

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم کو نعرے خردی، کہا ہم کو شیخ نے خیر
دی، کہا ہم سے فرانسے بیان کیا، کہا کہ
میں نے شیخ سے سنا، انہوں نے عبد اللہ
بن عمرو سے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم
نے فرمایا کہ اگر اللہ کے ساتھ شریک کرنا،
والدین کی نافرمانی کرنا، کسی کی بات جان لینا
اور «تین اٹوس» «تصدرا اجمونی قسم
کمانے کو کہتے ہیں۔
(بیگناری صدف نمبر 675)
Barkat Rice Mills
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RAWALPINDI



It's unacceptable that Pakistan visits India but they don't: Mohsin Naqvi

The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Mohsin Naqvi, expressed strong dissatisfaction on Thursday regarding India's refusal to send its cricket team for the upcoming ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025.



NAB to arrest Bushra Bibi in the 190m pound case

According to insiders, a NAB Rawalpindi team was dispatched to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to carry out the arrest. The team had reportedly attempted to detain Bushra Bibi three days ago but remained unsuccessful. Fresh instructions have now been issued, directing the KP NAB to fully cooperate with the Rawalpindi team. Authorities also decided to enlist the assistance of the KP police to ensure the arrest.

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Meeting on law and order situations

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding law and order situation on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Security forces kill four terrorists in Khyber operation

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have killed four terrorists in an intelligence-based operation in Bagh area of Khyber district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the operation was conducted in the general area of Bagh, where own troops effectively engaged militants' location, resulting in killing four terrorists, including ring leader Batoor, while three others got injured. Sanitization operation is



being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. The security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country.

President, PM pay tribute to security forces for successful operation against terrorists



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the personnel and officers of the security forces for conducting successful operation against the terrorists in Bagh area of Khyber district.

In their separate statements, the president and the prime minister appreciated the professional abilities of the security forces for killing four Khawarij and arresting three others.

President Zardari also lauded the role of security forces in eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country.

He expressed the nation's resolve to eliminate the terrorism from the country.

PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed the determination to continue war against terrorism till complete elimination of the menace.

The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the security forces in eradicating the terrorism in the country, the prime minister added.

Govt to establish Anti-Riots Force to combat violence: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the government will establish an Anti-Riots Force in Islamabad and across the country to combat future attempts to create violence and unrest in the country.

This force will be equipped with professional training and necessary equipment, on the lines of international standards.

Legal actions will be taken against those who damage public and private property, along with armed individuals, the prime minister said.

Chairing a meeting to review

law and order situation in the country, the prime minister instructed that a comprehensive strategy be developed to prevent any future attempts to march towards Islamabad or any other city for personal or political gains.

He emphasized that those who attempted to bankrupt the country to save their government were brought to justice.

The prime minister was briefed on the recent protests across the country, where demonstrators targeted government property and attacked Rangers and police personnel.

The government, he said demonstrated restraint by preventing armed individuals

from spreading chaos under the guise of peaceful protests.

The prime minister said, "Instead of following legal procedures, repeated efforts were made to create chaos by mobilizing forces towards Islamabad, attempting to spread unrest across the country."

He said during the mobilization of these disruptive elements, several security forces' personnel were injured and martyred.

"How can these individuals claim to be revolutionary when they are attempting to destroy the nation and create chaos?" the prime minister questioned.

He directed that immediate legal action be taken against the

elements involved in the violent mob that marched towards Islamabad.

The prime minister also emphasized the need for further improvements in the prosecution system.

"Once the disruptive group dispersed, the stock exchange crossed the 100,000 points mark," the prime minister pointed out. "The country suffered billions in losses due to these attempts to spread disorder."

The prime minister held the disruptive group and its masterminds responsible for the economic damage.

He called for the immediate

identification and punishment of the disruptive elements within the group.

"The entire nation including myself pay tribute to the security personnel who sacrificed their lives while performing their duties during this turmoil," he added.

The prime minister also called for bringing to justice those responsible for inciting public agitation, uncertainty, and unrest during the recent events.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Ahad Khan Cheema, Attaullah Tarar, Prime Minister's Advisor Rana Sanaulah, the Attorney General, and other senior officials.

PTI founder not a political prisoner, facing corruption, violence charges: Ahsan Iqbal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said that the jailed founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, is

not a political prisoner but is facing serious charges of corruption and inciting violence. These charges involve encouraging the public to attack sensitive installations, with the intent of sowing chaos and anarchy in the country.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that PTI had

attempted to create mayhem in Islamabad in recent days, bringing armed protesters to not only stage a sit-in but also to occupy the Parliament House, as they had done in 2014.

"At that time, they had stormed the Red Zone under the guise of a sit-in,



eventually overrunning the Parliament House and setting fire to the PTV headquarters," he added.

PTI's Raja, Raza resigns from their roles after Islamabad march

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf faced a major setback on Thursday as lawyer Salman Akram Raja and religion-political leader Sahibzada Hamid Raza resigned from their roles within the party.

This comes after the PTI's Islamabad march failed to meet its objective of releasing jailed former prime minister Imran Khan.

Thousands of PTI supporters marched on November 24 from different cities to Islamabad for Khan's "final call" to "ensure the release of party members and restoration of democracy."



They managed to reach the federal capital despite roadblocks and disruptions to the internet and cellular services.

At least six people, including a

police officer and three Rangers officials, lost their lives during three days of protests, as reported by officials and hospital sources.

It was the third time that time

that the party called off its protest after reaching its desired destination. According to reports, the party's top leadership had expressed concerns over the lack of participation from supporters in Punjab during the meetings for the Islamabad march.

Raja has resigned as the PTI secretary general, sources said amid the former ruling party's poor show rally show in Lahore.

He was tasked with leading the party's efforts in Islamabad, but due to road closures, he devised a plan for a protest in Lahore instead.

But Raja faced challenges in mobilising PTI workers in

Punjab's capital, failing to rally significant support. The lacklustre display apparently raised concerns within the party about its organisational effectiveness and ability to engage its base.

Lawmaker Sahibzada Hamid Raza resigned from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Core Committee as well as from the political committee, sources said.

Raza, who is the Sunni Ittehad Council leader, has also decided to resign from the National Assembly.

He would submit his resignation from the National Assembly following a meeting with PTI leadership, sources said.

No direct firing and no fatality during LEAs operation against PTI mob: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday stated categorically that no direct firing was done by the law enforcement agencies during operation to flush out Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf protesters.

Talking to foreign media, along with Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, he said that there was clear policy of the government that no direct firing will be done on protesters.

The minister said that there were no fatalities in the operation and both major hospitals of the Capital-Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences and Polyclinic had issued statements that no dead bodies were brought there.

Besides, the Ministry of

National Health Services also issued a statement denying PTI's claims that its workers were killed in security forces' firing. The minister stated that a list circulating on social media regarding the death of protesters was declared fake.

The minister said that the



federal capital was besieged for the past several days by the miscreants belonging to a political party and this was not the first time they had done so.

Attaullah Tarar said that the PTI activists wanted to disrupt peace in Islamabad.

Former President / PM AJK Sardar Yaqoob call on AJK President Barrister sultan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President and Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan held a detailed one-on-one meeting with the AJK president Barrister sultan Mehmoode Chaudhry here today.

During the meeting, the duo discussed in detail the issues of mutual concern with particular focus on the prevailing political and human rights situation in Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, they agreed in principle to raise the issue of Kashmir forcefully at the international level and expose Indian brutalities in Kashmir before the world.

On the occasion, the President, while referring to India's Extra-Territorial Killings, said that murder of Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar by Indian agents has left India exposed



India, under Modi's rule, has emerged as a global terrorist", he added.

Former PM AJK Raja Farooq offers Fateha to late Sardar Taimur Abbasi



Bureau Report

DHIRKOT: Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan expressed his condolences and offered Fateha to Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan on the death of his cousin Sardar Taimur Abbasi in Ghaziabad. Former President of PML-N Trade Wing Farooq Qadri, Haji Muhammad Sharif, former Press Secretary Raja Waseem, Raja Haider, Haroon Azad, Maulana Altaf Butt and others also expressed their condolences and offered Fateha to Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan on the death of his cousin. On this occasion, Raja Farooq Haider Khan said that his heart is saddened by the death of Sardar Taimur Abbasi. The services of the deceased will be remembered and can never be forgotten. He said that Sardar Taimur Abbasi was a lively voice of the area. Even in the state of illness, he remained committed to defending the rights of the people and was interpreting the rights of the people. He prayed that Allah Almighty may grant the deceased a high place in Paradise and grant patience to the bereaved family. Meanwhile, former Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan visited the shrine of Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan and offered Fateha. Chief Organizer Raja Saqib Majeed, Major (retd) Nasrullah Khan, Sardar Usman Ali Khan and others were present on the occasion.

Sardar Attique condemns Israeli, Indian aggression in Palestine and Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir



MUZAFFARABAD/DHIRKOT: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan condemned the ongoing Israeli and Indian aggression in Palestine and Kashmir and said that peace in the region is not possible without resolving the issue of Palestine and Kashmir. There is a need to unite for the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah. Today, world peace is facing increasing threats and challenges. Despite the ongoing peace efforts by the United Nations and other organizations, the plight of innocent Kashmiris and Palestinians reminds us that much still needs to be done. He expressed these views while talking to Muslim Conference delegations. He said that Indian forces are involved in the worst human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. He further said that by passing a resolution in Kashmir, 5 million Indians have been settled, and India is trying to turn occupied Kashmir into a mini India. People have sacrificed their lives in the movements of Palestine and Kashmir. Quaid-e-Azam had said that Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan, Kashmiris when martyred, they wish us to be buried in Pakistani flags, the case of Kashmiris should be fought in the way that is required. The right to self-determination is the fundamental right of the people of occupied Kashmir. The international community should play its role in resolving the Kashmir and Palestine disputes. India has been violating human rights in occupied Kashmir for 77 years, we will continue to provide moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris, the international community has not yet taken sufficient steps to protect the rights of Kashmiris.

NTU successfully hosts 4th International Conference on Polymers and Composites

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The National Textile University (NTU) successfully hosted the 4th International Conference on Polymers and Composites. The two-day event brought together eminent researchers, scientists, and industry experts from around the globe, including the UAE, Malaysia, the UK, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Czech Republic, and Pakistan virtually. They presented their groundbreaking research on the latest advancements in polymer and composite materials in online and physical modes. A poster competition was also held, which showcased the innovative work of students from various universities, providing a platform to present their ideas and receive valuable expert feedback. Prizes were distributed among the top poster presenters. Conference Chair Prof. Dr. Yasir Nawab (Vice Chancellor, University of Kamalia) and Conference Secretary Dr. Khubab Shaker congratulated the faculty, staff, and students on the successful conference organization. They reiterated that it underscores NTU's commitment to fostering academic excellence and promoting cutting-edge research in the field of materials science.

Petition against Punjab Cooperatives over financial irregularities in Roman Catholic Housing Society

Special Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: Department of Cooperative Punjab could not initiate investigation into financial irregularities in the Roman Catholic Cooperative Housing Society established for the Christian community.



According to the petitioner Sarfraz Francis, the Punjab Society Act 43 inquiry on the financial irregularities in the registered Roman Catholic Cooperative Housing Society in the Department of Cooperatives Punjab is being delayed, which is causing severe anxiety among the members.

He said that due to the delay in the inquiry on the request made by the society members 18 months ago, the members and poor Christian people are facing difficulties, the Chief Minister Punjab and the Secretary Punjab are requested to take notice.

He said that the two-time former president Yusuf Gul did not conduct an audit, did not correct the records, did not do any development work during his six-year tenure, sold the Christian cemetery and allotted crores of society land to his own family and to the mafia. Sold out while burning records during his tenure. Against which the report of the circle registrar has also come to the fore and by raising objections on the voter list made by himself, the secretary of Punjab Cooperative has bet on the election so that no other managing committee can take legal action against the former president.

Winter foods

ISLAMABAD: A roadside stall holder sprinkles water at his fish stall in Chak Shahzad in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Ghulam Bilal Javid appointed, Chairman Peshawar Chamber's Law and Order Standing Committee

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: Senior trader leader, Ghulam Bilal Javid, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Peshawar Chamber's Law and Order Standing Committee. Ghulam Bilal Javid, who is also a founding member of the Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries, has expressed deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the city and the increasing threats faced by the business community.

In a high-level meeting held following his appointment, Ghulam Bilal Javid highlighted the traders' concerns regarding the rise in crimes, extortion calls, and kidnappings in Peshawar. He stated that the current situation has made doing business in Peshawar increasingly difficult, with the business community operating under growing insecurity and fear daily. He pledged to bring these issues to the attention of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and invite the Inspector General of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa to the chamber to seek immediate solutions for the traders' problems.

Ghulam Bilal Javid further announced that he would hold regular monthly meetings with senior police officers, including the SSP Operations, SP City, and SP Cantt, to devise joint strategies against crime. He emphasized that improving law and order in Peshawar and ensuring the safety of the business community are his top priorities. He also stressed the importance of maintaining strong ties with the



police to protect traders and address their concerns effectively.

In conclusion, he expressed his gratitude to Peshawar Chamber's leader and former provincial minister Malik Mehr Elahi and the Chamber President Shakeel Ahmed Saraf for entrusting him with this critical responsibility.

Belum Hasnain Kharal strongly condemned the attack on the Rangers and Police

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Tehreek-e-Insaf has ruined politics by adding arson and bloodshed to politics, said former member of the National Assembly and president of the PPP Women's Wing Punjab and member of the Central Executive Committee, while talking to the media after offering condolences and reciting Fatiha on the death of Kaleem-ur-Rehman Meo (late), brother of the president of the PPP Human Rights Wing South Punjab and former advisor to the governor of Punjab, Salim-ur-Rehman Meo. Belum Hasnain Kharal strongly



condemned the attack on the Rangers and police personnel and their deaths, saying that these violent acts appear to be

part of a foreign conspiracy to weaken the country's economic and political position because whenever foreign leaders visit

Pakistan, the Tehreek-e-Insaf announces violent politics and under a plan, the resources and government machin-

ery of a provincial government are used to attack the federation. Belum Hasnain Kharal praised the good strategy of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and said that our country cannot afford violent politics. All people should be held accountable for their crimes in the judiciary. Give and be released, they will not be released by storming. On this occasion, Asif Farid Kalyani, General Secretary of the People's Party Human Rights Wing, South Punjab, Sehrash Khan, District President of the People's Party Women's Wing, Multan, Hanif Raza Khan, Naveed-ur-Rehman Mayo and Shehla Raza were present.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:24 am
Zohr 11:56 am
Asr 3:22 pm
Maghrib 5:00 pm
Isha 6:27 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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
DHO 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

ETEECTE'24 Concludes Successfully at The University of Lahore

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The 2024 3rd International Conference on Emerging Trends in Electrical, Control, and Telecommunication Engineering (ETEECTE'24) concluded today with a grand closing ceremony at The University of Lahore.

The closing ceremony was presided over by the General Chair of ETEECTE'24, Prof. Dr. Ghulam Abbas, who presented a comprehensive summary of the conference proceedings. He highlighted that the event featured five international speakers and three national speakers, who delivered insightful talks on a diverse range of topics, from controller design and artificial intelligence to the integration of virtual and augmented reality in engineering.

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Technology and former Chair of IEEE Lahore Section delivered the concluding remarks.

As the curtains fell on ETEECTE'24, participants left with renewed inspiration, fresh perspectives, and a commitment to pushing the boundaries of engineering and technology in the years to come.

Closing Ceremony of 44th Pakistan Army Rifle Association

General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The mega shooting event was conducted from 14 October to 28 November 2024.

Over 2000 Firers from Army, Navy, Air Force, Civil Armed Forces including Rangers (Sindh & Punjab), teams ex Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Federal Rifle Association, Lahore Garrison Shooting Gallery (LGS) and civilians participated in the competition.

COAS and Chief of the Air Staff, Air

Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), who was the Guest of Honor at the ceremony, awarded trophies and medals to the award winners and runners up in each category.

In the Inter Services matches, Pakistan Army won three contests including CJCS, COAS and CNS matches, while Pakistan Air Force won CAS contest. Pakistan Army secured overall Championship Trophy.

FTR team trophy was won by Pakistan Army led by Lieutenant General



Ahsan Gulrez, HI (M).

The President's Cup National Challenge match trophy was awarded to Naik Waseem Ahmed Khan of Pakistan Army. Pakistan Air Force won the Prime Minister 'Skills at Arms' Big Bore National Challenge. Azad Kashmir Regiment won the first prize in para firing matches (infantry squad).

The highest military shooting honor, 'The Master at Arms' Trophy was awarded to Sepoy Aftab Ahmed of Punjab Regiment. The 'Best Shot Match Trophy' Group 2 and Group 3 was awarded to Lance Dafadar Muhammad Imran of Cavalry and Havaldar Fateh Ullah Khan of EME Battalion.

While interacting with the partici-

pants, COAS appreciated the firers for their excellent standards of marksmanship. Terming shooting skill as the hallmark of a professional soldier, he said "attaining proficiency at shooting must remain at the heart of basic military training objectives".

Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Rawalpindi Corps.

National Security Workshop

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the participants of the 26th National Security Workshop on Thursday.



Photo: PID

FAST Cables and UMT Collaborate to Host 'FAST Forward Sustainable Development' Forum

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: FAST Cables organized the "FAST Forward Sustainable Development" forum on Thursday, 28th November 2024, at the University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore. The event provided a collaborative platform to discuss the critical nexus of water and energy, bringing together renowned experts from NGOs, government, academia, and industry to tackle Pakistan's pressing environmental challenges.

The forum commenced with an inspiring welcome address by UMT President Ibrahim Hasan Murad, who highlighted academia's pivotal role in fostering sustainability. Kamal Amjad Mian, CEO of FAST Cables, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the company's unwavering



commitment to sustainable innovation and renewable energy solutions.

Prominent speakers shared their insights and actionable strategies:

Dr. Naveed Arshad, Director at LUMS Energy Institute, explored energy innovations and sustainable solutions, Dr Imran Azam, Manager

of Water Stewardship at WWF, specializes in climate change and water management. He earned his PhD in Hydraulic Engineering, Dr. Fazilda Nabeel, an expert in climate and water governance, presented actionable strategies to ensure water and energy security and Mr. Rizwan Ali, Assistant Chief for Envi-

ronment & Climate Change at Punjab's Planning & Development Board has extensive public policy experience.

Kamal Amjad Mian, CEO of FAST Cables, reiterated the company's dedication to addressing climate challenges:

A highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch the FAST Excellence Award and FAST Sustainability Award, aimed at recognizing and rewarding impactful initiatives that contribute to sustainability across industries.

The forum concluded with an interactive Q&A session where enthusiastic students engaged with the panelists, followed by closing remarks from Ibrahim Hasan Murad. He reiterated the urgency of collective action to address Pakistan's water and energy challenges.

NTDC energizes another 250 MVA Autotransformer at 220kV Grid Station

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) has successfully energized 2nd 250 MVA autotransformer at 220 kV Grid Station WAPDA Town Lahore to enhance its power transmission capacity.

The Project Delivery (North) Lahore team has completed the augmentation work of existing 160 MVA, 220/132 kV autotransformer (T-2) with 250 MVA 220/132 kV autotransformer. The said autotransformer has been energized. This work was a part of World Bank funded National Transmission Modernization Project (NTMP-1).

This capacity enhancement will boost power transmission capacity of 220 kV WAPDA Town Grid Station, which will ensure reliable supply of electricity in Lahore and adjoining areas. The upgraded infrastructure will directly benefit domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers served by the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) through improved power supply stability and reduced transmission constraints. Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Muhammad Waseem Younas appreciated the Project Delivery (North) Lahore team for early completion of this infrastructure up-gradation project before the approved shutdown period.

RECA delegation visits Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA), visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and held discussions with President Usman Shaukat. The meeting focused on the current challenges in the real estate sector, including high taxes, regulatory issues, and possible solutions to revive the industry.

The delegation comprised Malik Jamsheed (Group Head), RECA Chairman Major Naem, President Chaudhry Farrukh, Vice President Sheikh Naem, and General Secretary Haider. From RCCI, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former presidents Asad Mashhadi and Raja Amir Iqbal, along with executive committee and chamber members, were present.

President Usman Shaukat reiterated that the construction sector plays a crucial role in the economy, with over 70 allied industries dependent on it. He warned that without immediate intervention, revenue losses and stagnation in economic activity would persist.

The RECA delegation also congratulated President Usman Shaukat, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, and Vice President Fahad Barlas on their recent appointments, acknowledging their leadership and commitment to resolving industry challenges.

TCL QD-Mini LED TVs: A Game-Changer in Display Technology

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV brand's QD-Mini LED technology stands out for its precise control over light distribution, significantly reducing blooming and creating deeper blacks. This ensures a stunning level of detail in both bright and dark scenes, perfect for cinematic and high-definition content. The integration of Quantum Dot Pro technology further amplifies color vibrancy, delivering over a billion colors with greater accuracy. This combination makes these TVs ideal for movie lovers, gamers, and sports enthusiasts seeking an immersive, lifelike viewing experience.

Meet the media on China 75th anniversary

Chinese Consulate marked 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China



Khurram Jaffran

KARACHI: Yang Yundong, Consul General of China in Karachi, delivered an insightful address at the "Meet the Media on China 75" event, organized by the Chinese Consulate in Karachi to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Held at the consulate on Wednesday, the event brought together diplomats, academics, and media representatives to celebrate China's transformative journey and its deep-rooted partnership with Pakistan.

Yang reaffirmed China's position as a developing country committed to addressing these challenges through peaceful development and inclusive growth. Yang underscored China's role as a global leader in poverty alleviation, contributing to 70% of global poverty reduction, and its steadfast advocacy for multilateralism and sustainable development.

Speaking on China-Pakistan relations, Yang highlighted the "iron-clad friendship" between the two nations,

describing it as a strategic partnership rooted in trust and mutual respect. He emphasized the significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has entered a new phase of development. Key projects such as the Gwadar Port, ML-1 railway upgradation, and the Karakoram Highway expansion remain central to this collaboration. Yang also pointed to new opportunities for cooperation in agriculture, mining, IT, energy, and socio-economic sectors.

He praised the completion of the New Gwadar International Airport and pledged continued support to resolve power and water shortages in Gwadar. To further enhance bilateral trade and investment, Yang urged Pakistan to

improve its business environment and create favorable policies for Chinese investors, particularly within Special Economic Zones under CPEC.

On security matters, Yang called on Pakistan to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel and projects, emphasizing that a secure environment is essential for advancing bilateral cooperation. He reaffirmed China's unwavering support for Pakistan in combating terrorism.

Yang concluded by highlighting the role of media in fostering people-to-people ties and mutual understanding between the two countries. He encouraged Pakistani media to report positively on China's achievements, foreign policy, and collaborative projects under CPEC, while promoting cultural exchanges.



The event also featured speeches by Dr. Junaid Ahmad and Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh, who highlighted China's development trajectory and shared their perspectives on its future. Xie Shuyue from the Chinese Consulate moderated the ceremony, ensuring its smooth flow.

Yang's address and the event as a whole reflected the shared vision of China and Pakistan for a stronger, mutually beneficial partnership. With continued efforts, both nations aim to deepen cooperation and build a closer community with a shared future.

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Exemplary Army Housing Societies

Civilian housing societies in Pakistan play a crucial role in addressing the escalating demand for urban residential spaces. However, they encounter numerous challenges hindering their ability to deliver quality housing and cultivate thriving communities. Issues such as inadequate infrastructure, governance problems, and legal complexities pose significant obstacles requiring concerted efforts to overcome.

One of the foremost challenges confronting civilian housing societies in Pakistan is the lack of sufficient infrastructure. Many schemes suffer from deficient road networks, inadequate water supply, substandard sewerage systems, and unreliable electricity provision, undermining residents' quality of life and impeding sustainable community development. Furthermore, the rapid pace of urbanization and population expansion intensifies pressure on existing infrastructure, exacerbating the situation. Insufficient planning and inadequate investment in infrastructure development have led to congestion, pollution, and declining living standards in numerous civilian housing societies throughout Pakistan. Another significant hurdle for civilian housing societies in Pakistan is governance and management issues. Weak regulatory frameworks, ineffective enforcement mechanisms, and a lack of transparency in decision-making processes frequently undermine the governance systems of these societies. Consequently, residents may encounter challenges in accessing essential services, resolving disputes, or holding management accountable for their actions. Moreover, the proliferation of unauthorized and illegal housing schemes complicates governance and management efforts, as these schemes operate beyond the oversight of regulatory bodies. Unauthorized developments not only compromise the integrity of planned housing societies but also jeopardize residents' safety, legality, and property rights. Civilian housing societies in Pakistan also contend with legal and regulatory obstacles hindering their development and operation. Complex land acquisition procedures, unclear property laws, and bureaucratic hurdles often impede the approval and execution of housing projects. Additionally, legal conflicts, land encroachments, and boundary disputes exacerbate the difficulties facing civilian housing societies, creating uncertainty and instability for residents. Furthermore, the absence of well-defined land-use regulations and zoning laws can lead to disorderly development and encroachment on green spaces, agricultural land, and natural habitats. This lack of regulatory oversight not only compromises the integrity of planned housing societies but also contributes to long-term environmental degradation and urban sprawl. Alongside physical and regulatory hurdles, civilian housing societies in Pakistan also confront socio-economic disparities and inequalities. Within Pakistan's dynamic urban landscape, two distinct categories of housing societies emerge as prominent fixtures: those established by the military for its personnel and their families, and those catering to civilian populations. While both fulfill the fundamental need for shelter and community, they diverge significantly in their approach, governance, amenities, and overall resident quality of life.

Army housing societies in Pakistan are celebrated for their meticulous planning, disciplined execution, and adherence to rigorous standards. Developed by the military, these societies prioritize order, security, and community well-being. Layouts are thoughtfully designed, featuring spacious roads, verdant spaces, and a comprehensive array of amenities such as schools, hospitals, and recreational facilities. Security measures are robust, encompassing gated entrances, perimeter fencing, and continuous surveillance to ensure resident safety.

In contrast, civilian housing societies often present a more diverse landscape, reflecting the vibrancy and heterogeneity of urban living. Established by private developers or housing authorities, civilian societies can vary widely in terms of planning, infrastructure, and amenities. While some boast well-designed layouts and modern conveniences, others may

grapple with deficiencies in infrastructure, governance, and service provision. Civilian societies often accommodate a range of income groups, fostering socio-economic diversity within these communities.

Synonymous with excellence, army housing societies in Pakistan offer world-class amenities and infrastructure. These communities provide a comprehensive suite of facilities, including educational institutions, healthcare centers, commercial outlets, recreational spaces, and green areas, meticulously tailored to meet residents' needs. Infrastructure is meticulously maintained, featuring broad thoroughfares, landscaped gardens, and reliable utilities, ensuring a superior quality of life for residents. In contrast, civilian housing societies exhibit a wide range of disparities in terms of amenities and infrastructure, influenced by factors like loca-

tion, developer reputation, and market demand. While certain civilian housing societies may boast modern amenities and carefully planned layouts, others may struggle with deficiencies in infrastructure and services. Access to essential amenities such as educational facilities, healthcare services, and recreational areas may be limited in certain civilian housing societies, particularly those situated in peri-urban areas or informal settlements.

Army housing societies in Pakistan are distinguished by robust governance and management frameworks, characterized by clear hierarchies, regulations, and rules dictating community operations. Typically overseen by management authorities, often comprising retired military personnel, these societies maintain day-to-day affairs while ensuring compliance with established standards and regulations. Decision-making processes are typically centralized, emphasizing discipline, accountability, and community welfare.

Conversely, governance structures within civilian housing societies can vary significantly, influenced by factors such as developer policies, residents' associations, and regulatory frameworks. While some civilian housing societies may boast well-established management bodies and transparent governance structures, others may grapple with issues such as mismanagement, lack of accountability, and internal disputes among residents. Decision-making processes may exhibit decentralization, with varying degrees of resident involvement and engagement in community matters.

It is imperative for decision-makers, planners, and administrators of civilian societies to draw inspiration from military-administered societies. The objective should be to ensure provision of essential facilities to all while safeguarding the natural environment.



Abdul Basit Alvi

Pakistan harnesses nuclear technology in various sectors

The Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar Thursday stated that Pakistan is effectively leveraging nuclear science and technology across various sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, and energy, while also addressing climate change challenges to enhance the quality of life for its citizens.

He was addressing the three-day IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme concluded at IAEA HQs, Vienna, Austria.

He said that the solution to these problems is through the applications of nuclear science and technology in different aspects of our lives for the betterment of mankind and the globe.

Pakistan being severely and adversely affected by climate change is utilizing nuclear technologies to lessen the impact, such as setting up Nuclear Power Generation Plants to acquire clean and carbon neutral energy.

Despite our low contribution to global carbon emissions, Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

Pakistan is the 15th most water-stressed country in the world thus making water resource management as another challenge.

Applications of nuclear techniques have been instrumental in addressing water scarcity and thereby improving water quality.

Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (PIN-STECH), the premier R&D institute of the country, is engaged in close collaboration with the Agency on water resource management and has recently been designated as IAEA Collaborating Center in this critical area.

In order to promote clean sources of energy in the country, Pakistan is following a policy of promoting nuclear power in the country. Chairman PAEC stated that to ensure human health, particularly in the realm of cancer care, PAEC is operating nineteen Cancer Hospitals across Pakistan, catering to a large number of cancer patients each year.

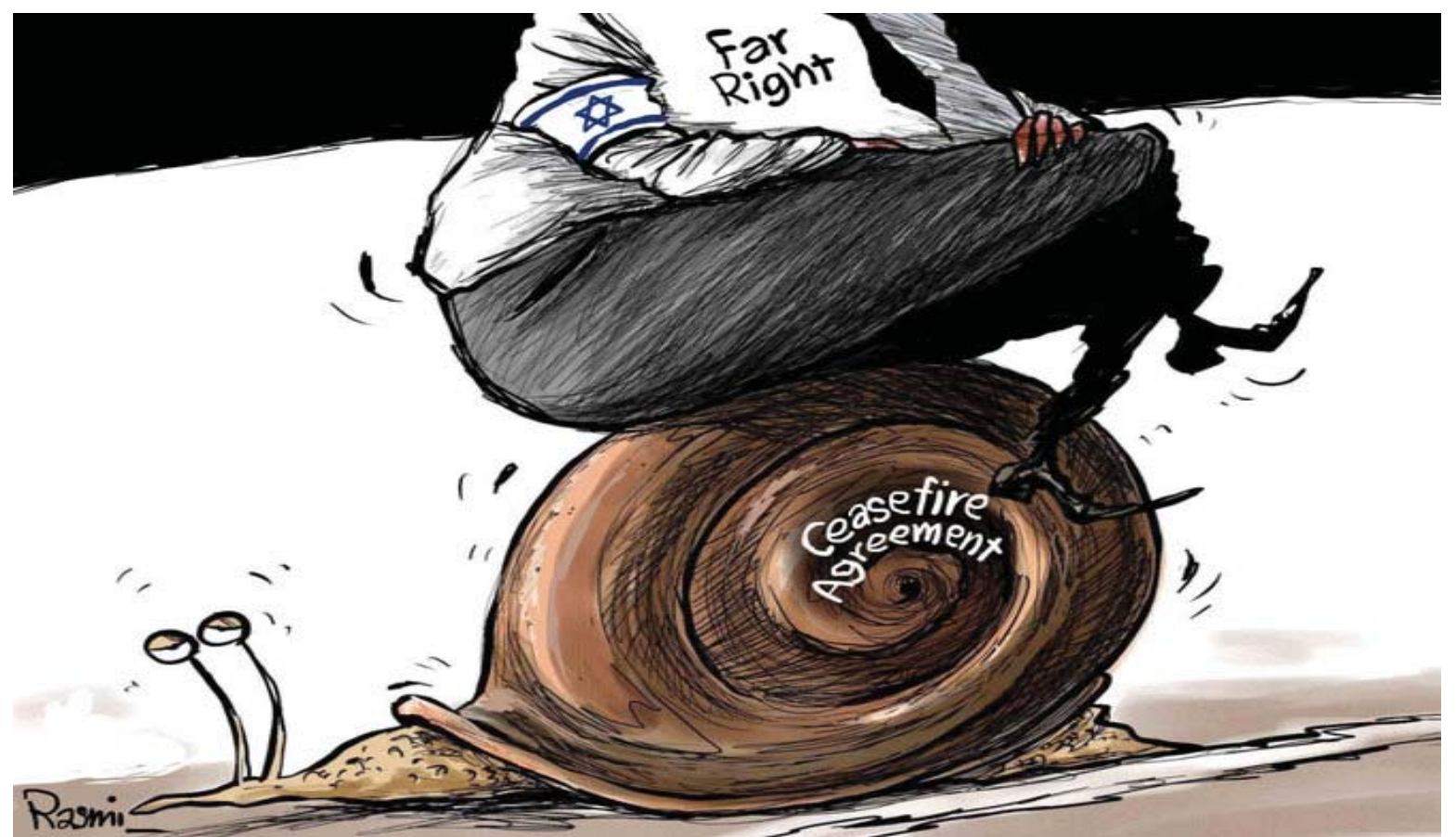
The work being done in these cancer hospitals is commendable and has been recognized by IAEA as it has declared AECH NORI as an Anchor Center under the "Rays of Hope" Framework.

Chairman PAEC highlighted the different ways in which PAEC is utilizing nuclear science, technology and techniques to thwart the effects of climate change.

He stated that PAEC through its various Research and Development departments particularly PAEC's Agriculture Centres are working to ensure food security by developing high yield crop varieties, pest control through nature friendly techniques, soil and environment preservation.

He stated that there is a need to speed up cooperation between IAEA Member States to benefit from one another's experiences and expertise.

He thanked the IAEA for the continuous opportunities of cooperation and reiterated Pakistan's and PAEC's commitments to ensure that such ventures initiated by the IAEA are fruitful for the global community.



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

The Certification Dilemma: A Burden on Graduates or a Path to Success?

In today's job market, a degree alone is often insufficient to secure a promising career. Employers not only demand academic qualifications but also specialized certifications that validate practical skills. For graduates, particularly in fields like information technology, networking, and cybersecurity, these certifications have become essential. However, the costs associated with them create significant financial and emotional challenges.

Certifications such as the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), costing between \$549 and \$699, and the Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), priced at \$1,199, are now considered mandatory in the cybersecurity sector. Similarly, networking professionals often need certifications like



Hafiz Arqum Zain

Specialist), Certified Wireless Network Administrator (CWNA) (\$175), Certified Wireless Design Professional (CWDP) (\$225), and Certified Wireless Security Professional (CWSP) (\$225) cater to varying levels of expertise. Entry-level certifications such as the Certified Wireless Specialist (CWS) and Certified Wireless Technician (CWT), each priced at \$175, provide a starting point for wireless professionals. Overall, these certifications offer tailored pathways for individuals seeking to advance their careers in telecommunications and related fields.

For graduates in Pakistan, especially those from middle-class backgrounds, these costs are daunting. Many students already struggle to fund their higher education, and the added expense of certifications often forces them to delay job hunting or take loans. This burden makes it difficult for them to compete with peers from more affluent backgrounds who can afford these credentials with ease.

One of the main reasons for this challenge is the gap between academia and industry. Universities rarely integrate certifications into their degree programs. Despite spending years studying subjects like networking, programming, and cybersecurity, graduates are often told that their degrees lack the practical validation that certifications provide. As a result, students are left underprepared and undervalued in the job market, even after completing their education.

This divide is further highlighted by the state of the education system. Public institutions, with limited resources and outdated curricula, fail to provide the necessary training to match industry demands. On the other hand, private

institutions, while offering better facilities, are financially out of reach for most students. This creates a class divide, where only those who can afford high-quality education and certifications gain access to better job opportunities, leaving others trapped in a cycle of unemployment.

Addressing this issue requires immediate intervention by educational leaders, including the Higher Education Commission (HEC), university vice-chancellors, and department heads. A practical solution could be to integrate certification programs into degree curricula or offer subsidized certification exams for students. To address this issue, universities and educational leaders need to take immediate action. Integrating certifications into degree programs or offering subsidized certification exams can help students reduce costs and become job-ready upon graduation. Partnerships with companies like Cisco, Amazon, Microsoft could and Wireless Networking Domain bring training programs to campuses, making certifications more accessible and affordable.

Bridging the gap between academia and industry is essential to address employers' complaints about graduates lacking practical skills. Certifications like CWDP, CWSP, CTSME, IPIE, RCDD, CISSP, CCNA, AWS, and CEH have become gateways to lucrative careers, but their high costs remain a significant barrier. By integrating these credentials into degree programs and reducing financial burdens on students, universities can enhance their graduates' employability and contribute to a more skilled and competitive workforce. Addressing this issue is not just a matter of policy—it is a necessity for ensuring a brighter future for countless graduates.

(Writer belongs to Department of Telecommunications System)

Islamabad Tragedy: A Test of Human Rights and Rule of Law

The use of force against civilians during the PTI protest in Islamabad is not just a violation of human rights but also a major test for Pakistan's political and legal systems. This incident marks a critical moment in the country's democratic history, where the clash between the fundamental rights of citizens and state policies has come to the forefront. The Islamabad High Court Bar's demand for judicial inquiry into the use of force and its request for the Supreme Court to take suo moto notice have highlighted the sensitivity and urgency of the issue.

In any democratic society, the right to protest is a fundamental right guaranteed by the constitution. The use of force by state authorities during the incident at D-Chowk in Islamabad, however, violates international human rights standards that apply universally. The President of the Islamabad High Court Bar, Riasat Ali Azad, has categorically stated that this incident is not only a breach of human rights but also a violation of political and ethical principles.

Legal experts argue that the use of force, especially in situations where citizens are peacefully raising their voices for their rights, is both unlawful and unconstitutional. Pakistan has witnessed several instances of excessive force during public protests, but the lack of serious investigations and accountability has only exacerbated the situation.

Such a judicial process would not only bring justice to the victims but also set a strong precedent for state institutions against the misuse of power. Moreover, it would restore public trust in the judiciary and strengthen the rule of law.

The political repercussions of using force during protests are profound. Pakistan's history

of public demonstrations and state responses has been largely contentious. In the aftermath of this incident, political parties and civil society have strongly criticized government policies. The Supreme Court Bar's demand for the resignation of the Federal Interior Minister and the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has sparked a new debate in the political landscape.

Additionally, this incident highlights the growing disconnect between state institutions and the public. The misuse of power and the denial of the right to protest can create dangerous trends in society, undermining democratic values.

Viewed in an international context, the Islamabad incident could tarnish Pakistan's global reputation. Human rights organizations, including the United Nations, routinely condemn such incidents and advocate for justice for the victims. For a country like Pakistan, which is already under international scrutiny, preventing such incidents and ensuring justice is imperative.

The Islamabad incident is a critical lesson for Pakistan's political, social, and legal systems. Addressing this situation requires immediate and decisive actions, including:

1. Ensuring a transparent and impartial judicial inquiry.
2. Bringing individuals responsible for the use of force to justice under the law.
3. Formulating clear policies on the use of force during protests.
4. Training state institutions to protect human rights effectively.

This incident should be seen as an opportunity to redefine the essence of the rule of law and democracy in Pakistan. It is high time for the country's leadership and institutions to align their policies with human and political rights to prevent such occurrences in the future.



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari Message

On International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, as well as for the establishment of an independent, viable, and contiguous State of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its Capital, based on the pre-1967 borders. We stand in solidarity with the resilient people of Palestine in their rightful struggle for freedom, dignity, and justice.

This day is being commemorated at a time when the world is witnessing ethnic cleansing, the destruction of infrastructure and residential areas, and the sufferings and displacement of Palestinians in Gaza and other Occupied Palestinian Territories as a result of Israel's ongoing genocidal military

campaign. Over the past one-year, Israeli actions, in blatant violation of international humanitarian law, have claimed more than 45,000 Palestinian lives, mostly women and children. Millions of Palestinians are being deliberately denied life-saving humanitarian assistance by Israel by obstructing the vital work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), as well as other aid agencies. Israeli impunity and continued aggression against other countries in the region also imperil the peace and stability of the entire region and beyond.

Pakistan strongly condemns these acts of aggression and urges the international community to act urgently and decisively to end the genocide of the Palestinian people. The global conscience cannot ignore the plight of millions who face unprecedented



hardships due to Israeli occupation. We believe that the continued occupation and disregard for international law is the biggest obstacle to achieving peace

in the region.

Today, Pakistan reiterates its call on the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, provision of unimpeded humanitarian supplies to alleviate the sufferings of millions of Palestinians, as well as to hold Israel accountable for its actions that the International Court of Justice has rightly described as "plausible genocide." Pakistan welcomes and supports all measures towards accountability of Israel and its leadership in this regard.

Let this day serve as a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to ensure justice and equality for the Palestinian people. Pakistan stands resolute in its support for Palestine and remains committed to supporting the inalienable rights of the Palestinians to self-determination.

Pakistan, interested in enhancing business ties with Russia, Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Pakistan is interested in enhancing business ties with Russia, said Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at the meeting with Speaker Federation Council of the Russian Federation Ms. Valentina Matviyenko today in Moscow.

Speaker Sadiq noted that the business cooperation between Pakistan and Russia has increased significantly but there is still room for development. He further underscored that there is an urgent need to find working financial mechanisms in order to remove remaining obstacles to trade cooperation.

The Speaker added that Pakistan needs oil, gas, machines and many other things from Russia. He called on to step up business cooperation "Let the G-to-G work, but we, at the parliamentary level also want to promote business ties," the Speaker said.

The Speaker recalled Matviyenko's visit to Islamabad this October and highlighted that the increased intensity of bilateral exchanges at all levels was a testament to growing Pakistan Russia relations.

The Speaker highlighted the role of interparliamentary cooperation in Pakistan Russia relations while emphasizing the need for regional and trade connectivity

Both sides agreed to continue regular parliamentary exchanges.



"CASS Webinar Calls for Public-Private Partnerships to Expand Digital Education and Create an Inclusive Tech Ecosystem"

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, conducted a webinar on 'Bridging the Global Digital Divide: Access, Equity and Empowerment.' The session included speakers Dr Sumaira Kausar, Director Centre of Excellence of AI, Bahria University, Islamabad; Ms Mahnoor Salman, Senior AI Engineer & Co-founder, Atomcamp; and Mr Adnan Zaidi, CEO, Proxima AI. Shah Muhammad, Research Assistant at CASS moderated the proceedings and President CASS Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd) delivered the concluding remarks.

Speaking on the topic of 'Emerging Technologies and Academic R&D', Dr Sumaira Kausar highlighted the global disparities in adopting and commercializing emerging technologies, largely driven by geographical gaps. She noted that most digital infrastructure is concentrated in a few advanced economies, leaving many low-income countries in the early stages of AI adoption readiness. Dr Kausar explained the six stages of AI adoption, from awareness to sustainability, placing Pakistan in the exploration and experimentation phase. She emphasized that emerging technologies, including AI and quantum computing, will shape future global superpowers, urging Pakistan to prioritise these areas to close the digital divide. She called for promoting AI literacy, reskilling the workforce, and establishing ethical guidelines and



regulatory frameworks to accelerate adoption. 'Education and accessibility are essential for quantum inclusion,' she said, stressing the need for strong government commitment to drive technological progress.

On the subject of 'Digital Literacy and Tech

Ecosystems', Ms Mahnoor Salman emphasized the need for global cooperation to address the technological divide, advocating for technology transfer and the ethical use of AI. She highlighted the importance of Pakistan's participation in global forums like the

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to align national policies with global best practices. Ms Salman called for a holistic approach to promoting digital literacy in Pakistan and the role of Public-Private Partnerships in expanding financial access. She also

stressed the need for policies to empower freelancers through skills development and vocational training tailored to market demands.

Mr Adnan Zaidi, speaking on 'Big Tech and Corporate R&D', highlighted how global tech giants can now influence national policies through lobbying, information control, government partnerships, and economic power. He warned that smaller nations face challenges like economic dependency, regulatory struggles, and threats to digital sovereignty. He also talked about the risks of digital colonialism, including data exploitation, cultural erosion, and inequitable access. To mitigate these, he recommended promoting local innovation, developing robust regulatory frameworks and focus on education, entrepreneurship and international collaboration as key priorities.

Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd), President CASS, Islamabad concluded the webinar by underscoring the need for Pakistan to address structural and institutional challenges in digital inclusion. He highlighted the importance of fostering indigenous Research and Development (R&D), digital literacy, and entrepreneurship to reduce reliance on foreign technologies and funding. President CASS urged that it was important for Pakistan to learn from global digital models while tailoring solutions to its unique needs. He also called for public-private partnerships to expand digital education and create an inclusive tech ecosystem.

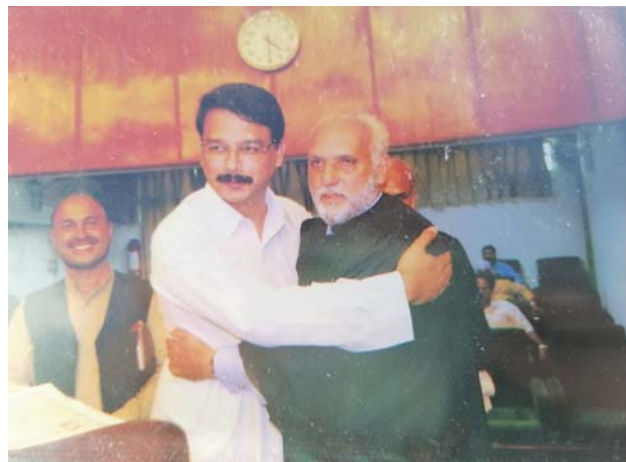
Advocate of real democracy

Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan fourth death anniversary marked

Umer Mustafa

Today marks the fourth anniversary of Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan, The then Central Chief Organizer of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir and Former Speaker Legislative Assembly, and advocate of real democracy, the fearless leader of Azad Kashmir. The fans celebrated with great devotion and respect. Certainly, the death of Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan created a huge vacuum which would remain unfilled after his demise. The death On December 1st, we are remembering the great son of the soil, Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan, on his fourth death anniversary to pay rich tributes to the deceased and laud his matchless service for the nation. Khan left for eternal abode on December 01, 2020. The deceased was laid to eternal rest at his ancestral graveyard in his hometown Hajira on December 02, 2020.

Mr Sadiq, who was elected from LA-18 Poonch-II in three



consecutive general elections in 2001, 2006 and 2011, had remained adviser to the chairperson AJK Council from Nov 30, 2008 to July 4, 2011, and Legislative Assembly Speaker from July 25, 2011 to July 30, 2016.

Sadiq was a senior parliamentarian who had started his carrier as a teacher and later

joined PPP in 1979 as district councilor and rose to the third highest position in the state after resigning from his job and twice elected as member legislative Assembly. The main motive of the PPP to serve the poor of the country and ensure they get 'Roti, Kapra and Makan (Bread, clothes and home), attracted the deceased leader to join this party



as he thought that if he had to do anything for the poor, the PPP would be the appropriate platform. Keeping this in mind, he carried on journey on this path and served the people, not only of his own constituency but all across the state. His services for public would be remembered always. The onslaught on democracy by military dictators and extra-judicial killing of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had forced him to revolt against the societal injustice and join politics. He raised voice against the dictatorship and practically participated in the struggle against the unconstitutional punishment of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. He had to face jails and was arrested many times, but he did not leave the path of struggle and carried on his journey to fight for the rights of people.

He also served as advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan and

speaker legislative Assembly as well. He was known as a principled politician who earned wide respect in the political circles of AJK irrespective of political affiliations. He was known as a very humble and a genuinely respected politician in various segment of the society.

Many people hailing from different segments of the society including senior parliamentarians and politicians, leaders and representatives of different political and religious organizations admired his outright character and believed that the death of Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan was a great loss to the entire state and that AJK is deprived of an experienced parliamentarian and devoted politician.

However, some close friends and fellows of late speaker are of the view that the political struggle of Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan was a beacon of light for the coming generations who believed in the value based politics and will be remembered for long. He had virtually created political awareness among the masses.. The



deceased was a man of fidelity and morality, possessing high qualities and abilities. He was a party's asset and had made great contributions to the supremacy of democratic and parliamentary traditions in the state [AJK]. During his political career Khan promoted tolerance, brotherhood and interfaith harmony. Being an ideological worker he remained loyal to his party till his death. He spent his entire life in the service of the poor and devoted his entire life to the service of the people. His death is not only a loss for the PPP but it is a great loss for the entire state.

On his anniversary, different speakers said that the personality of Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan was a blessing for the people of this region. A figure of honesty and integrity, who stood by his principles throughout his life. For this reason, Ghulam Sadiq Khan was valued in every school of thought, even the most hostile people appreciated his principles. Sardar Khalid Ibrahim Khan is one and the same. Today, whoever boldly speaks the word right in front of the ruling time or a powerful person and talks about rights, all this is the fruit of the lighted candle of Sardar

Ghulam Sadiq Khan. He always raised the banner of justice, merit and justice.

The speakers said that if we want to achieve development in our region, we should adopt the principles of Ghulam Sadiq Khan's lifestyle and politics. The deceased laid the foundation of transparent politics away from interest politics. He gave first priority to loyalty to Pakistan. There was complete mastery over Kashmir. He was aware of walking on the level of equality in Pakistani politics. The participants expressed their determination that the Sardar Ghulam Sadiq mission will continue in any case. No one will be allowed to kill the freedom movement of Kashmir and on the night of history.

Finally, a special prayer was offered for the repose of Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan and a langar was organized. A large number of people participated in the anniversary.

For a thousand years the narcissus has been lamenting its blindness With great difficulty the one with true vision is born in the garden.

May the departed soul rest in eternal peace. Ameen



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
100,082.77	99,269.25
Day's High	Day's Low
100,540.29	99,354.24
Index Value	Change
28,557,044,917	+813.52
Percentage	Time
+0.82%	28 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,281.22	+6.47
Percentage	Time
+0.078%	28 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
44,722.06	-138.25
Percentage	Time
-0.31%	27 Nov, 4:46 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,349.06	+214.09
Percentage	Time
+0.56%	28 Nov, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180.00	182.25
Bahrain Dinar	731.05	739.05
Canadian Dollar	198.10	200.50
China Yuan	38.58	38.98
Danish Krone	39.58	39.98
Euro	291.30	294.05
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	349.50	353
US Dollar	277.60	279.10

CCP Approves Merger of Millat Equipment Limited with Millat Tractors

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has granted approval for the merger of M/s. Millat Equipment Limited (MEL) with M/s. Millat Tractors Limited (MTL) under a Scheme of Arrangement sanctioned by the Lahore High Court. Upon the court's sanction, MEL will be dissolved, and MTL will emerge as the surviving entity.

Millat Tractors Limited, a publicly listed company in Pakistan, specializes in the manufacturing and marketing of agricultural tractors



(Massey Ferguson 300 series), forklift trucks, diesel engines, diesel generator sets and a wide range of allied agricultural and industrial imple-

ments. Millat Equipment Limited, a public limited company, focuses on manufacturing gears, shafts, hydraulic pumps, and engine balancers exclusively for Massey Ferguson 300 series tractors assembled by MTL.

The CCP's merger assessment has identified 'Tractor Parts' as the relevant product market within the geographical boundaries of Pakistan. Given MEL's exclusive engagement in supplying parts for Massey Ferguson 300 series tractors, the merger will not alter the market share of the involved entities. Furthermore, the transaction will neither create nor strengthen

a dominant position in the relevant market, ensuring that competition remains unaffected.

This approval highlights the CCP's commitment to foster streamlined manufacturing processes and enhanced product quality. The merger is expected to increase MTL's asset base, enabling it to capitalize on economies of scale, optimize operational efficiencies and strengthen its competitive position within the industry.

The CCP's decision underscores its role in facilitating business growth while maintaining a level playing field in Pakistan's competitive landscape.

Farming

ISLAMABAD: A tractor plough the agriculture field at a farm house in Chak Shahzad in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

SECP warns about another fraudulent trading platform 'IGIL Securities'

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has identified another illegal trading platform operating under the name "IGIL Securities". The platform is being promoted through social media and WhatsApp Groups falsely claiming to be a legitimate company and promising substantial returns on trading in the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) and international stock markets.

The general public is informed that "IGIL Securities" is neither registered nor licensed by SECP to operate any platform for trading shares on the Pakistan Stock

Exchange or international stock exchanges.

Please note that trading in shares of listed companies and/or commodities is only allowed through SECP-licensed securities and futures brokers. A list of licensed brokers can be found at the following weblinks:

<https://www.psx.com.pk/psx/resources-and-tools/TREC-Holders>

<https://pmex.com.pk/pmex-home/existing-trec-holders/>

SECP hereby WARNS THE PUBLIC NOT TO DEPOSIT/ INVEST FUNDS with "IGIL Securities" or any such other trading platform in whatsoever form and whatsoever arrangement.

AlHuda CIBE provide Shariah Certificate to Apex Takaful

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: AlHuda CIBE has formally certified Apex Takaful, marking it as the inaugural Takaful operator in Uzbekistan. Apex Takaful has successfully launched a pioneering product that meets Shariah compliance requirements and has secured essential certification. The certification process conducted by AlHuda CIBE spanned one month, during which a thorough evaluation of Takaful contracts, operational agreements, and overall operational frameworks was undertaken.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, CEO of AlHuda CIBE, has articulated insights regarding the emergence of new Islamic finance markets globally, particularly within the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS). Notably, Uzbekistan is making significant strides in promoting and implementing Islamic finance initiatives. With a predominantly Muslim population, the country presents a favorable demographic foundation for the expansion of the Islamic finance sector.

Apex Takaful has taken a pioneering step by introducing an innovative Islamic insurance product, which positions it to leverage first-mover advantages in Uzbekistan's burgeoning Islamic insurance market. The Islamic finance landscape in Uzbekistan is rapidly devel-



oping, anchoring itself as a critical player within the Central Asian context. This growth is facilitated by the country's strategic geographical location, an increasing Muslim demographic, and a regulatory framework that is conducive to the expansion of Islamic financial services. Despite being in the early stages of development, the Uzbek government has actively fostered the Islamic finance sector, notably through the integration of Islamic banking windows in conventional financial institutions.

Maqsood Sabirov, Head of Takaful, Apex Takaful Uzbekistan, stated that the company is focused on ensuring Shariah

compliance across all transactions and procedures within its Takaful operations. This strategic approach is aimed at establishing a strong presence in the financial market. He emphasized Apex Takaful's commitment to providing Shariah-compliant Takaful products throughout Central Asia, acknowledging the growing significance of Islamic finance as a viable alternative financial solution in the region.

AlHuda CIBE has been actively engaged in providing research, advisory, consultancy, and capacity-building services in the CIS region for the Islamic banking and finance industry since 2006.

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, the President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has emphasized the importance of dialogue for addressing Pakistan's

political turmoil. He called for a shift away from aggressive tactics and urged the political leadership to seek de-escalation and create a stable environment for both political and economic growth.

Qureshi highlighted the government's responsibility to maintain political stability by engaging all relevant stakeholders and adopting a measured approach. He warned that the ongoing political instability, combined with rising uncertainty, security concerns, and escalating business costs, is

pushing local industrialists to relocate abroad, resulting in job losses and diminished investment.

Furthermore, Qureshi criticized bureaucratic inefficiencies that cause delays in investments and expressed concern over the nega-



tive impact of high energy costs, irrational taxes, and an uneven business playing field, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises.

To address these issues, Qureshi urged the government to foster private sector growth by offering incentives, simplifying regulations, and enhancing access to finance.

Kaspersky reports nearly 25% surge in retail-focused cyberthreats in 2024



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Cybercriminals launched over 38 million phishing attacks, impersonating major marketplaces, banks, and tech retailers. Stolen payment card data is actively traded on dark web forums.

Kaspersky closely monitors the evolving landscape of shopping-related cyber threats. As shoppers prepare for major sales events during November and December in search of the best deals, cybercriminals and fraudsters gear up to exploit this demand, attempting to steal personal data, funds, and spread malware through deceptive shopping lures.

Between January and November 2024, Kaspersky solutions blocked 38,473,274 phishing attacks related to online shopping, payment systems, and banking institutions; this represents a significant increase of 25% over the same period last year. Of these attacks, as many as 44.41% targeted banking service users.

Scammers frequently impersonate major retailers, sending deceptive emails claiming to offer exclusive discounts. These emails link to fake websites designed to mimic legitimate ones. Victims attempting to shop on these sites typically lose money.

Another widespread scam exploits consumers' desire to win prizes. Fraudsters send messages promoting limited-time surveys with prize draws, offering valuable rewards like a free iPhone. To create urgency, they claim only a few "chosen" users can access the deal, pressuring recipients to act quickly. Scammers offer a "reward" for sharing some "basic info," such as an email address, and spending some money on a fake site.

SESSI Announces Workers' Contribution from Registration Date

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Commissioner, Sindh Employees Social Security Institution (SESSI) Miandad Rahojo has announced that SESSI will demand worker's contribution payment from the date of Registration of concerned workers while the mechanism for the audit of registered units is also being changed. He also announced an increased number of SESSI Dispensaries in the SITE area.

He was addressing members of SITE Association of Industry on the occasion of his visit. He was accompanied by Vice Commissioner Sikandar Balouch, Medical Advisor Dr. Kamran Awan, Ambreen Kamil (Senior Director C&B), Saifullah Khan, (Director Education Cess), Muhammad Zahid Butt (Senior Director SITE East Directorate) and Syed Musharaf Hussain Rizvi

(Director SITE West Directorate).

Mr. Rahojo further announced that prior to issuance of Notice u/s 81, the registered unit will be given a chance of arbitration at the Association's office.

Earlier, President SITE Association Ahmed Azeem Alvi welcomed the SESSI Commissioner and assured him of full support from the Association in his endeavours to bring improvement in the Valika hospital.

Former Chairman Younus Bashir, Former Chairman Muhammad Tariq Yousuf, Former President Abdul Hadi, SVP Khalid Riaz on this occasion, VP Muhammad Riaz Dhedhi, Abdul Kadir Bilwani, Junaid-ur-Rehman,

M/s. Muhammad Arif Lakhany, Muhammad Kamran Arbi, Muhammad Kamran Lakhany, Abdul Rehman Fudda, Aman



Naseem, Muhammad Tahir Goreja, Abdul Rasheed, Zaheer Lakhany also spoke on this occasion.

M/s Muhammad Rizwan Lakhany and representatives from Member industries attended the meeting.

Chairman Labour Committee Muhammad Tahir Goreja proposed a vote of thanks.

IS Pakistan vs Zimbabwe 3rd One Day International Cricket Match

Pakistan Cricket Team crush Zimbabwe and won by 99 runs

Asim Tanveer

BULAWAYO/ZIMBABWE: Pakistan have won the ODI series against Zimbabwe 1-2. The Green Caps defeated the hosts Zimbabwe by 99 runs in the deciding ODI match in Bulawayo. The highlight of the match was Kamran Ghulam's brilliant debut century. They have won their second consecutive ODI series after defeating Zimbabwe in the Champions Trophy.

President, PM pay tribute to Pakistan cricket team for winning ODI series against Zimbabwe

Chasing the target of 304 runs was very difficult for Zimbabwe. After losing 2 wickets early in the innings, the most difficult thing was Yogya. Pakistan attacked with spin. Saim Ayub got out. After this, Zimbabwe captain Craig Aaron resisted with Marumani but Manu Mani fell to Abrar Ahmed after scoring 24 runs on a total of 49. Another important batter Sean Williams was the target of Haris Rauf on a score of 90. He also managed 24. Amir Jamal took the valuable wicket when Craig Aaron was happy to have just completed his fifty. He made 51 runs. At the score



of 130, Sikandar Raza was caught by Abdullah Shafiq off Amir Jamal's ball with an individual score of 16. Brian Bennett tried to manage his team in the middle. When he scored 37 runs, he became the victim of Abrar Ahmed. At that time, Zimbabwe's score was 170. Kamran Ghulam also took the first wicket. When Faraz Akram could score 5 runs, the 8th wicket fell on 175. After this, the Zimbabwe team was bowled out for 204 runs in 40.1 overs.

Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Haris Rauf and Aamir Jamal took 2 wickets each for Pakistan.

Pakistan set Zimbabwe a target of 304 runs to win the third and decisive One Day International match. In the match played in Bulawayo, Pakistan won the first toss of the series today and announced to bat first and retained the team from the previous match.

Earlier, Muhammad Rizwan won

the first toss in the current series and announced to bat first. No changes were made to the Pakistan team. Pakistan scored 303 runs for 6 wickets in 50 overs. Saim Ayub, who scored a brilliant fast century in the previous match, was the first player to be dismissed today, scoring 31 runs off 37 balls.

The other opener Abdullah Shafiq completed 50 runs today. He was dismissed after playing 68 balls. Pakistan had lost two wickets at 112. It was a beautiful start, which was taken advantage of by the later batsmen and they batted well and responsibly. Especially Kamran Ghulam, he scored 103 runs. He scored the first ODI century of his career. When he made his Test debut against England in Multan last month, he had also scored a century and Pakistan returned in this series. He was dismissed for 103 runs off 99 balls. His innings included 10 fours and four sixes. He was supported by the first captain Muhammad Rizwan, but unfortunately he was dismissed after scoring 37 runs. He faced 47 balls. Salman Ali Agha also came to play at the last numbers and was dismissed for 30 runs off 26 balls. Tayeb Tahir



batted a little responsibly. Irfan Khan was dismissed for three runs. Amir Jamal finished with Tayyab Tahir. Tayyab was not out on 29 and Amir

on 5. Zimbabwe graciously gave away 15 extra runs in the extras. Thus, Pakistan's cricket team also crossed the first 300 score of this series.

IS Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Alamgir Gymkhana, Qamar Abbas CC, Shalimar CC and Air Port Star won their Matches

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:

Alamgir Gymkhana defeated Jahanabad Cricket Club by 10 Wickets

at KCCA Stadium. Jahanabad CC 43 all out in 14 overs. Muhammad Jabbar 16. Ahsan Ali (ob) 3/3, Tariq Khan (sla) 3/12, Abdul Hayee (rlb) 2/4.

Alamgir Gymkhana 44/0 in 5.1 overs. Usman Shah 32 2x4 2x6 not out.

In the 2nd Match Qamar Abbas Cricket Club beat Inqilab Cricket Club by 1 Wicket at Pak Star Ground.

Inqilab CC 222/6 in 40 overs. Awais Khan 64 8x4 2x6, Asghar Khan 53 6x4 not out, Shakeel Ahmed 36. Ausaja Zaidi 3/22.

Qamar Abbas CC 225/9 in 34.3 overs. Shabih Haider 60 5x4, Mujtuba Jaffri 50 4x4, Ibad Hassan 50 6x4, Ausaja Zaidi 18. Asghar Khan 3/42, Abdul Rehman 2/27, Haris Khan 2/40.

In the 3rd Match Shalimar Cricket Club beat A. A. S Cricket Club by 5 Wickets at Abbasi Gymkhana Ground. A. A. S. CC 157 all out in 26 4 overs. Azman 45, Zain 30, Naneer 29. Bilal 3/23. Muhammad Sami 2/27.

Shalimar CC 161/5 in 21.3 overs. Sohail Khan 56 9x4, Muhammad Sami 42,

Hammad Zaidi 25. Umair Khan 2/26.

In the fourth Match Air Port Star Cricket Club beat King Star Cricket Club by 45 runs at Afza Ground. Air Port Star CC 253/7 in 40 overs. Asad Ali Shah 85 10x4 4x6, Abid Ali 34 not out, Osama Khan 24, Yasir Khan 23. Faizan Ahmed 4/33.

King Star CC 208 all out in 29.2 overs. Faizan Malik 79 8x4 6x6, Usman Ellahi 33, Muhammad Ahsan 22, Manzar Ali 20. Sameer Imam 4/35, Asad Ali Shah 2/30, Asadullah 2/40.

Trekking Trip to Shounter Pass

Prof. Arfan Ali Saddique

Since 1992, I have been deeply involved in organizing and guiding tours across Pakistan. What began as a modest endeavor gradually grew, taking me to some of the highest and most challenging passes, including Gondogoro La, Biafo-Hisper, and Mazeno Pass. Alongside these northern adventures, I've also cherished the vibrant tourism opportunities in southern Pakistan.

Recently, I joined Gilgit-Baltistan Alpine Association, which rekindled my passion for trekking. This summer, I planned a trekking expedition with a few friends, venturing to Cheecha Nala and the scenic Shonter Pass situated at the border of Astore of Gilgit-Baltistan with Neelum district of A.J.K.

My doctors had advised me to avoid activities that strain my knees due to early-stage arthritis, yet I was determined not to miss out. I searched for a pony to ease my journey but couldn't find one. Undeterred, we set off early in the morning from our native village, Salah Abad, to our first campsite, locally known as Shai Moos ("White Sliding"). The area, covered in rubble resembling white clay, lived up to its name.

Our first day of trekking was relatively uneventful in terms of scenery, as the trail resembled a narrow galli (lane). Yet, it was adorned with wildflowers, gurgling springs, and the occasional cascading waterfall. Our local guide, a treasure trove of stories about deer and ibex hunts, kept us entertained as we trekked for 7-8 hours before reaching Shai Moos. That evening, our guide, who used to bring his herds to this area for summer grazing, generously slaughtered a goat to prepare dinner. His warmth and hospitality touched us deeply. As



the night descended, we were mesmerized by the starlit sky, punctuated by the shimmering dance of satellites—a celestial spectacle that added to our joy.

On the second day, we woke up early to find a delightful surprise from our host, Yar Chacha. Not only had he prepared a hearty local breakfast, but he had also arranged two ponies to assist us on the journey ahead. Away from the bustling city, we savored the simplicity of rural life, enjoying fresh milk, butter,

cheese, and mutton. Energized, we continued to Doodur Plain, crossing a small glacier along the way. The open valley, alive with streams and verdant alpine meadows, was a feast for the eyes.

The Doodur Plain was breathtaking, its beauty leaving us spellbound. While the teenagers among us organized a spirited game of cricket, others busied themselves preparing food. The rest of us ventured to explore Window Pass, named for a natural rock formation resembling a window. The local summer settlers welcomed us with tea, cheese, and refreshing lassi. That night, we camped under the vast, starry skies of Doodur Plain.

On the third day, a few of us set out early in the morning for Shonter Pass. The trail was an adventurer's dream, bursting with wildflowers, cascading waterfalls, and lush alpine meadows. However, the journey was not without its challenges. Crossing streams proved daunting; locals traversed them on horseback, a skill that I had little experience with but managed to embrace. There were over five streams to navigate, each a thrilling yet intimidating obstacle.

As we climbed higher, the land-

scape transformed. The lower slopes of Shonter Pass were lush green, while the upper reaches, at approximately 4,800 meters, were blanketed in snow and marked by avalanches. We left the ponies in the valley below and hiked for 6-7 hours to reach the summit. The sense of exhilaration and oneness with nature at such heights is indescribable, an experience that reminded me of Wordsworth's reflections on nature as a nurturing force, a "benign mother and father."

The next day, we retraced our steps, bringing this remarkable journey to an end. This trek felt profoundly different from my earlier expeditions to high passes and towering peaks. Unlike those trips, which often had economic or professional motivations, this one was purely about reconnecting with nature and finding joy in the wilderness.

I am immensely grateful to the Gilgit-Baltistan Alpine Association for inspiring me to step back into the world of trekking and rediscover the wild. In today's cyber-obsessed world, such journeys are a vital reminder of the profound beauty and serenity that nature offers—a gift every young person and child should experience.

Secretary Sports orders completion of 10 sports schemes by Dec 30

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial has directed the officers concerned to complete the 10 sports schemes by December 30, 2024. He issued these directions while chairing a meeting at the Punjab Stadium on Thursday.

DG Sports Punjab Khizar Afzal Chaudhry and Additional Secretary Sports Mian Usman Ali attended the meeting while all Project Management Sports officers participated in the meeting online.

The CM Internship Programme and 158 under-construction sports facilities of province were also reviewed in detail during the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Muzaffar Khan Sial said that 131 new, 58 ongoing and Khelta Punjab sports schemes are being constructed across the province. "There will be no compromise on quality in the construction of sports stadiums," he warned.

He further said that phase one project of Punjab Stadium expansion is being completed while the phase two project will be started soon. "Kabaddi stadium in Sahiwal and Synthetic Hockey Turf Stadium in DG Khan have been completed," he informed.

He said that the best sports infrastructure has been built in the Punjab province. "Khelta Punjab sports schemes should be completed as per given time frame," he directed the officers concerned.



Cheezious Proudly Sponsors the International Blind T20 Cricket World Cup



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Cheezious, A proud Pakistani brand is honored to announce its sponsorship of the International Blind T20 Cricket World Cup, supporting Pakistan's National Blind Cricket Team in their quest for excellence. This incredible tournament showcases the resilience, talent, and passion of players who continue to inspire millions.

As the matches advance to Multan, Cheezious reaffirms its commitment to spreading "Cheezy Khushiyen" across the nation. By supporting our heroes on and off the field, we aim to celebrate their extraordinary journey and create memorable moments for fans everywhere. Head of Marketing Cheezious Zohaib Hasan said "Cheezious is immensely proud to back our National Blind Cricket Team in this prestigious event. Their determination and spirit exemplify what it means to overcome challenges and thrive. Together, let's cheer for our heroes and make this World Cup a remarkable celebration of talent and inclusion."

The International Blind T20 Cricket World Cup is a testament to the power of sports to unite communities and empower individuals. Cheezious stands committed to supporting initiatives that inspire and uplift our society.

Champions Trophy: Shahid Afridi supports PCB's stance against hybrid model

Former Pakistan cricket captain Shahid Afridi has voiced his strong support for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) as it stands firm on its decision to host the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 entirely within Pakistan despite India's demand for adopting a hybrid model.

The ninth edition of the Champions Trophy is slated to take place in the February-March window of 2025, but India's participation remains shrouded in uncertainty.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on November 10 communicated to the PCB that the Indian government is currently unwilling to permit their cricket team to travel to Pakistan for the tournament.

Signing ceremony

MOSCOW: Speaker National Assembly H.E. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Chairman Russian State Duma H.E. Vyacheslav Volodin signing agreement on cooperation on Thursday.



Photo: PID

National Assembly of Pakistan and Russian State Duma signed historic agreement on cooperation

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Pakistan and Russia signed a historic Agreement between State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Cooperation in Moscow today.

The Agreement was signed here in Moscow by Visiting Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker H. E. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and his counterpart H. E. Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the Russian State Duma.

The Agreement aims to enhance ties between the two legislative bodies and establish permanent cooperation mechanisms through committees, commissions and parliamentary groups.

In his opening remarks, Mr Sadiq noted that with Mr. Volodin, he has long ties of friendship, while with

some members of the Russian delegation, Mr Sadiq has been acquainted for over 10 years.

He also thanked Mr. Volodin for accepting invitation to visit Pakistan.

Speaker Sadiq also expressed gratitude to Mr. Volodin for his support to the initiative of Pakistan to convene a Speakers Conference Format.

The sides agreed to hold its fourth Session in Moscow in 2025. In this connection, Mr. Sadiq suggested that not only official but also business delegations may be invited to this meeting in order to enhance economic cooperation.

The Speaker, National Assembly H. E. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq visited State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation today, on the invitation of his counterpart, H. E. Vyacheslav Volodin. The two parliamentary leaders held a tête-à-tête, followed by delegation-level talks.

National security is directly linked with economic stability, says PM Shehbaz

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for collective efforts to strengthen country's economy as national security is directly linked with the economic stability.

Addressing the 26th security workshop of the National Defense University in Islamabad on Thursday, he said the national and the economic securities go hand and hand.

Shehbaz Sharif expressed the confidence that Pakistan is moving in the right direction. He said the Stock Exchange crossed the hundred thousand points, which is a big mark in Pakistan's history.

Regarding the security chal-



He said the brave soldiers of Pakistan Army, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), civilians, doctors,

nurses, skilled workers, children, mothers and people from all walks of life rendered sacrifices to defeat terrorism.

He added that the nation paid a huge price including a loss of 89,000 lives and economic damages worth 130 billion dollars in the war against terrorism.

The prime minister said the monster of terrorism has come back and it is showing its ugly face again in parts of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"A hefty amount of Rs600 billion has been given to KP governments since 2010 but it couldn't establish the projects of Safe City and CTD," said the prime minister.

He said that thousands of people were marching towards Islamabad with guns in their hands in order to create anarchy and chaos.

He said the marchers wanted to destroy this hard-earned stability in terms of bringing down inflation rate, increasing exports and remittances and skyrocketing stock exchange.

Replying to a question, Shehbaz Sharif said the Apex Committee has decided to launch an operation against the foreign funded movements in Balochistan.

He said the operation against such entities is going on under the umbrella of 'Azam-e-Istehkam' to ensure progress and prosperity of the people of Balochistan.

Participants of 7th Maritime Security Workshop Visit Naval Headquarters

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The participants of 7th Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW), led by Commandant Pakistan Navy War College, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood, visited Naval Headquarters.

The workshop participants received a briefing on contemporary maritime challenges and Pakistan Navy's response strategies, including its contributions to maritime awareness and socio-economic development of coastal communities. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, also interacted with the participants.

In his address, the Naval Chief elaborated on maritime security challenges and highlighted Pakistan's Blue Economy potential.



He emphasized efforts to enhance maritime and coastal security through initiatives such as Regional

Maritime Security Patrols and Coastal Security and Harbour Defence measures.

The visiting delegation, comprising parliamentarians, politicians, bureaucrats, Armed Forces officers, members of the media, and

representatives of civil society, highly appreciated Pakistan Navy's efforts and offered valuable suggestions.

Pakistan Stock Market achieves historic 100,000 milestone

Khurram Jaffrani

KARACHI: KSE-100 Index crossed the 100,000-point mark, delivering an impressive 142% return over the past 17 months. This achievement reflects growing investor confidence, improved fiscal and monetary policies, and an increasingly conducive economic environment.

As Market closed today, KSE-100 index climbed by 813.52 points, reaching 100,082.77 points, up from its previous close of 99,269.25.

The rally comes amidst signs of cooling inflation and declining interest rates, which have boosted market liquidity and fueled unprecedented gains.

Over the past five years, Pakistan Stock Exchange has delivered an annual return



of 20.9% in PKR terms and 7.7% in USD, underscoring its resilience and appeal.

Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari, MD & CEO of PSX said, "KSE-100 Index crossing the 100,000 mark is a proud moment for Pakistan Stock Exchange and a testament to the trust of our investors and the progress of nation's economy."

"Congratulations to all stakeholders on this remarkable accomplishment. Together, let us use this momentum to pave the way for long-term economic and financial success."

Governor Sindh, Mr. Kamran Tessori visited Pakistan Stock Exchange today to celebrate this achievement and congratulate the PSX management.

On arrival at PSX he was duly welcomed by Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari MD & CEO Pakistan Stock Exchange and the management team.

Foreign Secretary participates "Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution" in Brussels



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Ms. Amna Baloch participated in the second meeting of the "Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution" held today in Brussels, Belgium.

The first meeting of the Global Alliance was held last year in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Global Alliance was initiated

last year to promote coordination and advance tangible, irreversible and time-bound measures towards a just and enduring peace in the Middle East, including an end to Israeli occupation and establishment of an independent State of Palestine.

Speaking at the forum, the Foreign Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause. She called for a ceasefire in Gaza; a comprehensive approach for resolution of the Palestinian question, with the establishment of a sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital; and full membership of Palestine in the United Nations.

The Foreign Secretary also emphasized the imperative for the international community to intensify its efforts for lasting peace in the Middle East.

ISSI to host fourth Islamabad Conclave on 'Pakistan and the Evolving Global Order'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: ISSI's annual flagship event next week to focus on "Pakistan and the Evolving Global Order"

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)'s annual flagship dialogue forum, the "Islamabad Conclave", is set to take place on 3-4 December 2024. This would be the 4th Edition of Islamabad Conclave, with this year's thematic focus on "Pakistan and the Evolving Global Order."

The Islamabad Conclave embodies a Track 1.5 initiative designed to bring together high tiers of Pakistani leadership as well as distinguished practitioners, scholars, academics,

and area specialists from Pakistan and abroad. The event serves as a forum to evaluate developments at the global and regional levels; assess their general and specific impact on Pakistan; and propose responses and innovative solutions for Pakistan to the emerging challenges and opportunities.

Over the past four years, the Islamabad Conclave has emerged as a vital component of the annual, think-tanks-based Track 1.5 policy dialogues in Pakistan. Earlier, the 3rd Edition of Islamabad Conclave in 2023 generated insightful discourse and policy prescriptions on the theme of "Pakistan in a Changing World."

Pakistan assesses progress on Azerbaijan investment, privatization after high-level visit

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In light of the recent visit of a high-level Pakistani delegation to Azerbaijan, an important review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan to ascertain the progress on investment and privatization issues.

In this meeting Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Qasim Mohi Uddin also attended via video link and apprised that Azerbaijani Government institutions are keen in investing in Pakistan on a "G2G" model and take part in privatization of institutions.

He added that investment from Azerbaijan is also under consideration in two Motorways M6 and M9 in

the Communications sector of Pakistan. In the meeting, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that he is keen to quickly resolve investment issues with Central Asian Countries and the purpose of today's follow-up meeting is also to review the progress made in this regard.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan asked the Pakistani Ambassador to Azerbaijan to complete his Embassy's homework before the meeting of Joint Commission being held the two countries on December 24 & 25, this year. He added that he wants to move forward through coordinated measures in all the three sectors of Privatization, Investment and Communication for which he will soon the meeting separately with the Ambassadors of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan.