series in Perth on Monday.

The right-arm pacer's match figures of 8/72 helped him overtake Australia's Josh Hazlewood and South Africa's Kagiso Rabada to secure the top spot with career-best 883 rating points – the highest by an Indian pacer in the format.

Spinners Ravichandran Ashwin (904) and Ravindra Jadeja (899) are the only other bowlers from the country to register higher rating points than Bumrah's 833.

This is the third time this year that Jasprit Bumrah has secured the top spot in Test rankings, the previous such instances were his one-month each stints during February and October.

On the batting front, India's Yashasvi Jaiswal and Virat Kohli, who scored magnificent centuries in their team's come-from-behind victory also made gains. Jaiswal replaced England's Harry Brook and New Zealand's Kane Williamson to reach a career-best second position, only behind Joe Root, while Kohli jumped nine places to claim 13th position in the rankings.

Lahore Women Hockey Club clinch Khelta Punjab Games division level hockey title

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Lahore Women Hockey Club trounced Shiza Fatima Khawaja Hockey Club by 7-1 in the final hockey clash of division level Khelta Punjab Games at National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday.

AC Shalimar Town Dr Anam Fatima, PHF Secretary Olympian Rana Mujahid, Olympian Shahbaz Sr, Olympian Asif Bajwa, Olympian Kh Junaid, Senior journalist Sohail Warraich, Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed and other officials were also present on this occasion.



Shariqa Sarwar of Lahore Women Hockey Club exhibited wonderful hockey and netted four beautiful goals in 9th, 14th, 34th and 56th minute of the match. Maleeha Younis and Mehak Rashid also contributed two and one goal respectively for the triumphant team.

Shiza Fatima Khawaja Hockey Club's only goal was scored by Shiza Ilyas in the second minute of the match.

The division level Khelta Punjab Games female hockey matches were played under the supervision of organizing committee comprising Divisional Sports Officer Rana Nadeem Anjum, Deputy Director Chand Parveen and TSO Cantt Malik Nasir.

Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry congratulated the Lahore Women Hockey Club for winning division level Khelta Punjab Games hockey title.

Pakistan CC, Khatija CC, Doab CC, Memon Gymkhana secure victories in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Four more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various Grounds of the City.

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

Scores in Brief: Pakistan Cricket Club beat Al-Hamd Kundi Cricket Club by 9 Wickets at KCCA

Stadium. Al-Hamd Kundi 84 all out in 26.4 overs. Shahid Ali 18. Asad Omar 3/22, Sarfaraz Ahmed 2/5, Muhammad Asghar 2/9, Abdul Moiz /30.

Pakistan CC 85/1 in 12.5 overs. Muhammad Asghar 41 6x4 not out, Huzaifa Ahsan 37.

In the 2nd Match Khatija Cricket Club beat Bright Cricket Club by 5 Wickets at Student Ground. Bright c.c.182 all out in 31.2 overs. Abdul Rehman 71 11x4 2x6,

Omar Hussain 56 7x4 1x6. Azcem Khan 3/23, Mohib ul Hasan 3/38, Sharjeel Ahmed 2/35.

Khatija CC 183/5 in 29.4 overs. Ashir 56 9x4, Rizwan Abbasi 48 5x4, Sharjeel Ahmed 26.

In the 3rd Match Doab Cricket Club beat Nazeer Hussain Gymkhana by 7 Wickets at KGA Ground. United 205/6 in 40 overs. Itfikhhar 47 5x4, Amanullah 36, Rana Areeb 36, Imran Lodhi 29, M. Bilal Khan 24. Arshman Riaz 2/37.

Jilbani 22. Nazeer Hussain Gymkhana 124 all out in 29.3 overs. Waqar Azeem 22. Subaz Saeed 3/35, Abdul Ali Khan 2/20, Waqas Iqbal 2/25.

In the fourth Match Memon Gymkhana beat United Gymkhana by 7 Wickets at KGA Ground. United 205/6 in 40 overs. Itfikhhar 47 5x4, Amanullah 36, Rana Areeb 36, Imran Lodhi 29, M. Bilal Khan 24. Arshman Riaz 2/37.

PM for firm decisions to end future mayhems, sit-ins

Continued from Page 1

During 2014, Chinese President Xi's visit to Pakistan was postponed due to 126 days sit-in by the same figures and their leadership created mess and used foul language, which was still haunting their minds, he added.

The prime minister also referred to the launching of protest on the eve of SCO heads of government summit in Islamabad, which had prompted concerns among a number of heads of close friendly countries about their visit to host Pakistan.

He also criticized staging of protest by the same party

during a visit by the delegation of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister said the mischiefmakers had also injured and killed security personnel during the recent attack. No patriotic or even a resident of the country could imagine to harm the country for personal interests and could go to such extreme of damaging the country.

He opined that the law and constitution ensured right for a peaceful protest.

About the recent visit of President of Belarus, the prime minister said that they were taking decisions to enhance bilateral ties and cooperation between the two

countries and on the other hand, there were scenes of battles.

A number of Rangers and police personnel were martyred whereas dozens others were injured, he added.

The prime minister said that they could no longer waste their energies to tackle these spectacles on daily basis and stressed to ponder as to why the country was still mired in foreign debts even after passage of 77 years.

He also viewed that if the culprits of 9th May riots were given exemplary punishment by the courts, such like spectacles would not

have happened.

The prime minister also appreciated the Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh police force and other law enforcement agencies for quelling the fresh wave of attack and particularly thanked the chief of army staff for his cooperation with regard to law-and-order situation.

He said that in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the terrorists and insurgency was on the rise while in Kurram, dozens of people were killed, but instead focusing on the law-and-order situation there, the provincial government had left the residents in the lurch and led an armed attack on Islamabad.

ECC meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a special meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) at the Finance Division on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Chairs a Special Meeting of ECC

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a special meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet held at Finance Division, today.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries and

Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Commerce Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik (virtual), federal secretaries, and senior officers from concerned minis-

tries and departments.

The meeting reviewed the implementation status of various earlier policy decisions of the ECC concerning matters related to finance, interior, industries and production, inter-provincial coordination, housing and works, food security and research, power, national health services regulation and coordination.

The ECC was briefed on the overall implementation status of its past decisions followed by separate presentations by the relevant ministries on the current status of the issues pending with them and the steps taken and required to get a closure on them.

The ECC noted with concern the delays in the implementation of its deci-

sions and directed the concerned ministries to improve their coordination and work with stakeholder ministries and divisions proactively through a proper escalation mechanism to ensure a timely compliance and completion of the tasks and responsibilities assigned to them for implementation of the ECC's decisions.

NA Speaker praised President Putin for upholding respect for religious figures

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Muftis, Professor Damir Mukhetdinov, today during his official visit at the Cathedral Mosque in Moscow, Russia. NA Speaker expressed content over the expanding friendly relations between the Muslim World and Russia. He lauded Russia's principled stance against Islamophobia and expressed gratitude on behalf of the Parliament of Pakistan. He also praised President Putin's statement regarding upholding utmost respect for the religious personalities



of all faiths. In addition, NA Speaker extolled the promotion of inter-faith harmony and religious pluralism in Russia. Moreover, it was mutually agreed to enhance religious and cultural cooperation between both the countries.

Furthermore, NA Speaker lamented over the on-going brutality and senseless violence in Palestine. Both sides expressed solidarity with the Palestinian People.

It is pertinent to mention that parliamentary delegation led by Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq is on an official visit to Moscow Russia from 27th November to 29th November 2024.

PTI sit-in to continue despite Islamabad crackdown, announces CM Gandapur



Abdul Wahid Khan

MANSEHRA: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur announced that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will continue its sit-in across Pakistan despite the last night crackdown against party workers in Islamabad.

Addressing a press conference in Mansehra, Ali Amin Gandapur stated that PTI has always led peaceful protests, upholding the supremacy of law and democracy.

Gandapur emphasized that former prime minister, Imran Khan, is currently in jail, and the party's mandate was stolen in the February 8 elections but the PTI workers were subjected to violence, and their peaceful protest was met with gunfire when they protested against these injustices.

The chief minister made it clear that the sit-in will continue until the party's demands are met. He also announced that PTI will provide Rs 10 million each to the families of workers who were martyred during the protest.

Gandapur slammed the government for its actions, stating that they are trying to suppress the peaceful protest. He warned the government to refrain from using violence against peaceful protesters.

ATC denies bail to PTI founder in multiple May 9 riot cases

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The bail plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has been rejected in relation to eight cases tied to the May 9 riots.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Lahore heard the application, with Judge Manzoor Ali Gul delivering the verdict after having previously reserved it.

The petition concerned eight separate cases, including the high-profile attacks on Jinnah House and Askari Tower, along with other charges.

This development follows the registration of seven new cases against former first lady Bushra Bibi, KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur, and other PTI leaders in Attock after the November 24 'do-or-die' protest.

Bushra Bibi, Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub, former President Arif Alvi, and other PTI lawmakers were booked across three police stations in Attock under 23 different sections, including terrorism, attempted murder, and vandalism.



Zeeshan Rehman Khattak appointed as Commissioner SECP



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) welcomed Mr. Zeeshan Rehman Khattak as Commissioner SECP, after his appointment by the Federal Government. Prior to joining SECP, Mr. Khattak was working as Chief Commercial Officer at Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB). He played a pivotal role in advancing the IT industry's growth, fostering trade partnerships, and shaping national-level policies. His additional responsibilities as Acting CEO, Chief Marketing Officer, and Chief Industry Development Officer further highlight his multifaceted capabilities in infrastructure development, strategic planning, and governance.

Mr. Khattak's career traverses across diverse industries and geographies. He brings over two decades of expertise across wealth management, regulatory, real estate, and technology, both domestically and internationally. He holds degrees in Business and Economics from California State University, Fullerton, USA, and an MBA in Finance from the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad.

Senate Chairman arrives in Madina Munawwarah



Muhammad Adeel

MADINA: The Honourable Chairman of Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani arrived in Madina Munawwarah this evening today.

He was received at the Prince Mohammad bin Abdul Aziz International airport, Madina Munawwarah by the Hon. Consul General of Pakistan, Mr. Khalid Majid, representative of Saudi Majlis-e-Shura, Royal Protocol officials in

Madina Region and high officials.

Chairman Senate will offer prayers at Masjid-e-Nabawi and say Salams at Roza-e-Rasool (P. B. U. H) before heading for Umrah. Chairman Senate, is on a five days Official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the invitation of the Speaker of Saudi Shoura Council to discuss ways of further strengthening bilateral and institutional relations between the two brotherly countries.

PNS Zulfikar conducts exercise with Korean Navy Ship in Arabian Sea



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship PNS ZULFIQUAR conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Republic of Korea Navy Ship WANG GEON in the North Arabian Sea. Both ships operated under the task forces of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), CTF-150 and CTF-151, respectively.

The exercise included tactical maneuvers and communication drills, aimed at enhancing operational interoperability and fostering professional ties between the two navies. CTF-150 and CTF-151 focus on deterring illicit maritime activities

such as drug trafficking and piracy, which threaten security in international waters.

The successful conduct of this joint exercise underscores the commitment of both navies and their respective Task Forces to upholding maritime security, supporting lawful activities at sea, and promoting stability and cooperation in this strategically vital region.

Pakistan and the Republic of Korea consistently contribute ships and aircraft to maritime security efforts under the CMF banner. This collaboration is particularly valuable for building mutual understanding and operational synergy.

Belarusian President winds up 3-day Pakistan visit



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on Wednesday departed after completing a three-day official visit to Pakistan.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif saw off the Belarusian president at the airport, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

During the visit, the two leaders comprehensively reviewed the full range of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their mutual commitment to deepening friendly ties between the two countries across political, trade, economic, cultural, social, and other areas.

The two sides signed fifteen important agreements and MOUs,

including the Roadmap for Comprehensive Cooperation for the period 2025-2027. The road-map focuses on enhancing bilateral economic cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus.

A delegation of prominent Belarusian businessmen and investors also visited Pakistan along with the President Lukashenko, who had extensive meetings with Pakistani counterparts.

The prime minister also presented the Belarusian president with a photo album of his three-day visit.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar were also present on the occasion.