

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

کہا کہ میں نے عامر سے سنا، انہوں نے بیان کیا کہ مجھ سے ابو سلمہ بن عبد الرحمن نے بیان کیا اور ان سے عائشہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے اس سے فرمایا کہ جو راتیں علیہ السلام تمہیں سلام کہتے ہیں۔ عائشہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے کہا کہ وہ علیہ السلام اور جو اللہ ان پر بھی اللہ کی طرف سے سلامتی اور اس کی رحمت نازل ہو۔

(بخاری: صفحہ نمبر 6253)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Deputy PM Dar to visit Iran on Monday

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar will pay a two-day official visit to Mashhad, Iran from Monday to attend the 28th meeting of the Council of Ministers of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).



Uzbekistan Airways first direct flight lands in Lahore

First direct flight from Tashkent to Lahore was launched on Friday and it was welcomed by Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtayev along with local industrialists and business community at Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore. The Uzbekistan Airways flight landed at 9 am which was warmly welcomed with a Water Salute at the airport.

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High Level Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a high level meeting regarding law and order on Friday.



Photo: PID

CJCS General Sahir visits forward Naval Operational Base, Ormara



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC) General Sahir Shamsahad Mirza visited forward Naval Operational Base, Ormara today. Upon arrival, a comprehensive operational brief was presented to Chairman CJSC on prevailing threat environment and defence of the area. General Sahir Shamsahad Mirza visited operational assets of Navy including Surface Ships and a Submarine and reviewed

operational preparedness and combat readiness of the units in sea. During interactions with troops at Coastal Area and onboard ships, Chairman CJSC expressed satisfaction on operational readiness of deployed elements. He also appreciated the morale of troops and directed the field units to ensure optimal utilization of latest weapons and equipment with zeal and zest in order to ensure defence of the motherland.

PM for efforts to quash PTI's inimical designs of invading Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged the country's civil and military leadership to formulate a strategy to avert the repeat of PTI's invasion of Islamabad aimed at sabotaging the hard earned peace and macro-economic stability.

"Pakistan's image has been tarnished all over. This has been the third to fourth invasion against the federal capital during the past eight months by the PTI. There was no concept of such unholy acts and designs before 2014. It started in 2014 with the 126-day long sit-in that damaged the economy

and country's image," the prime minister said addressing a high level meeting he chaired on the law and order situation in the country.

The meeting was attended by members of the federal cabinet, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, and other senior government officers and law enforcement agencies.

Calling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf as "Tehreek-e-Takreeb (Insurgency Movement)", the prime minister censured its leadership for running over the federal capital repeatedly to sabotage the hard earned peace, macroeconomic stability and

revival of hefty foreign capital investments into the country.

"The country's economy again witnessed a major blow as according to a guardedly estimate such protests cause Rs190 billion per day loss to the national economy. The impact on the exports, imports, production, services, private businesses, loss of public and private offices is huge," Prime Minister Shehbaz said.

"Federal government's senior leadership, COAS and his entire team are present here. Time and tide wait for none. It's (PTI) not a political party but an abetment and a saboteurs and miscreants' group that should be taken to task as per law.

It's our national duty to expose them and, if not, history will judge us in a very bad light and posterity will not forgive us," the prime minister said.

Calling the KP a "beautiful" province with its people very brave, strong and patriots, he called for a focus on the development initiatives for them.

He said the recent killings in Parachinar city of KP was a clandestine move to damage country's peace, but it was painful to see the KP government's indifference to the situation.

He noted that the violence by PTI miscreants' clique in Islamabad resulted in the martyrdoms of a police and four Rangers personnel with dozens of police

officers and constables injured.

The prime minister repeated that the due to the PTI's 126-day sit-in in 2014, the Chinese President's visit was deferred and was rescheduled seven months later in April 2015, following myriads of efforts.

The prime minister also recalled the PTI's attempts to sabotage the SCO conference hosted by Islamabad and undermine the Pakistan-Saudi brotherly relations by baseless propaganda by the party leadership.

The participants of the meeting also offered Fateha, led by the COAS, for the security personnel who embraced martyrdom during the PTI protest.

PM hails lifting of ban on PIA flights by EASA

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday welcomed the lifting of ban on Pakistan Airline (PIA) flights by the European Commission and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

In a statement issued by the PM Office, the prime minister congratulated Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, aviation ministry, authorities of Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority and PIA management.

He highlighted that lifting of the ban will strengthen PIA's reputation and benefit it financially.

He said this reflected the success of Pakistan's policies and it will also facilitate air travel for Pakistanis living in Europe.

PTI leaders face fake cases: Omar Ayub

N A Khan

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Omar Ayub said that he along with KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur was attacked in the federal capital demanding the matter should be probed.

Taking to the media outside the court, Omar Ayub said that they were facing fake cases. He said that their peaceful protest was obstructed. "CM Gandapur said that they would not go to the red zone" he clarified.

He said that nobody advised to keep Bushra Bibi away from politics. Talking to a question he said that there was no need to impose the governor rule in the province.

He further said that all the decisions of the party were directed by the PTI founder himself. He also refuted any of the news about change in the party leadership.

IHC suspends journalist Matiullah Jan's physical remand

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday suspended Journalist Matiullah Jan's two-day physical remand ordered by an anti-terrorism court (ATC).

Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard the plea challenging journalist Matiullah Jan's two-day physical remand.

Representing the journalist, lawyers Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha appeared alongside Advocate Riasat Ali Azad, President of the Islamabad High Court Bar Association.

Advocate Azad highlighted that the FIR did not mention any transaction or purchase and included an

affidavit from another journalist, emphasising that the case was based on fabricated allegations.

The court suspended the anti-terrorism court's decision, directing that Matiullah Jan be considered under judicial remand.

Meanwhile, Imaan



Mazari announced plans to file Matiullah Jan's bail application later today.

It must be remembered that Jan was arrested on Thursday in a case pertaining to "terrorism and under influence of drugs (crystal myth)".

However, his arrest was criticised widely by various journalist unions.

EASA lifts ban on PIA flights to Europe: Khawaja Asif

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence and Aviation Minister Khawaja Asif Friday confirmed that the European Commission and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) lifted the ban on PIA flights to Europe.

Calling it a historic day, the federal minister credited the success to the Ministry of Aviation's focused efforts and adherence to international safety standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

EASA had suspended PIA flights to European countries on June 30, 2020, following revelations of fake pilot licenses.

However, after government efforts, the suspension was temporarily eased, allowing PIA to operate flights until July 3, 2020.

Talking to a private TV channel, the defence minister stated, "We are

aiming to resume operations as soon as possible. While I cannot provide an exact date, it's only a matter of time."

He further explained that PIA, which is in the process of privatisation, needs new aircraft for its fleet before it can restart services to Europe. "PIA is facing a significant shortage of aircraft for these new routes," Asif said, adding that this would also assist in the airline's financial recovery.

Regarding privatisation, Asif noted, "Our initial round of privatisation did not receive much response. However, regaining these European routes is a major boost for PIA and will make it more appealing to potential buyers."

He also mentioned that while the privatisation transaction may require restructuring, the process would move forward swiftly.

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PM AJK hails induction of eight motorbike ambulances in Azad Kashmir

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has appreciated the induction of a motorbike squad equipped with ambulance facilities in the emergency response fleet saying that the initiative would be instrumental in ensuring rapid response in dealing with emergency situations. Prime Minister Haq said this while speaking at a ceremony, which was held under the aegis of State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) here today.

The PM also inspected the Prime the Emergency Motorbike Ambulances and handed over keys to Emergency Response Squad personnel. On this occasion, Director Operation State Disaster Management Authority Saeed-ur-Rehman Qureshi gave a detailed briefing to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir about the Emergency Response Motorbike Ambulance Squad. He said that in addition to urban areas the Emergency Response Squad was rendering its service in



remote areas of Rawalakot, Neelum, Jhelum Valley and Muzaffarabad. Government ministers including Col. (retd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, Abdul Majid Khan, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, Mian Abdul Waheed, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Secretary State Disaster Management Authority

Ms. Tehzeeb-un-Nisa, Commissioner Muzaffarabad Division Masood-ur-Rehman, Director Administration SDMA Noman Shafiq, Director Rescue Moazzam Zafar and others were present on the occasion.

The PM was accompanied by Interior Minister Col. (retd) Waqar Ahmed, Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Sardar

Javed Ayub, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, Abdul Majid Khan, Mian Abdul Waheed Khan, Akmal Sargala, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Sardar Aamir Altaf, Commissioner Muzaffarabad Division Masood-ur-Rehman, Mayor Muzaffarabad Syed Sikandar Gilani and others.

Multan court ordered to immediate release Amir Dogar

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Member of National Assembly Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar along with MNA Zain Qureshi and MPA Moin Riaz Qureshi were arrested and produced in a case by Qadirpur Rawan police station. The court, after hearing the arguments of the lawyers, ordered the release of Malik Amir Dogar along with his associates. On this occasion, MNA Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar, while talking to the media, said that on the 24th, as per the party's instructions, I left Multan early in the morning with my procession. My MPA



Malik Adnan Dogar and MPA Moin Qureshi were also with me. Near Khanewal, a heavy contingent of police blocked the path of our convoy and surrounded us. I and 127 of my workers were arrested. Despite such a large number of arrests, my convoy continued towards its destination. When the market of atrocities and barbarities was being heated at D-Chowk in Islamabad, bullets were being fired at unarmed PTI workers, my younger brother MPA Malik Adnan Dogar was there with his colleagues and was also an eyewitness to the atrocities and barbarities.

Shah Abdul Latif University VC pays surprise visit to centers of ongoing annual examinations



Qayoom Sarohi

KHAIRPUR: Vice Chancellor Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur, Meritorious Professor Dr. Yousuf Khushik paid a surprise visit to the centers of ongoing annual examinations.

He visited Government Degree College for Women Khairpur, Government Mumtaz Degree College Khairpur and Government Degree Superior Science College Khairpur.

During the visit, Dr. Khushik interacted with the appearing candidates and remarked that youth is a dynamic force for change and development of any nation. He advised them to participate in academic life and healthy activities as Education is a vital tool for nation building.

On the occasion, he further stated that we are in the process of Automation to facilitate the students by addressing their grievances and promote accountability within the institution.

In this regard, we are going to introduce the online attendance system in annual examinations. Besides, we will implement the digital tabulation system to expedite the process of result declaration. In addition, we will try to implement the centralized evaluation system.

However, we may face some problems in the beginning, but later it will help us a lot to solve the students' grievances in the future, he added.

He said that the teachers and staff at the colleges are more aware of the automation system as they deal with the education authorities.

The deputed teachers appreciated VC SALU for taking initiative to improve the quality of education in colleges and universities.

They assured VC SALU of all possible support to make the colleges and universities a role model for other institutions in Sindh province.

Earlier, Dr. Yousuf Khushik visited the Chemistry Department of SALU to review the arrangements for the second semester examinations.

Aamir Pathan, Controller of Examinations, Imran Sommo and Waseem Kalhoro, Secretary to the Vice Chancellor were present on the occasion.

Raja Saqib warns against harassment of officers under guise of accountability

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Central Chief Organizer Muslim Conference Raja Saqib Majeed has said that officers should not be harassed under the guise of accountability.

The secretary is the most important post in the government system, which is responsible for implementing public policy and law. The entire governance system depends on this one post. If secretaries are disrespected, governance will also be affected. There should be accountability, but officers should not be harassed under the guise of this so-called action.

The Accountability Bureau should work within its jurisdiction. Recently, officers with good reputation were harassed due to such work which is of a judicial nature and the government is the forum for appeal. There is no scope for action against any officer in the relevant law. Rather, action should be taken against those who provide wrong information as per the law, whereas here only officers are being harassed. The government should take steps to restore the self-respect of officers. Such steps should be avoided which would further worsen the already bad situation of the state he warned. He said that due to these issues enemy gets a chance to spread propaganda he added.

Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: UBG Patron-in-Chief SM Tanveer, Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, Tala Gang Chamber of Commerce President Malik Shabbir Awan, Ehsan Bacha, Nawaz Mandori, Taj Muhammad Khan and other officials present flowers to the guests at an exhibition organized by the Mardan Small Chamber of Industry.



In partnership with WHH, Hyderabad women set up two-day Bachat Bazar

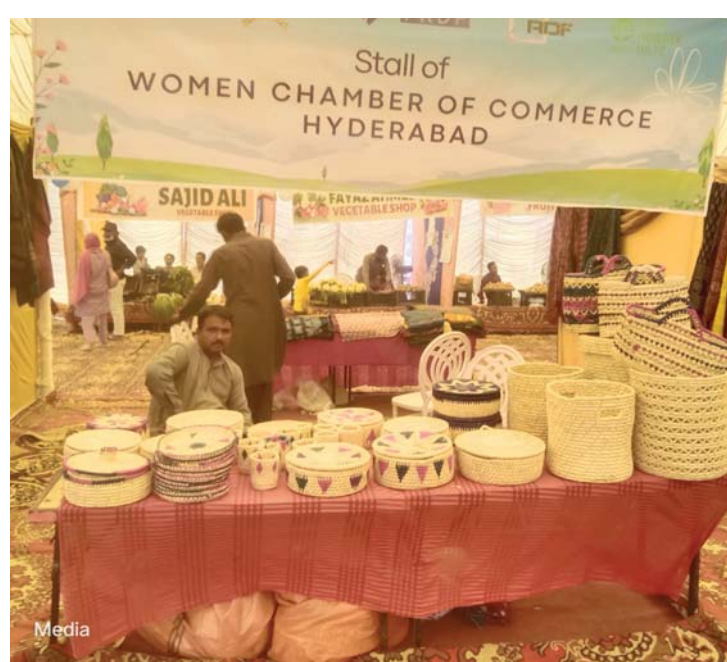
Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: A social organization set up a two-day Bachat Bazar in Hyderabad. Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abideen Memon appreciated the initiative and emphasized the need for more such markets. The social organization, in collaboration with WHH (Welthungerhilfe), established the market at RDF Hussainabad Ground, Hyderabad. The Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries Hyderabad set up eight stalls featuring handicrafts and other items.

Women Chamber of Commerce, Shahida Ghulam Rasool, along with Rozina Junejo, organized the handicraft stalls. Additionally, stalls for vegetables, eggs, and fruits were also set up.

WHH expert on economic development and value chain, Sarwan Baloch, shared that WHH is working on food security and flood emergency initiatives across various cities in the country. With WHH's support, RDF plans to establish nine more discount markets in Hyderabad.

Ashfaq Ahmed, RDF's project manager, stated that RDF is working on an urban food project in Hyderabad, which provides middle-class citizens with kitchen garden supplies, chickens, and training. These discount markets also facilitate citizens by allowing them to sell their produce



through dedicated stalls. RDF is actively working on food security, while the district administration provides grounds for the discount markets.

MDA's Performance and Private Housing Societies Issues

The primary objective of urban development authorities is to provide modern housing facilities to citizens and execute development projects with proper planning. The Multan Development Authority (MDA) was established to launch new housing schemes has created a void, which the private sector has attempted to fill.

The private sector has introduced various housing societies and town projects, ensuring modern amenities for the residents. Many of these projects comply with local laws and bylaws. Despite this, MDA seems engaged

in actions against private housing schemes, creating the impression that it is attempting to obstruct or hinder the progress of the private sector.

One significant example is the SOHNI DHARTI Housing Scheme, a residential project spanning 146 kanals located at Southern Bypass in Moza Jahangir abad, Multan. This scheme received technical approval from MDA's Director Urban Planning on March 1, 2022. The developer fulfilled all conditions outlined under Clause 17 of the Punjab Private Housing Schemes & Land Subdivision Rules, 2010, thus ensuring the scheme's legal status.

However, MDA recently sealed the office of this scheme, a surprising and controversial move. This action was taken despite the fact that Sohni Dharti

Housing Scheme's developer had fulfilled all legal requirements. Such actions raise questions about whether this is due to administrative shortcomings or other underlying factors.

It is imperative that MDA provides clarity regarding its actions and ensures transparency for the public. If the developer has met the legal requirements, their efforts should be acknowledged, and the development process should proceed without hindrance. Such situations can adversely affect the process of urban development and erode public trust. Transparency and

adherence to the law are the responsibilities of all stakeholders.

The developers of Sohni Dharti Housing Scheme have met all necessary documentation and requirements in accordance with MDA and the Punjab Private Housing Scheme Rules, 2010. The details are as follows:



Mian Abdul Rauf Qureshi

1. The layout plan of the housing scheme was submitted to MDA's Master Plan Office, and plots were mortgaged through MDA's Raiyaz Patwari as a guarantee.
2. A geo-referenced soft copy of the approved layout plan was submitted to MDA.
3. All approval fees for the housing scheme, amounting to approximately PKR 516,000, and a penalty of PKR 292,000 have been paid. Receipts are included in the file.
4. Land has been designated for roads, mosques, sewerage disposal stations, graveyards, waterworks, and solid waste management.
5. An NOC was obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency and submitted to MDA.
6. Maps for roads, footpaths, sewerage systems, horticulture, and water supply have been duly submitted and included in the file at MDA.

All these conditions have been fulfilled as per the Punjab Private Housing Schemes & Land Subdivision Rules, 2010. Despite meeting all

the requirements, sealing the office of Sohni Dharti Housing Scheme is an unnecessary and inappropriate step by MDA.

This action is detrimental not only to the developers but also to the public, who rely on this scheme for their housing needs. MDA should ensure transparency and fairness in its policies to avoid creating obstacles in the process of urban development.

The Chief Minister Punjab Marryam Nawaz and the Secretary of Housing are urged to take notice of the fact that housing schemes in Punjab that are physically completed as per regulations should be issued NOCs. A noteworthy point is that even MDA's own colonies lack designated land for grid stations as per rule(10)(2) I.

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SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:25 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 4451122 & Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

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

ACCA celebrates 120 years and counting

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: ACCA, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, will mark a significant occasion this weekend as it celebrates 120 years since its creation. Founded in London by a group of eight accountants on 30 November 1904, it has since grown into a global network of more than 252,500 members and 526,000 future members across 180 countries.

Head of ACCA Pakistan Assad Hameed Khan said: 'By staying true to our founding value of inclusion, ACCA has become a truly global organisation, working for the public good. When ACCA was founded in 1904, nobody could have predicted how much we'd achieve.'

The election of Ayla Majid to the office of president at the recent AGM, along with Melanie Profit as deputy president and Datuk Zaiton Mohd Hassan as vice president, makes this the first time in ACCA's history that women have held all three officer posts at the same time.

Helen Brand OBE, chief executive of ACCA, remarked: '2024 has truly been a landmark year for us. In May our membership numbers exceeded a quarter of a million. In September we launched our new Professional Diploma in Sustainability.'

Overseas Pakistanis face issues of land grabbing, police brutality and harassment: British Citizen Siddiqui

Sultan Bashir

ISLAMABAD: Mohammad Usman Siddiqui, a Pakistani-origin British citizen and Vice President of the Pakistan-UK Trade Forum, held a press conference alongside Mr. Rauf Raja, Vice President Ayesha Khan and Member Muhammad Nawaz Basra to shed light on the land encroachment issue faced by overseas Pakistanis.

Siddiqui, who arrived in Pakistan to attend IDEAS 2024 at the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, revealed

that his ancestral land in the village of Gajriyan (Khasra No. 129) has been illegally occupied by a person named Nazakat Hussain. He stated that despite a court stay order, the accused parties have violated the order and established unlawful encroachments on the property.

Upon his arrival in Pakistan on November 9, 2024, Siddiqui faced harassment and obstructions during his visit. He revealed that false FIRs were registered against him in collaboration with the police in Azad Kashmir, aiming to damage his reputation. One of these

FIRs, dated November 7, 2024, was filed prior to his arrival in Pakistan. This led to his illegal arrest, harassment, and damage to his property.

Siddiqui further mentioned that on November 13, 2024, his property was forcibly occupied, wires and CCTV cameras were damaged, and his vehicle was unlawfully seized. He also accused Assistant Commissioner Tanveer-ul-Islam of issuing verbal threats and preventing his entry into Koi Ratta without any legal grounds.

The issue has been reported to the

SSP of Kotli, where it was noted that subordinate staff, under the influence of Nazakat Hussain, manipulate reports to favor the encroachers. Nazakat Hussain, who works in the Revenue Department, has been meddling with the land records, changing the Khasra number from 129 to 128, and using his position to harass Siddiqui and his family by filing false cases and pressuring them into withdrawing their legal complaints.

Siddiqui has requested the authorities to take disciplinary action against the accused and cancel the fabricated

cases filed against him. He urged that the relevant authorities take swift action in accordance with the law.

In response to a question, Mohammad Usman Siddiqui emphasized the challenges facing foreign investment in Pakistan, highlighting that local attitudes and the exploitation of overseas Pakistanis through legal entanglements remain a significant hurdle. He expressed that overseas Pakistanis who wish to invest in their homeland face continuous harassment and legal threats from individuals with influence.

Press conference

ISLAMABAD: Vice President of Pak-UK Trade Forum Usman Siddiqui addressing a press conference at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association held an important meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The business community associated with the food sector, led by Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, President Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed, informed Abgine Khan, Director North Punjab Food Authority and Adnan Akram, Deputy Director Operations Rawalpindi, of their concerns and requested that the Punjab Food Authority play its positive role in resolving the legitimate problems of the traders. On this, Abgine Khan, Director North Punjab Food Authority and Adnan Akram, Deputy Director Operations appreciated the efforts of President Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry and assured them of resolving the problems of the traders.

In addition, regarding World Food Day, Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association presented



suggestions regarding organizing awareness seminars and holding meetings with the Punjab Food Authority every two months. On this occasion, Saleem Pervaiz Butt, President Grocery Association Rawalpindi and Patron-in-Chief Punjab, informed about the issues related to grocery

licensing and medical certificates. Similarly, Malik Waqar, President Fresh Milk Association, pointed out the checking of milk and those who illegally sell it on stalls. Khurshid Qureshi, General Secretary Nambai Association, informed about the fines imposed by the Punjab Food Authority

for taping on the bales. While Javed Rahat, President Meat Association, pointed out those who illegally sell meat.

On this, Abgine Khan, Director Punjab Food Authority North, listened to all the issues in detail and assured to work together with all the associations to resolve them.

Experts Convene to Tackle Climate Change, Agriculture, and Nutrition in Pakistan

City Desk

KARACHI: Leading voices in climate resilience, agriculture, and nutrition gathered in Karachi for the Annual Conference on Climate Change, Agriculture, Human Nutrition & Development in Pakistan. Hosted by the Aga Khan University's (AKU) Institute for Global Health & Development (IGHD) in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Pakistan, the event united policymakers, researchers, and community members to address the mounting impacts of climate change in Pakistan and globally.

In his opening remarks, Dr Zulfikar A. Bhutta, Distinguished Professor and Founding Director of IGHD, underscored the urgency of such discussions: 'Climate change is not just an environmental crisis—it is a threat multiplier affecting health, nutrition, and livelihoods. Pakistan stands at a critical juncture, and the solutions we identify today will determine whether we mitigate disaster or amplify its impact.'



Keynote speakers Prof Sir Andrew Haines from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; Dr Lynette Neufeld, Director Food & Nutrition, Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO); and Dr Haris Gazzdar from the Collective for Social Science Research, Pakistan shared insights on climate change impacts and future solutions.

Chief Guest, Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan said, 'The challenges posed by climate change are monumental, but so are the opportunities to innovate and transform. Institutions like AKU are central to this transformation, connecting research to policy and practice to protect future generations.'

The two-day conference aims to outline solutions for climate change's impact on Pakistan's agriculture, health, and nutrition, reaffirming AKU's leadership in driving interdisciplinary collaboration and evidence-based sustainable development.

Seminar on Sustainable Food Production held

Special Correspondent

MULTAN: The Department of Food Science and Technology at Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, organized a seminar focusing on the theme of 'Sustainable Food Production.' The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Samiullah, representative of Nestlé Pakistan Pvt. Ltd., as the guest of honor, while Dr. Tariq Ismail, Chairperson of the department, served as the chief organizer.

In his address to the attendees, Dr. Tariq Ismail emphasized the pressing need for Pakistan's food industry to transition towards sustainable and technology-driven systems. He noted that adopting such approaches could significantly enhance food production while ensuring environmental preservation.

Mr. Samiullah shared insights from Nestlé's experiences and their contributions to sustainable food production.

Dr. Tariq Ismail expressed his gratitude to the seminar participants, emphasizing that such programs play a pivotal role in raising awareness and inspiring practical actions among the youth.

Dr. Raheel Salman and Dr. Qamar from the Department of Food Science and Technology also attended the event.

The seminar marked a significant milestone in the field of sustainable food production. It provided a common platform for students, faculty, and industry professionals to exchange expertise and ideas, fostering collaboration for a sustainable future in food production.

Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Concludes 21-Day 'Awami Theatre Festival'

City Desk

KARACHI: 21-day 'Awami Theatre Festival,' organized by Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, concluded, celebrating the vibrant colors of theatre. The closing ceremony was attended by Provincial Minister for Culture Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah as a special guest. President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah and Chairman Drama Committee Shehzad Raza Naqvi warmly welcomed all the guests. Prominent artists, including Iqbal Latif, Shakeel Shah, Rizwan Sabir, Shabbir Bhatti, Younis Memon, Wajih Waris, Danish Baloch, Tasneem Rana, Khadim Hussain Uchvi, Zahoor Malik, Hameed Rathore, Ilyas Nadeem, Adam Rathore, Jameel Rahi, Saleem

Afridi, Zakir Mastana, Parvez Siddiqui, H. Iqbal, Aftab Kamdar, Rauf Lala, Ali Roshan, Nazir Hussain, Rafiq Esani, Sheema Kermani, Nauman Khan, and Zahid Shah, attended the ceremony. The festival showcased 26 plays in various languages, including Urdu, Sindhi, Pashto, Saraiki, and Memoni. These plays ranged from comedy and social commentary to serious and reformist themes. The plays performed at the festival included Theatre Khuwahish, Wah Sain Wah, Daagh, Geebat, Heer Raanjha ki Chaar Kahaniyan, Khoobsurat, Guddi Hateli, Jaan Hazir Hai, Be wass, Zar Parast, Manzil Hai Aasmaan, Sharadhanjili, Aas Ke Tinkay, Saleem Ka Drama, Rishtay, Taj Tara, Yeh Nahi Bataunga, Dhareen Ja Dharaka, Biwi, Batwa Aur Batwara, Naferman, Meesaq-e-Mo-

habbat, Parwarish, Manto Mera Dost, Mazaq-e-Khaas, Mustaqbil, and Batwara. During the ceremony, Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah highlighted the significance of such an event. He said that 'At a time when the country faces turmoil, organizing such a magnificent festival in Karachi is commendable.'

Awards and shields were presented to artists recognized for their outstanding direction, including Shakeel Shah, Adam Rathore, Saleem Afridi, Zakir Mastana, Parvez Siddiqui, Aftab Kamdar, Rauf Lala, Nazir Hussain, Rafiq Aisani, Sheema Kermani, Nauman Khan, H. Iqbal, Jameel Rahi, Ali Roshan, Rizwan Sabir, Shabbir Bhatti, Younis Memon, Wajih Waris, Danish Baloch, Tasneem Rana, Khadim Hussain Uchvi, Zahoor Malik, Hameed



Rathore, Ilyas Nadeem, and Zahid Shah. Following the ceremony, Zahid Shah's satirical and reformist play 'Batwara' was performed. The cast,

including Shanzeh, Javed Takani, Sidra Sheikh, Jibran Khan, Arif Babli, Faiza Malik, Huzaiifa Shah, Sehr Ghazal, Talha Bhojani, and Zahid

Shah, delivered stellar performances. The audience highly appreciated the play, expressing their admiration with enthusiastic applause.

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How did Ali Sobh become a Megamillionaire? - I

A young, pregnant woman from Lebanon fled to the United States—the “Land of Opportunity”—with her husband and family, escaping the horrors of a war-torn homeland. They arrived in America shattered, both emotionally and financially. Struggling to find their footing in a foreign land, they faced a harsh new reality that seemed anything but promising.

One night, the woman had a vivid dream in which she was pregnant with a golden child, a vision that left her both bewildered and conflicted. How could such a dream be true when her family was trapped in the suffocating grip of poverty? The dream felt like a cruel joke, a mockery of her life's grim circumstances.

Her despair only deepened when her child was born—a boy with a host of physical challenges. He was legally blind, unable to read due to a genetic condition, and flat-footed, which made standing for long periods nearly impossible. As he grew, it became clear he would never become the doctor, engineer, or police officer she once imagined. He could never drive, a freedom most people took for granted. The burden of his limitations weighed heavily on her heart, and she began to question not only her dream but her own worth as a mother.

To add to the family's misfortune, her husband was betrayed by his own brothers. They robbed him of his hard-earned money, ousted him from their

shared business, and reduced him to the role of a mere servant. This betrayal crushed his spirit, leaving the family even more vulnerable.

Amid this sea of despair was their son, a boy whose childhood was stolen by necessity. At the tender age of nine, he took on the grueling job of a paperboy to help his family pay the mounting bills. While other children played, went to the movies, and celebrated birthdays, he worked tirelessly, shouldering burdens far beyond his years. By thirteen, he had added the roles of busboy and waiter to his growing list of jobs. His life was a relentless cycle of labor, leaving little room for school, play, or dreams of his own.

Despite his sacrifices, the boy felt invisible, his efforts unnoticed and uncelebrated. Each day he fought a silent battle against the unfairness of his circumstances, against the weight of expectations he could barely carry. His mother, too, sank deeper into her own disillusionment, convinced that the golden child from her dream was nothing more than a cruel illusion.

And yet, amidst the heartbreak and relentless toil, a quiet resilience began to grow within him—a spark of something extraordinary waiting to be revealed.

Despite his hardships, Ali was a spiritual soul. People often remarked that he had the aura of a priest. His

calm demeanor and striking good looks made him stand out, even in his difficult circumstances. After years of relentless work, he managed to save \$6,000—a small fortune in his eyes—but he never let his struggles dim his optimism. His handsome features eventually caught the attention of a modeling agency, and for a while, he found fleeting success in the limelight.

At just 19, Ali took a bold step and opened his own business: a small ice cream shop. But his father forced him instead to help him in a restaurant business. He took out a loan by pledging his house and insisted on becoming Ali's business partner. Deep down, Ali knew it was a risky decision, but out of respect for his father, he agreed. Within a year, their business failed. They lost everything—the shop, their savings, and even their dreams. The weight of this failure forced Ali to drop out of college. At just 17, he experienced the heartbreak of foreclosure, and his father was crushed under the weight of debt. Poverty, which they had fought so hard to escape, came roaring back into their lives.

To make matters worse, Ali suffered a devastating injury, breaking his leg after a horseback riding accident. Unable to afford proper treatment, he cut off his plaster prematurely, leaving his leg permanently damaged and in chronic pain. Yet, even in the depths of despair,

he refused to give up. Ali returned to work, taking on grueling jobs as a waiter and laborer, carrying heavy loads from shops to carnivals. Just as he began to recover emotionally, another challenge arose. His uncle, who ran a car wash, offered Ali a job, promising to pay him \$600 a month for exhausting hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. But this job came with its own humiliations. While Ali toiled tirelessly, his cousin—meant to manage the car wash—enjoyed a life of luxury, flaunting a \$60,000 Cadillac and shirking all responsibilities.

Ali's spirit was tested daily. One particularly painful moment came on his 22nd birthday when he asked for a single day off. His cousin, cold and dismissive, refused. That night, Ali returned home utterly broken. The weight of his struggles became unbearable. For the first time, he seriously considered ending his life. With a gun to his neck, ready to pull the trigger, he decided to say one final goodbye to his mother. It was during that moment of connection that clarity struck. Ali realized he couldn't let his pain define him. He vowed that within a year, he would turn his life around.

Fueled by sheer determination, Ali worked relentlessly. At 22, he managed to open his own car wash. By 28, he owned six car washes, built from the ground up through his hard work and grit. He married the love of his life and finally began to taste the success he had fought so hard for.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Timely execution of PSDP projects

Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review the first quarter progress of the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2024-25.

The meeting is part of a series of sessions aimed at assessing the performance of various ministries in implementing development projects, said a press release.

During the session, key ministries and divisions, including the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Division, National Heritage and Culture Division, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Petroleum Division, and SUPARCO, presented updates on their respective PSDP projects.

The federal government had authorized Rs155 billion for the first quarter to ministries and divisions under the PSDP framework.

The minister stressed the importance of ensuring these funds are utilized effectively, with a focus on achieving tangible outcomes.

While reviewing the projects, Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the timely completion of projects, particularly ongoing initiatives, which should ideally be finalised as per time frame mentioned in PC-1.

He directed that sufficient funding be allocated to these projects to avoid delays, while new projects must have budgetary provisions that span their stipulated timelines to prevent execution hurdles.

The minister also highlighted the need for reallocating funds from projects with zero expenditure to expedite those currently under implementation. “No lapses in project execution are affordable,” he said, underscoring the urgency of maintaining momentum in development work.

In a firm message on fiscal prudence, he said that duplication of projects must be avoided, given the government's limited financial resources.

“Each penny must be spent vigilantly, ensuring maximum impact for national development,” he added.

The meeting is part of a broader initiative to enhance accountability and transparency in the utilization of PSDP funds.

Ministries and divisions are being scrutinized for their spending patterns, with a focus on aligning projects with national priorities.

The planning minister further reiterated that the outcomes of these reviews would guide future allocations and policy adjustments, ensuring that development projects contribute meaningfully to Pakistan's economic and social growth.



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

Chevening Diplomacy

Dr Qaisar Rashid

On August 30, British High Commissioner Jane Marriott chaired the ceremony of awarding 46 Chevening Scholarships to Pakistani mid-career professionals for the 2023-24 academic year in the field of social sciences. Almost half of them goes to civil servants, whereas the rest goes to other aspirants—to get a fully funded one-year Master's degree in the United Kingdom (UK).

Chevening is the UK Government's international scholarship program run as part of foreign policy objectives. Declared aims of the scholarship are access to some of the best quality education in the world, exclusive networking opportunities and the chance to explore the UK's diverse culture, and then join the Chevening alumni club. A prerequisite is to secure an unconditional offer on a course run by three Chevening partner universities each. Fully funded includes tuition fees, living expenses and travel costs. Estimatedly, each such scholarship costs the UK Government around 20,000 GBP per student selected. A question is this: what is the purpose of this huge spending?

Within the domain of engaging civil servants, dozens of examples of misalignment between the educational backgrounds of applicants, degrees awarded, and career prospects of applicants as mid-career professionals exist.

Similarly, a civil servant working in In-land Revenue was awarded a Chevening scholarship to study Masters in Public Administration at the University of Warwick. The officer had an educational background of medicine (MBBS), but no academic background of public administration. The degree awarded was also not aligned with the future of the civil servant, who should have been given advanced knowledge in the field of income and corporate taxes, though public administration could be remotely related. Obviously, such admissions could not

be secured by self-paying overseas Pakistani students.

In each case, fixed in a frame, the degree adorns the walls of the office of the civil servant who would keep on bragging about the achievement of studying at a renowned university, without revealing to an admiring listener that the slate of knowledge was still clean, as the degree was irrelevant to the core discipline of the career. For the Chevening scheme, the only thing relevant is to develop a network of indebted, gratified civil servants working in Pakistan. The scholarship is akin to bakshesh— a payment (such as a tip or bribe) to expedite services. The underlying purpose is to develop an obliged, loyal group of civil servants who could facilitate deep penetration into the system afterwards. Certainly, the scholarship scheme develops a network of grateful civil servants, who are tuned to watching the interests of the UK Government in Pakistan.

Another question is this: why is the UK Government concerned about the future of mid-career professionals (civil servants)? The answer is that spending GBP 20,000 per head to buy loyalties of strategically placed civil servants is not an unprofitable investment. If a self-paying overseas Pakistani student visits a government office of Pakistan complaining that a UK's university has robbed him of his money by running a bogus course or by not delivering on promised contents of the course, no one listens to the complainant, as the scenario presently is.

Published on July 15 this year on the website of the House of Commons Library of UK Parliament, under the heading “Higher education in the UK: Systems, policy approaches, and challenges,” the UK Government's International Education Strategy includes two declared ambitions: first, to increase the value of education exports to GBP 35 billion per year by the year 2030 (compared to GBP 31 billion in 2021-22); and second, to increase the total number of international students choosing to study in

the UK's higher education system each year to 600,000 by the year 2030.

It is like channelizing money from the pockets of self-paying overseas (Pakistani) students to the pockets of mid-career civil servants under scholarship schemes such as Chevening, which is part of the education export industry in sync with foreign policy objectives, offering no net economic loss to the UK Government.

The UK's higher education offers two main challenges to self-paying overseas students. First, running rip-off (low-value) degree courses, and hence becoming instrumental in converting overseas students into asylum seekers. Second, breaking promises on the delivery of quality education and research in the middle of a course, and hence wasting time and money of overseas students. In the recent past, the UK Government launched crackdowns on the former, but not on the latter. The modus operandi adopted by the latter is that, in the middle of a postgraduate course, especially in life sciences and research, an excuse is extended that such and such facility (or research project) cannot be offered because either the university's international office had mistakenly sent by post brochures having misprinted contents of a course to get the student enrolled or the international office made a commitment of delivery without consulting the department supposed to run the course. The best example using this ruse often is the University of Glasgow.

A question is this: How is it possible that a university's departments do not know what is being promised in writing over the years on their behalf to self-paying overseas students to get them enrolled? On this question, the UK Government observes silence, which serves the purpose of meeting targets of the International Education Strategy ending 2030. Moreover, the UK Government's preference is to subdue grumpy voices of self-paying international students by obliging civil servants of the same country through scholarship schemes such as Chevening.

Can environmental laws save the heart of Pakistan from sinking in clouds of smog?

Rida Zahra

‘Hheavy hearts, like heavy clouds in the sky, are best relieved by the letting of a little water”. These words are by American journalist and poet Christopher Morley but quite fitting the scenario of the heart of Pakistan—Lahore that has been heavy with clouds of smog all over it. The situation isn't quite different on the other side of the border as well. The Punjab Government did let some water relieve the heart of Pakistan with artificial rain in surrounding districts of Lahore. But the question arises till when we will be resorting to artificial rainfall and the closure of smoke emanating schools. There is a dire need of proper action and implementation of environmental friendly policies while complying with laws. There are various key point indicators that need proper attention, such as environmental protection, air quality control, and public health to tackle smog and air pollution in Pakistan.

PEPA, 2012 specifically is applicable in the province of Punjab, which is often highlighted owing to smog-related issues and particularly, Lahore. This act aims to establish provincial air quality standards and empowers the Punjab Environmental Protection Department (PEPD) for monitoring air pollution levels. This act also addresses industrial emissions, vehicular emissions, and the impact of crop burning on air quality. Moreover, for regulating vehicular emission, Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) and Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1965 are applicable. Punjab Government is also introducing measures to ban the burning of crops. The Climate Change Policy,

2012, was introduced that outlined the government's commitment to reducing air pollution and addressing climate change, which is linked to smog. It includes provisions for enhancing air quality monitoring systems and taking steps to mitigate emissions from industrial and agricultural sources.

The question arises here that if there is a robust legal framework available in Pakistan then why the enforcement is not so achievable. There are multiple factors behind it, such as absence of adequate enforcement and monitoring mechanisms, lack of harmony and coordination between federal and provincial governments. Awareness of masses is most critical because in rural areas crops burn while in urban regions vehicular emissions cause smog and air pollution. Carpooling should be opted for in the urban arrangements to decrease fuel consumption and carbon emissions. Whereas farmers need to be trained regarding disposal of unwanted crops. Having said that, the infrastructure available in Pakistan is also very limited for pollution control. Political and economic pressure on the country adds further fuel to fire. Thus, enforcement of these laws remains inconsistent, which is causing the situation to worsen a bit more every passing year. All segments of society need to contribute to let the heart of Pakistan not get heavy with clouds of smog every winter. All key sectors of agriculture, transportation and industry need effective policies to reduce Carbon emissions. Tree plantation drives are needed as well because they are rightly called the lungs of earth and tend to protect us from environmental pollution. Artificial jungles are always better preventive measures than resorting to artificial rains as a coping mechanism. Let's not let the heart of Pakistan sink in the clouds of smog.

Networking Hi-Tea with Pakistani Stakeholders and Friends of Malaysia

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad hosted a Networking Hi-Tea with Pakistani stakeholders and Friends of Malaysia. The event aimed to expand the High Commission's network and foster closer ties between the two countries, focusing on trade, investment, and business collaboration.

The event brought together members of the National Assembly, Senate, senior government officials, present and former military personnel, and the High Commission's Home-Based and Locally Recruited Staff.

In his remarks, the High Commissioner emphasized the importance of Malaysia-Pakistan relations, highlighting key achievements from the recent state visit of Malaysia's Prime

Minister to Pakistan. The visit saw agreements to boost trade, investment, and cultural exchange, with direct flights between Karachi and Kuala Lumpur increasing to seven per week starting December 2024.

The High Commissioner also highlighted the strong bond between the two countries. He praised Pakistan's beauty, resilience, and the warmth of its people, while expressing Malaysia's gratitude for the contributions of the Pakistani diaspora to Malaysia's development. With over 200,000 Pakistanis living in Malaysia, their role in strengthening ties and fostering goodwill was invaluable.

On economic opportunities, the High Commissioner highlighted the USD1.4 billion trade volume in 2023 between Malaysia and Pakistan. He emphasized the immense potential for further collaboration, particularly



in agriculture, the halal industry, and technology. Malaysia's expertise in the halal sector was offered to help Pakistan become a regional hub, leveraging its agricultural strengths. Additionally, he invited Pakistani investors to explore opportunities in Malaysia, especially with the country preparing to chair ASEAN in 2025.

The High Commissioner also took the opportunity to highlight the atrocities faced by Palestinians, commended Pakistan's unwavering support, and reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to advocating for justice on international platforms.

Attendees had the opportunity to network and explore ways to strengthen bilateral relations. The High Commission remains committed to facilitating cooperation that benefits both nations and builds a foundation for long-term partnership.

Jam Kamal Khan leads Pakistan's push to boost trade ties with Ethiopia through single country exhibition

Spokesman report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan emphasized Pakistan's dedication to expanding trade relations with Ethiopia and the broader African market during a meeting with Ethiopia's Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary, Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, under the "Look Africa Policy."

The discussions focused on bilateral cooperation to ensure the success of the upcoming Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa, scheduled for May 2025.

The Minister observed that a series of seminars before the exhibition, involving the business communities of both nations to maximize engagement and cooperation are being organized in Pakistan.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan underscored that the Ministry of Commerce, along with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, is actively preparing for the event, which aims to



connect Pakistani traders with Ethiopian counterparts and unlock access to Africa's vast market of 1.4 billion people.

Jam Kamal Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the "Look Africa and Engage Africa Policy," stressing Ethiopia's strategic importance as a

gateway to the continent and a hub of consistent economic growth.

He highlighted Ethiopia's impressive economic statistics, including its GDP growth rate of 8.4% and the strength of its aviation industry, with 140 fleets under Ethiopian Airlines.

Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula provided key insights into Ethiopia's economic advancements and bilateral cooperation.

He informed that Ethiopia is exporting wheat to international markets and currently operates four weekly flights for Pakistan, with plans to launch direct flights from Lahore and Islamabad soon.

The Ambassador lauded the growing ties between Ethiopia and Pakistan, pointing to recent agreements in trade, business, aviation, and science and technology.

He also highlighted Ethiopia's "Home Grown Economic Reforms", fostering an investor-friendly environment by addressing macroeconomic challenges and enhancing productivity.

Both sides expressed optimism that the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa would not only strengthen trade between Pakistan and Ethiopia but also serve as a platform for Pakistani traders to engage with the broader African market.

AC Qudrat Abad addresses village issues in an open court session

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Mardan, Dr. Azmatullah Wazir, Assistant Commissioner Takht Bhai, Junaid Khalid, held an open court session in the village of Qudrat Abad at the hujra of Khadim Shah, where citizens' issues were heard. In order to resolve public issues at their doorstep, Assistant Commissioner Takht Bhai Junaid Khalid, AAC Binyamin Afridi, Chief Officer Usman Nashad, Tehsildar Roohul Amin, SDO Public Health Ameer Zada, Engineer Mansoor, representatives of Bait-ul-Mal Bakhtiyar Khan, Rescue 1122 personnel, police officials, MPA spokesperson Shahid Khan, and member host Ameer Shah participated. During the open court, attendees presented their grievances. After listening to the issues, the Assistant Commissioner resolved several matters on the spot and issued directives to the relevant departments for the immediate resolution of other issues. Participants raised concerns about electricity and gas load-shedding, illegal excavation of natural gas, the need for a dumping ground for waste, the rise in street crimes in the area, and separation from court-fed (a reference to specific administrative facilities). Speaking at the open court, Assistant Commissioner Junaid Khalid stated that the current government is organizing open courts in various areas to address the public's grievances and provide facilities at their doorstep. He clarified that this does not mean citizens should avoid visiting government offices; rather, they are encouraged to approach offices without hesitation and contact the administration if they face difficulties.

Government College Women University Convened 19th Syndicate Meeting



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) convened its 19th Syndicate meeting on November 28, 2024, at the Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), Arfa Software Technology Park, Lahore, chaired by the Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Mr. Rana Sikandar Hayat. The meeting opened with the presentation of the Annual Report 2023-24 by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen, showcasing the university's progress in academics, research, community engagement, and infrastructure development. Registrar Dr. Sadia Asim, acting as the Secretary of the Syndicate, presented a comprehensive agenda that covered significant administrative, financial, and academic matters.

The Syndicate approved the GCWUF Annual Budget for 2024-25, presented by Treasurer Dr. Nausheen Syed, along with other key proposals to enhance university operations. The Provincial Minister, in his concluding remarks, praised GCWUF's leadership and administration for maintaining exceptional financial health, achieving recognition in international rankings, and fostering sustainable growth. In alignment with the university's commitment to environmental sustainability, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen presented indoor plants as souvenirs to the honorary Chair and members of the Syndicate.

ISSI and IPS Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Enhanced Collaboration

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering mutual collaboration. The signing ceremony was attended by senior representatives from both institutions, marking a significant step towards enhancing joint efforts in research and policy analysis.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, in his welcome note, underscored the importance ISSI attached to closer collaboration with counterpart national think tanks, especially with niche area specialization. He commended IPS for its contributions to national causes and noted that both institutions share convergent perspectives on subjects impacting Pakistan in diverse areas. Amba-



sador Sohail Mahmood emphasised the need to expand collaboration in selected research areas and proposed developing a roadmap for joint events

and research initiatives.

Mr. Khalid Rehman, Chairman IPS, reflected on the past 40 years of collaboration between ISSI and

IPS, and noted their joint efforts in conducting valuable research and analysis on significant historical events such as the Cold War. He highlighted Afghanistan, India, and China as key areas of interest for future collaboration under the broad theme of paradigm shifts.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director Administration and China Pakistan Study Centre, outlined ISSI's structure as well as the working of five centers of excellence relating to research and outreach. Dr. Khurram Abbas, Director India Study Centre emphasized the scope of collaboration that this partnership can achieve.

This MoU marks a pivotal moment for ISSI and IPS as they embark on a collaborative journey to enhance their contributions to Pakistan's policy landscape through research and meaningful dialogue.

PODA teaches girl students to be change-makers in low- to middle-income areas

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PODA Inspires Girl Students to Become Change-Makers to Combat Gender-based Violence

Rawalpindi, Friday 29 November 2024: PODA conducted two engaging sessions on life-based skills education for the more than 60 girl and boy students of The Basic School in a low- to middle-income locality. Through interactive parallel sessions in two separate classrooms, PODA empowered the students with confidence-building strategies, emphasizing the significance of education and essential skills for economic empowerment. By imparting these valuable skills, PODA aims to enable these young girls to play a vital role in the country's progress. These activities were part of the ongoing 16 Days of Activism Campaign against Gender-based Violence

which is being observed from 25 December to 10 December.

As part of its 3-year project, "Reduce Early Marriages to Enhance Gender Equality," supported by the Norwegian Embassy, Islamabad, PODA is working tirelessly to eradicate early marriages and promote gender equality across 41 districts of Punjab. In collaboration with key stakeholders, including legislatures, government officials, politicians, community leaders, academicians, lady health workers, nikah khawan/registrars, educational institutions, women, girls, youth, lawyers, and bar associations, PODA advocates for amending the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2015 - Punjab. The proposed amendment seeks to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years, with the National Identity Card being made mandatory for marriage registration. Renowned Supreme Court



Advocate, Ms. Hifza Bukhari, delivered an inspiring talk, sharing her personal journey and highlighting the significance

of pursuing a career in law. She offered valuable insights and practical advice on becoming a lawyer, emphasizing the vital

role legal professionals play in upholding justice, promoting active citizenship, and strengthening the country's foundation.



Ms. Sadia Jamil, Vice Principal of the school, expressed her appreciation for PODA's efforts in providing students with practical knowledge and skills for their lives ahead.

As part of the ongoing 16 Days of Activism Campaign against Gender-Based Violence, PODA organized a drawing competition to educate students about their rights and strategies to protect themselves from harassment and violence. Under the guidance of PODA's Project Manager, Nabeela Aslam, the activity informed students about

their fundamental human and constitutional rights. The session emphasized Article 25-A of the Constitution of Pakistan, guaranteeing compulsory education for children aged 5-16, and covered their rights to play, health, and skills to combat harassment, ultimately empowering them to assert their rights and well-being. During the "Drawing Competition", six students shared disturbing stories of six girls under the age of 14 who had been married, either within their immediate surroundings or among their relatives.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
101,357.32	100,082.77
Day's High	Day's Low
101,496.17	99,822.61
Index Value	Change
25,800,186,996	+1274.55
Percentage	Time
+1.27%	29 Nov, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,287.30	+6.08
Percentage	Time
+0.073%	29 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
45,060.94	+338.88
Percentage	Time
+0.76%	29 Nov, 12:20 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,208.03	-141.03
Percentage	Time
-0.37%	29 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

Turkish envoy says Pakistan has vast investment opportunities in communications sector

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Erfan Neziroglu, while calling on Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan said that the conditions between us are favorable, the objectives are clear and the destination is the same. He added that Türkiye wants to properly institutionalize business relations with Pakistan to add in the present cooperation. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan while describing Türkiye's developmental model as impressive that Pakistan also get benefit from this model for which we want to adopt the best investment options including Joint Ventures.

Turkish Ambassador Erfan Neziroglu and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan had a detailed discussion on the promotion of



mutual relations between the two countries and various issues of bilateral trade. Abdul Aleem Khan said that the friendly relations between

Pakistan and Türkiye should be transformed into business partnership for which there are vast investment opportunities in various

sectors including Communications. Improving the road network is a big challenge because development in any country can be possible only

by connecting it with highways, he added.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan further said that the people of Pakistan and Türkiye are bound by a single brotherly relationship and will strengthen these ties as much as possible in future, as well. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that the easier to travel anywhere will ultimately flourish in the more business activities. Our job is to bring business people closer and the rest of work will start by itself, Abdul Aleem Khan indicated.

He said that companies from both countries should get the opportunity to earn attractive profit in Türkiye and Pakistan. Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Erfan Neziroglu thanked Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and assured him of all possible cooperation and indicated to adopt a workable model for bilateral investment.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Senator Rubina Khalid chaired a review meeting at BISP Headquarters on Friday.



Photo: PID

Meezan Bank selects Systems Limited and Temenos to modernize its Core Banking Platform



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading and first Islamic banking institution, has partnered with Systems Limited and Temenos to modernize its Core Banking Platform. This significant upgrade to the latest Temenos release was formalized at the "Bank of the Future Forum 2024," a flagship event attended by prominent leaders, including Irfan Siddiqui,

Founding President & CEO of Meezan Bank; Syed Amir Ali, Deputy CEO; Faiz ur Rehman, Group Head Information Technology; Asif Peer, Group CEO & MD of Systems Limited; and Ammara Masood, Global Industries GM BFS at Systems Limited.

Ammara Masood, GM Global Industries BFS at Systems Limited, stated, "At Systems Limited, our goal is to drive the digital transformation of financial

institutions worldwide. With our Pakistan Model Bank framework, we are supporting Meezan Bank in leveraging cutting-edge technology to enhance their operations and deliver next-generation Islamic banking solutions."

Syed Amir Ali, Deputy CEO of Meezan Bank, commented, "Meezan Bank is committed to leading the future of Islamic banking through innovation and technology."

ACE Money Transfer: A Global Fintech Leader Recognized by State Bank

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: ACE Money Transfer, a global leader in the remittance industry, has been recognized by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) with a prestigious award for being the Fourth Largest Global Fintech by Remittance Volumes to Pakistan, reaffirming its position as a key driver of Pakistan's remittance sectors. The award was presented at the 4th Pakistan Remittance Summit 2024 held in Rome, Italy, on 28th Nov 2024, attended by leading industry figures and global financial stakeholders.

"This prestigious award from the State Bank of Pakistan is a testament to supporting millions of Pakistani and other expats worldwide, helping them securely transfer funds home to ensure a prosperous life for their loved ones," said Rashid Ashraf, CEO of ACE Money Transfer.

"We are committed to contributing more to Pakistan's economy and providing innovative solutions to the whole world, bringing Pakistan to the center of the world through advanced technological remittance solutions."

CDNS attains Rs 560 billion mark in annual savings target

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has accomplished a target of Rs 560 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 33.94 percent of the annual target for the current fiscal year, from July 1 to November 27th.

The CDNS has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP on Friday.

Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs 170 billion in investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to the growth of the Islamic economy in the country.

Replying to a question, he said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30.

National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year, "We surpassed the 100 percent of the annual target."

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the previous fiscal year 2022-23, he said.

He said it was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22.

NA body focuses on major reforms in NICL, PAKRe

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) and Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited (PAKRe) on Friday set for major reforms as Commerce Committee pushed for stronger role of private sector and enhanced public relief.

The meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce, held the Parliament House here Friday, under the Chairmanship of Muhammad Jawed Hanif Khan, MNA, focused on pivotal reforms within Pakistan's National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) and Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited (PAKRe), with an emphasis on strengthening their role in the private sector and expanding public relief efforts.

The Committee reviewed NICL's

strategic plans to amend its legal framework, enabling the corporation to broaden its services and provide greater benefits to the public.

The CEO of NICL provided insights into the Company's solid financial standing, including its retained earnings and the ability to contribute dividends to the government. In light of this, the Committee stressed the importance of NICL's expansion into the private sector to bring more affordable and accessible insurance products to the general public.

The Committee expressed commitment to pursuing reforms that not only support NICL and PAKRe's growth but also contribute to a more inclusive and relief-oriented insurance framework for Pakistan's citizens.

The meeting was attended by



MNAs, Farhan Chishti, Gul Asghar Khan, Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb and Ms. Kiran Haider in person whereas, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, MNA attended the meeting virtually. The Minister for Commerce and other

senior officers from the Ministry of Commerce, NICL and PakRe were also present in the meeting.

Cadbury Dairy Milk Champions Inclusivity in Cricket



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Cadbury Dairy Milk (CDM) announce its ongoing commitment to inclusivity and empowerment within the female cricketing community of Pakistan.

Get in the Game, launched two years ago during the PSL and the World Cup, opened doors for over 8,000 aspiring women cricketers across Pakistan. The campaign helped create role models for emerging female cricketers, they dedicated their 90gm packs to the Pakistan Women's team and gave an opportunity to young players to be trained alongside Pakistan's National Women's Cricket team, covering all tuition fees for six months and equipment for training. These scholarships continue to support young female cricketers, empowering the next generation to excel in the sport, with ongoing collaboration with the Pakistan Cricket Board and Khelo Cricket. This year CDM launched its latest campaign, Back Her Dream.

Customers can scan a QR code on the Cadbury Dairy Milk 90g pack, choose a cricket avatar for their nominee, and upload a picture, which will be AI-transformed to feature on a Cadbury pack, and a downloadable customized poster showcasing them as a cricketer of the future. A customized Cadbury pack and poster is not only inspiring but also highlights the invaluable support of families and communities.

The Back Her Dream campaign promises to reach young women across Pakistan and help break down any barriers that may have kept women out of the cricket field.

52nd National Athletics Championship Begins

Opening Ceremony is Underway at Ayub Stadium Multan



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: 52nd National Athletics Championship begins. The championship's opening ceremony is underway at Ayub Stadium in Multan. Paris Olymp-

pics gold medalist Arshad Nadeem started the tournament by parading holding the national flag. At the opening ceremony, 13 teams participating in the tournament held a sports parade. 25th National Athletics

600 players from across the country will show their talents in the championship

Army, Navy, Air Force, Police, WAPDA, Higher Education, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakh-



tunkhwa, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan and other sports teams are involved in the championship. Short jump, long jump, javelin throw, 800 meter race, hammer throw, and other games will be played in the championship, which will continue until December 2. In the opening ceremony of the athletics championship, men and women as well as schools. A large number of colleges and children participated

In the opening ceremony, Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem, while talking to the media, said that he was very happy to see the athletics grounds in Multan. Such events are very important for national unity. He said that new talent will emerge from these sports competitions. Arshad Nadeem further said that there is no shortage of talent in Pakistan. He added that just as there are cricket and hockey stadiums in the cities of Pakistan and the government

sponsors them, similarly the government of Pakistan should build stadiums for athletics so that Pakistan can also achieve outstanding performance in sports held around the world and win gold medals. Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem said that athletics games should be started from the school level, which will give a full opportunity to the hidden talent in Pakistan. Finally, school and college students also took autographs from Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem.

Taha Shoaib and Owais Rahim excels with ball as Waqas Ullah hit tons in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

KARACHI: Four more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at different venues in the City.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Century 103 by Waqas ullah, Deadly Bowling by Medium Pacers Taha Shoaib 6/37 and Owais Raheem Shah 5/15.

Scores in Brief:

Metropolitan Cricket Club beat Cavalier Cricket Club by 9 Wickets at Young Fighter Ground. Cavalier CC 78 all out in 29 overs. Affan Khan 21, Anas Balouch 21, Owais Rahim Shah (mf) 5/15, Tayyab Hussain 2/25.

Metropolitan CC 82/1 in 9.1 overs. Zain Anwar 32 not out, Arbaz Khan 24, Hurair Shahid 23 not out.

In the 2nd Match Nazimabad Youngster beat Fazal-ur-Rehman Sports by 73 runs at Asghar Ali Shah Stadium. Nazimabad Youngster 228 all out in 29.3 overs. Kashan Faheem 72 10x4 4x6, Osama



Munir 35, Shayan Faheem 25, Umar Mateen 23, Ayaz Ahmed 2/22, Huzaifa 2/47, Sheryar 2/56. Fazal-ur-Rehman Sports 155 all out in

22 overs. Ayaz Ahmed 49 2x4 5x6, Sohail 21, Khair ullah 20. Kashan Faheem (ob) 4/31, Fahad Ahmed (rlb) 3/13. In the 3rd Match Nazir Hussain Young

Fighter Cricket Club beat Hamdam Cricket Club Colts by 72 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Nazir Hussain Young Fighter CC 208 all out in 38.2 overs. Zohrain Mehmood 53 8x4, Shayan Ahmed 43, Rafay Ahmed 28, Taha Shoaib (mf) 6/37, Methew Rizwan 2/35.

Hamdan CC Colts 136 all out in 29.2 overs. Faiq Hassan 52 5x4 2x6, Methew Rizwan 26, Asim Samar 18, Ahmed Khan (rlb) 4/21, Adil Tanoli 2/36

In the fourth Match Sports & Science Cricket Club beat Al-Mehran Cricket Club by 148 runs at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Sports & Science CC 317/8 in 40 overs. Waqas ullah 103 11x4 8x6, Daniyal Ali 65 10x4 1x6, Abdullah Yousof 50 6x4, M. Sajjan 31, M. Yahya 20. M. Adnan 3/74.

Al-Mehran CC 169 all out in 33 overs. 52 6x4, Zafar Iqbal 28, Shahroz Khan 22, Muhammad Shahroz (sla) 4/35, M. Sajjan 3/41, M. Yahya 2/28.

Opening Ceremony of Table Tennis held



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Opening Ceremony of Table Tens Regarding Khelta Punjab 2024 was held at Al Fateh Sports complex Faisalabad. Chief Guest Khalida Rafique Director Social Welfare Faisalabad and Miss Farhat Ehsan Assistant Director (Youth Affairs-I) Divisional Sports Officer Faisalabad Tariq Nazir are also present.

QPD T-20 Cricket cup to start from Dec 3

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: In connection with World Disability Day, the Quadrangular Physical Disability (QPD) T20 Cricket Tournament organized by the Pakistan Physical Disability Cricket Association (PPDCA) will start from Monday, December 3 at the Rashid Latif Academy Ground.



Tournament Director, Amiruddin Ansari in a brief interaction told APP that the teams from Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan would compete in the event on a single league basis. After the league competitions, the final between the two top teams will be played on December 6. He said that two matches would be played on the opening day of the tournament.

Sindh and Punjab teams will face each other in the first match while the second match will be played between KPK and Balochistan teams

Ansari said that the national PD cricketers would also cut a cake on the opening day to celebrate World Disability Day. According to General Secretary PPDCA and Member World Council PD Cricket Amiruddin Ansari, the event is part of the preparations for the four-nation PD tournament to be held in Sri Lanka. Regional PD Lahore and Sialkot Javed Ashraf has been appointed as the tournament secretary while Muhammad Nizam will perform the duties of media manager.

Ansari informed that the tournament would be inaugurated by the special guest President PPDCA Imran Balwani.

Pakistan, South Africa win matches in Blind Cricket World Cup

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan and South Africa defeated their rivals registering convincing 9-wicket victories over Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, respectively in the ongoing Blind Cricket World Cup in Multan on Friday.

Pakistan met Sri Lanka at Multan Cricket Stadium and scored its fourth consecutive victory in the tournament after the visitors scored a total of 122 for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs after winning the toss with major contributions from Thushara 28 off 37 balls and Soranga 26 off 29 balls. Babar Ali and Naimatullah grabbed two wickets each conceding six and 27 runs respectively.

Pakistan Blind cricket teams raced to the target and surpassed it in just



6.2 overs after losing one wicket only, thanks to a blazing fast 71 off 29 balls by Naimatullah who remained

unbeaten. Second match between South Africa and Afghanistan was played at DHA

Cricket Ground where Afghanistan won the toss and piled up 171 for the loss of seven wickets. Afghanistan captain Abaseen was the major scorer with 63 off 52 balls while Daran contributed 30 off 22 balls. In reply, South Africa surpassed the target in 11.4 overs for the loss of one wicket, winning the game by nine wickets by virtue of major contributions from Lesedi Lesufi, 75 runs off 44 balls and Mathapo, 60 runs off 33 balls.

Today, Nepal won a walkover due to India's absence while Sri Lanka would get more points on Saturday, Nov 30, due to the same reason. Pakistan would play against Afghanistan and South Africa against Bangladesh on Nov 30. Two semifinals would be played on Dec 1 while final will be played on Dec 3 in Multan.

Asia Cricket Council Men's U-19 Asia Cup Started on Friday 29 November

Imran Usmani

DUBAI: Pakistan will begin their journey in the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup on Saturday as the eight-team tournament begins on Friday. The Group A matches of the 50-over event will be played at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium (DICS) while the Group B matches will take place at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium (SCS).

Pakistan, who missed out on the final in the last edition of the event, is placed in Group A, alongside India, Japan and UAE. Meanwhile, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are placed in Group B. The top two sides from each group will play the semi-finals scheduled on 6 December, while the final will take place at the DICS on 8 December. All matches are set to start at 10am PKT, with the toss

taking place at 09.30am PKT. Saad Baig-led Pakistan will face India in their opening match on 30 November at the DICS. They are scheduled to play UAE and Japan on 2 and 4 December, respectively at the same venue. Among the 15-member squad, four players - Mohammad Riazullah, Saad Baig, Shahzaib Khan and Tayyab Arif have featured for Pakistan in the last edition of U19 Asia Cup held at the UAE in December 2023. Pakistan, before beginning their journey in the tournament, has been in Dubai for three weeks as they featured in the U19 tri-series featuring Afghanistan and UAE. Although they finished runners-up to Afghanistan in the final, the tournament provided valuable experience and warm-up to the team. During the course of the tournament, Pakistan players tried to

make full use of the conditions as opening batters Shahzaib Khan (330 runs, five matches, 1x100, 3x50s) and Usman Khan (314 runs, five matches, 1x100, 3x50s) finished among the top three batters in the event. Similarly, in the bowling chart, right-arm fast bowlers Abdul Subhan and Ali Raza bagged nine wickets each as they too ended among the top three bowlers. Saad Baig talking to PCB Digital on the eve of the tournament, said: "We have been in Dubai for a few weeks now and had a good outing in the tri-series tournament. Even though we couldn't win the final, it provided players a great opportunity to acclimatise to the conditions and now we are ready for the Asia Cup. The coaching staff has been there to guide us, and the players

are fully committed to putting in their best efforts. We all understand the significance of this tournament, and everyone is motivated to give their best when an opportunity arises. All the teams in the tournament are strong and we know it will be a tough competition. But with that challenge comes the opportunity for our players to showcase their best. Our focus will be on executing our plans and staying consistent throughout the tournament." Pakistan U19 squad for ACC Asia Cup: Saad Baig (captain, wicket-keeper) (Karachi), Abdul Subhan (Abbottabad), Abdul Hussain (Sialkot), Ali Raza (Sialkot), Faham-ul-Haq (Lahore), Farhan Yousuf (Lahore), Haroon Arshad (Karachi), Mohammad Ahmed (Lahore), Mohammad Huzaifa



(Bahawalpur), Mohammad Riazullah (Abbottabad), Naveed Ahmed Khan (Karachi), Shahzaib Khan (Abbottabad), Tayyab Arif (Sialkot), Umar Zaib (Abbottabad) and Usman Khan (FATA) Non-travelling reserves: Rizwanullah (Karachi) and

Yahya bin Abdul Rehman (Lahore) Player support staff: Ghulam Ali (head coach-cum-manager), Agha Sabir Ali (assistant/fielding coach), Muhammad Aleem Bajwa (physio), Muhammad Talha (analyst), Rehan Riaz (bowling

coach), Saboor Ahmed (strength & conditioning coach) and Syed Nazir Ahmed (media and digital manager) Pakistan fixtures (all matches at DICS): vs India - 30 November vs UAE - 2 December vs Japan - 4 December

COAS visits NCTC

Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir (third right) visits the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) to observe a joint counterterrorism exercise between the Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Gujrat, Pakistan, on November 29, 2024.



Photo: ISPR

PM constitutes Task Force to identify people involved in chaos, violence

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday, established a task force under the chairmanship of Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi to identify the people involved in spreading chaos and violence in Islamabad earlier this week and take strict action against them.

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Economic Affairs Division Ahad Khan Cheema, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, and representatives of the security forces will be members of the task force.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the law and order situation, the prime minister also decided to set up a Federal



Riot-Control Force to prevent future attempts to spread chaos and violence in the country.

The force will be equipped with professional training and necessary equipment, on the lines of

international standards.

In addition, the meeting also decided to set up the Federal Forensic Lab in which modern technology will be used to investigate and collect evidence of such incidents.

It was also decided to modernize the Islamabad Safe City project besides strengthening the federal prosecution service.

PM Shehbaz Sharif pointed out that Pakistan was moving towards stability and development, adding that the enemies of the country's development will never succeed in their nefarious designs.

He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was the land of brave and proud people.

"A handful of disruptors do not represent honourable and

respectful Pashtun community," the prime minister said adding that the November 24th aggression was rejected by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and all Pakistanis.

He stressed that it was the responsibility of everyone to stop such nefarious attempts to protect the country and its economic and national security.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahad Khan Cheema, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Attaullah Tarar, Advisor to the PM Rana Sana Ullah, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir, Senior Minister Punjab Marriyum Aurangzeb and senior officials attended the meeting.

COAS reviews Pak-China joint exercise 'Warrior-VIII' in Pabbi

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir visited National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Pabbi, on Friday and interacted with the participants of joint exercise "Warrior-VIII" between Pakistan Army and Peoples' Liberation Army of China, said ISPR.

COAS was briefed on the scope and conduct of the exercise. He appreciated

the professionalism and high morale of participants being displayed during the joint exercise.

The joint military exercise commenced on 19 November 2024. The three weeks long exercise in counter terrorism domain is eighth in the series of bilateral exercise being conducted annually.

Earlier upon arrival at NCTC Pabbi, COAS was received by Rawalpindi Corps Commander.

Ambassador Sirohey paid a farewell visit to Prime Minister of Niger



Correspondent

NIGER: His Excellency Dr Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Niger, paid a farewell visit to the Prime Minister of Niger, H. E. M. Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine. During this meeting, they

reflected on the progress made in bilateral cooperation and reaffirmed the strong ties between the two nations. The Prime Minister expressed gratitude for the Ambassador's contributions to strengthening the partnership, wishing him success in his future missions.

Gandapur, Bushra Bibi leave Mansehra for Peshawar

Nasir Ali Tanoli

MANSEHRA: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, stayed in Mansehra from Tuesday evening until Thursday afternoon. On Thursday, they departed for Peshawar by helicopter.

After arriving in Mansehra on Tuesday night from Islamabad, they spent the night at the Circuit House. A press conference was scheduled for Wednesday morning, but Bushra Bibi did not attend. Ali Amin Gandapur and Umar Ayub held the press conference, and after the event, news spread that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister had flown to Peshawar by helicopter, while Bushra Bibi stayed in Mansehra.

However, on Thursday, it was revealed that Ali Amin Gandapur did not go to Peshawar either, and



both leaders had been staying in Mansehra for two days. They were

staying at the house of the Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Assembly. Sources indicated that the heli-

copter coming from Peshawar also remained in Mansehra during this time. On Wednesday, there were reports that Bushra Bibi refused to travel on the same helicopter as Ali Amin Gandapur and insisted on a separate helicopter.

These claims were further supported when Bushra Bibi's sister, Maryam Riyaz Watoo, stated that Bushra Bibi had been unwillingly brought to Mansehra and was not ready to leave Islamabad. Maryam even claimed that Bushra Bibi was being kept in unlawful confinement and not allowed to communicate with her family. However, late in the evening, Maryam confirmed that she had spoken with Bushra Bibi.

Social media speculated that Bushra Bibi and Ali Amin Gandapur were avoiding going to Peshawar because they were concerned about facing the workers.

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman said on Friday that ruling elites wanted Pakistan to become a no-go area for political workers.

Speaking at a press conference in Lahore, Rehman said all political parties had a right to lodge

protest in Islamabad, stressing that people of Pakistan were the true owners of the country.

"We are already burdened with several issues and you are trying to turn peaceful people into terrorists by handing guns to them," he added.

He also criticised the decision of the Punjab and Balochistan assemblies to bring resolutions to ban the

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Directing his flak at the government for failing to reduce power bills despite holding negotiations with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), the JI emir said industry was in tailspin due to inflated power bills.

He called out the government for being unable



to prevent terrorism and violence in Kurram Agency saying that the government must bring the perpetrators to justice.

Murad says circus was staged in Islamabad, but PPP is opposed to banning any party

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah stated that a protest in Islamabad, organised by a specific political party, resembled a circus with "jokers" present, despite this, his party is opposed to banning any political party.

He emphasised that the demand for the release of a particular individual was fundamentally wrong, but he reaffirmed that the Pakistan People's Party

(PPP) opposes the banning of any political party.

After attending a conference at a local hotel, the Chief Minister spoke to the media in the lobby, sharing his insights on recent political developments. Regarding the PTI protest in Islamabad, he remarked, "It seemed like a circus was staged by a particular political party, with jokers in attendance." He reiterated that the demand for the release of one individual was fundamentally misguided.



Murad Shah noted the difficulties surrounding the imposition of Governor's Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stating it has become quite challenging to imple-

ment. He recalled that discussions about the Governor's Rule in Sindh occurred daily during the previous government [PTI].

Registered voters across country surpasses 130 million: ECP

Mohammad Amin

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) disclosed on Friday that over 132 million voters were registered across the country.

The number of male voters had surpassed 70 million. Meanwhile, the number of female voters had gone above 60 million, the ECP said.

According to the latest statistics issued by the electoral watchdog, Islamabad

had more than 1.1 million registered voters. According to the details, the number of male voters in Islamabad reached 600,000, whereas that of female voters over 500,000 female voters.

Punjab had registered over 70 million voters. Balochistan had registered over 5.5 million voters.

While Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh had recorded over 20.5 million and 20.7 million voters respectively.