



Deputy PM Dar to represent Pakistan at ECO meeting in Iran today

Deputy Prime Minister will reiterate Pakistan's commitment to ECO charter and highlight potential of greater connectivity in the region through development of rail and road networks, liberalization of visa regimes and simplification of border procedures.



PTA decides not to ban VPNs
The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) decided on Sunday not to ban virtual private networks (VPNs). The PTA local chapter sources told APP that earlier the authority had warned its users to register their VPNs by Nov 30, after which unregistered connections would be blocked. They said the government decided not to ban VPNs, as the law ministry said the government did not have the legal authority to impose such a ban under the Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016.

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Funeral prayer

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attends funeral of Captain Muhammad Zohaib-ud-Din Shaheed on Sunday.



Photo: PID

PM attends funeral prayer of Shaheed Capt. Zohabi-ud-Din

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday attended the funeral prayer of Captain Muhammad Zohaib-ud-Din Shaheed.

The funeral prayer was attended by Corps Commander Lahore Lt. General Syed Aamer Raza, senior civil and military officials.

PM attends funeral prayer of Shaheed Capt. Zohabi-ud-Din PM attends funeral prayer of Shaheed Capt. Zohabi-ud-Din

The prime minister met with the family of shaheed captain and expressed his condolence.

He paid tribute to shaheed Captain Muhammad Zohaib-ud-Din who had fought valiantly with Khawarij terrorists, adding the entire nation was proud of his sacrifice and saluted him.

Shaheed captain had embraced martyrdom on November 30 during the conduct of an intelligence

based operation in Shagai, District Khyber. Three Khawarij were sent to hell while two others were arrested.

Meanwhile: Sepoy Iftikhar Hussain Shaheed, age 29, resident of district Jhang who embraced martyrdom while fighting valiantly against Khawarij terrorists in Bannu and Khyber districts were offered on Sunday at Peshawar and Bannu Garrisons respectively.

Lt General Omer Ahmad Bukhari, Corps Commander Peshawar, senior military and civil officials and soldiers attended the funeral prayers, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

Later, Shaheed Captain Muhammad Zohaib and Sepoy Iftikhar Hussain were laid to rest with full military honors in their respective native towns.

Pakistan's security forces remain steadfast in their commitment to eradicating the scourge of terrorism and the sacrifices of these brave soldiers only strengthen the nation's resolve

Eight terrorists killed; two soldiers martyred in KP operations: ISPR

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The security forces eliminated eight terrorists, while two soldiers embraced martyrdom in two separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to the ISPR.

Military's media wing said, "Between Nov 29 and Dec 1, security forces conducted two operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, eliminating 8 terrorists. However, a captain and a soldier embraced martyrdom during these operations."

The first intelligence-based operation targeted a terrorist hideout in Baka Khel, Bannu. Five terrorists were killed and 9 injured. During the operation, 29-year-old Sepoy Iftikhar Hussain from Jhang displayed exceptional bravery and embraced martyrdom.

The second operation in Shagai, Khyber, resulted in the elimination of three terrorists and the arrest of two. Amid intense gunfire, 25-year-old Captain Muhammad Zohaibuddin from Lahore led his team



valiantly and embraced martyrdom.

The terrorists were involved in multiple attacks targeting security forces and innocent civilians. A clearance operation is ongoing to eliminate any remaining threats.

ISPR reaffirmed the armed forces' commitment to eradicating terrorism and hailed the sacrifices of these brave soldiers as a testament to their resolve.

President, PM commend security forces for twin operations against Khawarij in KP

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday praised the security forces for their successful operations in Bannu and Khyber districts.

They commended their bravery for eliminating eight Khawarij terrorists and arresting eleven others injured in two separate operations.

The president and prime minister paid tributes to Shaheed Captain Muhammad Zohaibuddin and soldier Iftikhar Hussain, who were martyred during the operations, and acknowledged their sacrifices, President Secretariat Press Wing and PM Office Media Wing, in separate press releases said.

President Zardari emphasized that the sacrifices of the martyrs for the country's security would not be in vain and that the entire nation would remember the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives for the mother-



land.

He reiterated the commitment to continue operations till the eradication of terrorism and assured the nation that they would stand with their brave security forces in the fight against terrorism. The president also prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' souls and patience for their families.

The prime minister prayed for the high ranks of the Shaheed personnel of the Pakistan Army and a grant of patience for the bereaved families.

The fight against terrorism would continue till the complete eradication of this menace from the country, the press release quoted the prime minister

as saying.

The officers and personnel of the Pakistan Army were protecting the country from its enemies without caring for their lives, he added.

The prime minister said the entire nation, including him, was proud of the brave officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army, adding the Pakistani nation could never forget the sacrifices of its martyrs.

He said the nefarious designs of terrorists and enemies of the country to spread chaos in Pakistan would never succeed.

The brave and courageous young men who sacrificed their future for this country and their families, filled with the spirit of sacrifice, were the pride of the entire Pakistani nation, he observed.

The prime minister reiterated that the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with their armed forces in this fight against terrorism.

Rumours of Imran Khan's transfer from Adiala Jail declared baseless



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Rumours about Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's transfer from Adiala Jail to another location have been declared baseless.

As per Adiala Jail sources, "Imran Khan is still held in Adiala Jail and he is in good health. There is no truth to meaningless claims of PTI founder Imran Khan's transfer to another location."

Sources stated that Imran Khan has been lodged in a cell designated as part of the New Town Police Station jurisdiction.

He had been on physical remand in the custody of New Town Police until December 2 in connection with a case registered during the September 28 protest.

Jail hospital doctors perform Imran Khan's daily medical checkups to confirm his blood pressure and sugar levels are normal.

Atta Tarar dares PTI to show video evidence of straight firing by LEAs on protestors

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday dared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to share the video evidence with the public which could prove that the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) had opened straight firing on its protestors who descended on Islamabad a couple of days ago.

"I have shared the video evidence that show how a person from the protest told the protestors to open indiscriminate firing on the police. Now, I challenge the PTI to share one video of straight firing or live ammunition by the LEAs against the protestors," said the minister while addressing a news conference.

The minister was flanked by Federal Secretary for Interior Khurram Ali Agha, IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Ali Randhawa. Different videos were palied during the press conference that shown how the PTI protestors used guns, shells and marbles against the LEAs.

Tarar categorically rejected the prop-



aganda being peddled by the PTI on the social media regarding the direct firing on protestors, saying it was the PTI which brought professional criminals and Afghan Nationals to the protest to ensure that there would be a bloodshed in the whole city.

He said Murad Saeed, who was hiding in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister House, was also present in the protest and led an armed group that wielded guns, shells and glass marbles which were recovered from them later on their arrest from the frontline.

No personnel of the LEA is allowed for the live ammunition, he said, adding that the fake videos and pictures were being created to cover up their humiliation and political failure from the so called final call.

Continued on Page 8

CELEBRATING UNITY, CONNECTING THE FUTURE

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Celebrating the spirit of togetherness, PTCL Group warmly wishes the people of the United Arab Emirates a happy 53rd National Day.

روح الازمان
53 SPIRIT OF THE UNION
اليوم الوطني
NATIONAL DAY
دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

PM AJK said government no such plan to withdraw subsidy on electricity and wheat flour

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has, while rebutting rumours that subsidy on electricity and wheat flour was provisional, has made it clear that the government would continue to provide electricity and wheat flour to citizens on subsidized rates. Addressing a function held at the residence of Khalid Awan the Deputy Mayor Municipal Corporation Muzaffarabad, here today, the PM said government had no such plan to withdraw subsidy. Commenting on the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Ordinance, the PM said a broad-based consultative committee has been formed to develop consensus on the issue. "Due representation will be given to every section of society", the PM said, adding that opinion would be sought



from scholars, civil society representatives and even people hailing from different walks of life in this regard.

Referring to the various initiatives the present government has taken during the past couple of years, the PM Haq

stated that the exemplary steps taken by his government for the welfare of the people should be appreciated. In addition to completing development projects, the PM said that the drive to remove encroachments from the capital city Muzaffarabad would be completed soon to enhance its beauty. He said that the development of the state and welfare of its people was his government's sole mission. He, however, maintained that unnecessary protests lead to economic loss besides making the ordinary citizens' lives difficult. "The promotion of merit will bring revolution in the lives of the common man", the PM said, adding that merit has been given priority in recruitment process for public sector jobs. He said that the historic health package would be instrumental in bringing further improvement in health sector.

Sindh Culture Day

KARACHI: People participating in a ceremony in connection with Sindhi Ajrak Topi Day in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

PPP leaders say 'We Respect the Culture of All Nations'

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party Sindh President Nisar Khoro and Speaker of the Sindh Assembly Syed Owais Qadir Shah stated that Sindh created Pakistan, and we respect the culture of all nations. However, criticism of Sindh's culture, water issues, and unity will not be tolerated under any circumstances. They expressed these thoughts while congratulating the people of Sindh on the occasion of Sindh Cultural Day in a statement on Sunday.

Nisar Khoro, the President of PPP Sindh, said that Sindh takes pride in its 5,000-year-old culture, and the land of Sindh has always taught love, peace, and tolerance. He further stated that celebrating Cultural Day helps promote harmony and brotherhood within



society. He emphasized the importance of continuing cultural activities to elim-

inate intolerance, violence, and divisiveness in politics, fostering a sense of unity and belonging.

Speaker Syed Owais Qadir Shah added that the Sindh Assembly passed the resolution that led to the creation of Pakistan, and the people of Sindh will not allow anyone to encroach on their rivers and water. He clarified that the controversial canal project is not acceptable to the people of Sindh, and no project should proceed without the consent of the people. He also reaffirmed that the people of Sindh would not tolerate any aggression towards their motherland. On the occasion of Cultural Day, he congratulated the people of Sindh, saying they take great pride in their culture, and those who criticize it will always face the consequences.

HEC unwilling to break NIHCR begging bowl

Kehkashan Tabbasum

ISLAMABAD: Although the Finance Division has revised upward the Indicative Budget Ceilings (IBC) for the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to Rs. 65 billion from an initial allocation of Rs25 billion for fiscal year 2024-25 yet most of the universities, centres and institutes under its control have not been allocated and released sufficient budgets and funds for the fiscal 2024-25.

With the passage of time, annual budget allocations and grants are getting decreased for the universities in general and its recognised centres and institutes in particular. Over the years, particularly since 2018, Centres of Excellence have become beggars demanding bail out packages, grant in aid and supplementary grants to overcome their financial pendency but in vain.

No doubt, the public sector universities, centres and institutes have been facing a financial emergency because of



budget cuts for the past six years. Since then, the HEC decreased funding and has failed to keep up with exacerbated house rent ceiling, pay and pension increases and other allowances. Nowadays universities, centres and institutes are facing financial crisis; some of them do not have funds to pay house rent ceilings, salaries and pensions to their staff and pensioners.

One such academic research institution is the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Centre of Excellence, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, which has been facing finan-

cial crunch since fiscal 2019-20.

1. Due to which the staff and pensioners have not been paid House Rent Ceiling since July 2021 at the pretext that the Higher Education Commission had not released funds to the NIHCR.

2. Hard hit are the NIHCR pensioners who have not so far been paid their house rent ceilings since July 2021, gratuity and leave encashment in toto. The NIHCR authorities hold HEC responsible for not releasing required funds to clear the pensioners once for all. According to my well-placed sources in the NIHCR, at least five pensioners are waiting for payment of their pending pensionary dues and house rent ceilings.

3. Ironically, the NIHCR has not granted 15 percent Adhoc Relief announced in the Budget 2024-25 to its pensioners for non-release of funds by the HEC.

4. The NIHCR failed to implement the Special Dispensation for the Civil Servants in the Federal Government

for the Employees in BPS-01 to BPS-16 effective 01-01-2023 for want of funds from the EC.

5. The Institute has not paid 35 percent and 25 percent Adhoc Relief announced in the Budget 2023-24 to its staff and officers, respectively.

6. Likewise, the Institute failed to pay 25 percent and 15 percent Adhoc Relief announced in the Budget 2024-25 to its staff and officers, respectively, besides payment of medical allowance and medical reimbursement to its staff for lack of funds.

In spite of huge financial pendency, rumours are rife in the NIHCR that some high ups have been granted house building, motor car and motor cycle advances instead of clearing the pending house rent ceilings of lower staff or making payments to the retired staff.

It is need of the hour for HEC to look into the NIHCR financial matters properly and fill its begging bowl to the brim by allocating required funds to clear the backlog once for all.

Emerson University Multan is Providing High-Quality Education



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Governor of Punjab Malik Rafique Rajwana has said that Emerson University is providing high-quality education. This university has produced great and famous heroes who are playing their best role in the development and progress of the country by holding high positions. This institution is no less than a blessing for South Punjab and Multan. Thanks to Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ramzan and highly educated teachers, it is developing day and night and fulfilling the dreams of students and parents. He expressed these views while addressing the annual distribution of awards and gold medals of The Emerson Sons as a special guest yesterday. At the ceremony, 72 talented students were given gold medals for their merit. The president of the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Emerson University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ramzan, said that my mission is to make this university the number one university in Asia, which has also achieved considerable success. Now no student will be deprived of education due to lack of money. The education being provided here through modern computer labs and modern research in other fields is Due to this, the students here will get countless jobs. Development works worth crores of rupees have been done and more are in progress. This is the reason why the number of students was 2000 earlier and now it is more than 8000. The future of those who study here is very bright. President and Secretary of The Emerson University, Professor Dr. Haroon Khurshid Pasha and Professor Ali Sukhwar said that now The Emerson University will provide full assistance to the students of the poor and needy students and will run a campaign. Intelligent students will also be encouraged. We will work with the Vice Chancellor to make this university the best university. Finance Secretary Chaudhry Abdul Khaliq presented the details of the annual expenses. Professor Sajjad Naem and other teachers and students also addressed the ceremony. Mohsin Shaheen performed the duties of the director.

Residents of Khuda Ki Basti in Kotri Deprived of Basic Water Supply

Qayyoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: In Khuda Ki Basti, Kotri, residents are facing an acute water shortage, leaving them desperate for every drop. Members of the Sindh Assembly from MQM Hyderabad District, Advocate Rashid Khan (Joint In-Charge of the District) and Nasir Hussain Qureshi, have expressed their outrage over the prolonged absence of clean water in this impoverished area of District Jamshoro.

Criticizing Sindh Chief Minister's claims of development, the lawmakers

pointed out that despite Jamshoro being his home district, its residents continue to be deprived of clean water. Instead of addressing the public's needs, the administration appears to favor private tanker mafias for personal gain.

The MQM lawmakers have demanded that the Sindh Chief Minister and district authorities immediately restore the water supply to Khuda Ki Basti. They also called for strict action against the private tanker mafias to ensure fair and affordable access to water for the residents.



Tenth convocation of University Medical and Dental College held in grand manner



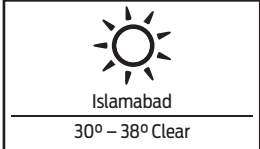
Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The tenth convocation of the University Medical and Dental College, Faisalabad was held in a grand manner.

The tenth convocation of the University Medical and Dental College was held in the Ali Auditorium of the University of Faisalabad, where the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Muhammad Haider Amin, presided over the ceremony on the nomination of the Governor of Punjab. The Rector of the University of Faisalabad, Professor Dr. Amanullah Malik, was the chief guest, while the Controller of Examinations of the University of Health Sciences, Lahore, Dr. Muhammad Abbas, was the guest of honor. In addition to them, Principal Medical College, Professor Dr. Muhammad Akram Malik, Vice Principal, Professor Dr. Sharza Nadeem, and Principal Dental College, Professor Dr. Arsalan Wahid, along with heads of various departments and faculty members and parents of graduates were also part of the ceremony.

Chairman of the Board of Governors, Muhammad Haider Amin, while addressing the new doctors, said that today is the day of fulfilling the dreams of you and your parents who always supported you in this journey of education.

Principal Professor Dr. Akram Malik congratulated the students and expressed his best wishes for their bright future. He appreciated the efforts of the faculty members and management and expressed hope to play a role in the development of the institution with the same determination. Principal Dental College Professor Dr. Arsalan Wahid, while expressing his views at the convocation, congratulated the passing dental doctors and urged them to serve the suffering humanity with their hard work and ability. The oath of allegiance to their profession and responsibilities and to serve humanity was also taken from the new doctors at the ceremony.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:26 am
Zohr	11:57 am
Asr	3:21 pm
Maghrib	4:59 pm
Isha	6:27 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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CAA	9281092

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Speakers call for focus on media & information literacy for societal development

KARACHI: The speakers at a consultation forum on Sunday stressing the importance of a media-literate society said the approach was essential for cultivating a constructive and an informed societal discourse.

The second provincial consultation was organized by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in collaboration with Media Foundation 360 at DHA Suffa University, Karachi, which gathered input from key stakeholders for developing Pakistan's Media and Information Literacy (MIL) strategy.

The speakers called for incorporating the MIL into the national curriculum at the primary level, and discussed exploring the delicate balance between media regulation and control.

The consultation prioritized inclusivity through diverse representation and brought together policymakers, media professionals, academics, and civil society experts, all contributing insights to the draft MIL strategy for Pakistan.

Margalla Hills Trail-5 Cleanup Kicks Off 14th Pakistan Mountain Festival

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: The 14th Pakistan Mountain Festival, organized annually by Devcom-Pakistan to celebrate International Mountain Day, commenced with a successful cleanup drive at Margalla Hills Trail-5 on Sunday. Over 100 enthusiastic students from various universities joined hands to raise awareness about the preservation of mountain ecosystems and the significance of natural resource conservation.

International Mountain Day, observed globally on December 11, was established by the United Nations to highlight the critical importance of mountain ecosystems in supporting life on Earth. Mountains cover 22 percent of the planet's land surface and provide vital resources, including freshwater for half of humanity. The day also serves to draw attention to the challenges facing mountain regions, including climate change, habitat loss, and the struggles of mountain communities.

Addressing the participants, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and Founder of Pakistan Mountain Festival Munir Ahmed emphasized the critical role of mountain ecosystems in sustaining biodiversity, regulat-

ating climate, and providing essential services like clean water and air purification. "Mountains are life-support systems for millions of people globally. Protecting these ecosystems is not just a local responsibility but a global imperative," he said.

Munir Ahmed also highlighted the role of the Pakistan Mountain Festival in raising awareness about these issues over the past 14 years. "Citizens can proactively play their role as the custodians of mountains."

Rina Saeed Khan, Chairperson of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB), reinforced the importance of the Margalla Hills National Park for Islamabad's rapidly growing population. Speaking about the other activities, Devcom-Pakistan Creative Director Riffat Ara Baig said: The Pakistan Mountain Festival will continue with a series of activities, including cultural performances, live painting, and exhibitions, promoting awareness about mountain ecosystems and the challenges faced by mountain communities. Major activities include Raja Changez Sultan Himalayan Odyssey Award exhibition, 10th Pakistan Youth Forum, 5th Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards, and a students live painting competition on the theme of



mountain heritage. She appreciated an excellent job, particularly in the last few years under the leadership of Rina Saeed Khan in safeguarding Margalla Hills National Park.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar inaugurates Annual Charity Bazaar-2024, organised by the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) at Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Raja Amjad Minhas appointed as DGPR AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The series of transfers in the top bureaucracy of Azad Kashmir continues despite the imposed ban on postings. After the transfer of the Secretary of the Information Department, the Director General of Information, Raja Shahid Hussain, has been transferred and Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas has been posted as the DGR of the Information Department, while Raja Shahid has been posted as Additional Secretary Higher Education. The Services Department has issued a notification in this regard.

Meanwhile President Kashmir Journalists Forum Khawar Nawaz Raja and General Secretary Sardar Aqeel Anjum, Joint Secretary Abid Hashmi, Senior Vice President



Majid Afsar, Vice President Zaheer

Mughal, Secretary Finance Ijaz Khan, Secretary Information Iqbal Awan, Organizer Adeel Bashir, Deputy Organizer Sardar Talha Javed and members of the Governing Body have congratulated Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas on becoming the in-charge of Director Press Information, Publication and Protocol and have fully appreciated this decision of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq.

In his special statement, he said that Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas is a most capable officer who played an important role in strengthening the bond between the government and journalists during his posting in Rawalpindi.

He said that this move of the Prime Minister will further strengthen the government's relations with the media and will disappoint those who create a rift in this relationship.

AIOU announces schedule of online workshops



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has released the schedule of online workshops for BS, B. Ed, and Postgraduate programs offered in Semester Autumn, 2024.

These workshops will commence on December 16, and students will attend their classes online via the LMS portal. Usernames and passwords required to access the online portal have been sent to students via SMS. Students who have not received their login credentials are advised to contact their nearest regional campus.

On the instructions of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the duration of quiz has been extended for students' convenience. Quiz will be available on the portal for 72 hours starting at 8 AM on the fifth day of the workshop. Once started, students will have 45 minutes to complete the quiz, compared to the previous duration of 20 minutes.

The Vice Chancellor has emphasized providing all possible facilities to students. Students who lack access to computers or the internet can utilize free facilities available at the university campuses to participate in the workshops.

PPP's 57th foundation anniversary held

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Mardan District, Asad Khan, stated that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto laid the foundation of the PPP to transform Pakistan into an economic and nuclear power and gave the oppressed people a vision to secure their rights. He emphasized that the downtrodden masses of Pakistan should no longer remain subservient to feudal lords, tribal chiefs, or Khans but should become empowered and dignified Pakistanis. He attributed the rights of workers to form trade unions, students, and government employees to establish associations, to the efforts of the PPP.

He expressed these views at a grand ceremony marking the PPP's 57th foundation anniversary, held at the residence of District General Secretary Namdar Khan Shagai under the chairmanship of former divisional president Shaukat Ali Khan Advocate.

The ceremony was attended by Mardan Division President Nawabzada Umar Farooq Khan Hoti, District President Asad Khan, General Secretary Namdar Khan Shagai, former MPA Haji Imtiaz Khan Shagai, Provincial Vice President Shoaib Alam Khan Khattak, Provincial Council Member Shaukat Ali Khan Advocate, Tehsil Katlang President Aslam Khattak, Tehsil Rustam President Nawab Ali Khan, Tehsil Mardan President Kamal Khan Advocate, Tehsil Takhtbhai General Secretary Syed Bacha Mohmand, former District President Muhammad Sajjad Khan, Malik Sherzada Khan, Haji Ashrafuddin, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Abid Ali Shah Advocate, Muhammad Naem Khan, Ibrahim Syed Yousafzai, and other speakers.

Monthly meeting of regional transport authority held DC Office

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A monthly meeting of the Regional Transport Authority and Accident Review Committee was held at the office of the Deputy Commissioner Attock, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Anil Saeed. The meeting was attended by Secretary Regional Transport Authority Attock Zaheer Ahmed Khan, Aftab Ahmed Khan, Khan Badshah (Chief Officers), Assistant Director Environment, In-charge Rescue 1122, officials from NHA, Patrolling Police, Traffic Police, the Department of Highways, Excise and Taxation Officer, Civil Defence officers, and transporters.

The Secretary Regional Transport Authority highlighted that, in line with Punjab Government's policy and SOPs, steps are being taken to ensure road safety, vehicle fitness, axle load management, and smog control. Traffic Police and Patrolling Police are also enforcing these measures under the government's policies and SOPs and are taking strict legal action against violations. They, along with RTA staff, are actively checking vehicle fitness certificates and sending vehicles to VICS centers for fitness verification. Implementation of the Motor Vehicle Rules 1969 is being ensured, and strict action is being taken against vehicles carrying overloaded weights.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner instructed that strict legal action should be taken against vehicles emitting excessive smoke. He also directed government departments to ensure that their official vehicles are inspected and certified for fitness by VICS, valid for one year.

Shakoor A. Tahir: A Trailblazer in Mass Communication

Muhammad Saeed Chishti Nizami

Renowned journalist Shakoor A. Tahir has recently achieved a remarkable milestone in his illustrious career, as his invaluable contributions to the development of Urdu-language journalism have been recognized in an in-depth M. Phil research thesis. This groundbreaking acknowledgment marks Shakoor Tahir as the first broadcast journalist in Pakistan to have a dedicated research thesis exploring his work.

Authored by Muhammad Rizwan Tabbasum, a dedicated student from the Department of Urdu at Rifah University Faisalabad campus, and supervised by Professor Dr.

Muhammad Asif Awan, the comprehensive thesis delves into Tahir's impressive 50-year career, which encompasses a multifaceted spectrum of roles within the field of mass communication.

The 400-page thesis meticulously examines Shakoor A. Tahir's contributions as a director, controller, editor, reporter, producer, scriptwriter, and expert in mass communication. Through extensive research involving the archives of Pakistan Television (PTV) and interviews with over 60 notable individuals, the thesis provides a thorough overview of Tahir's profound impact on the industry.

One of the key highlights of the thesis is Tahir's extensive interna-

tional experience, having covered significant events in over 60 countries. His expertise in hard news reporting and his authoritative role in court reporting are thoroughly recognized and explored. As a pioneer of on-camera reporting at PTV, Tahir has set a high standard for future generations of journalists, influencing the way news is presented and consumed in Pakistan.

The research is set to be published as a book by Jamhoori Publications, which will further cement Tahir's legacy in the field of journalism. This recognition serves as a testament to the significant impact and influence Tahir has had on the development of mass communication in Pakistan, as well as his contributions to the Urdu

language.

In addition to providing detailed information about the thesis and its significance, this article presents an engaging account of Shakoor Tahir's distinguished career and his multifaceted contributions to the field of journalism. His journey not only reflects personal achievement but also highlights the evolution of Urdu-language journalism in Pakistan, inspiring future journalists to follow in his footsteps.

Shakoor A. Tahir's story is one of dedication, innovation, and excellence, making him a true trailblazer in the realm of mass communication. His legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire and shape the future of journalism in Pakistan for years to come.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)
Syed Afraz Ali Nazish
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Head Office: **AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.**
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Phone: +92 51 2227123,
WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
 Karachi office: **A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,**
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390
 Email: **spokesmankarachi@gmail.com**
 Lahore Office: **7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

Violent Protests and Responsibilities of Youth

The Pakistani youth, who represent a significant portion of the population, have a vital role to play in ensuring their voices are heard through constructive and peaceful means. Choosing not to participate in protests that lead to unrest offers young people the opportunity to take on the responsibility of fostering positive change and shaping a better future for themselves and the nation. One of the primary responsibilities of Pakistan's youth is to engage in open, respectful dialogue, rather than resorting to street protests. Dialogue is the foundation of democracy and effective conflict resolution. Instead of seeing protests as the sole means of addressing grievances, young people should prioritize conversations and discussions—whether within local communities, on social media platforms, or even with government representatives—as a way to drive change. Dialogue creates a platform for diverse perspectives to be heard and understood, promoting empathy and collaboration. In contrast to protests—particularly violent ones, which often deepen divisions and perpetuate conflict—open discussions help build consensus and trust. Engaging in meaningful conversations allows for the exploration of practical, long-term solutions to issues such as unemployment, educational reform, and climate change, without the need for confrontation. By fostering a culture of dialogue, young people can effectively channel their concerns in ways that are more likely to lead to constructive outcomes.

One of the key responsibilities of youth is to engage in the political process, through voting, campaigning, or other civic activities. Rather than turning to protests as a form of expressing dissatisfaction, young people should make use of established democratic channels to

advocate for their rights and interests. Pakistan's democratic system provides avenues for youth to influence governance, whether through voting or standing for office.

The rise of social media has dramatically reshaped how young people communicate and organize. While platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook have been used to rally for protests, they also offer immense potential for positive, constructive change. Pakistani youth have a responsibility to leverage social media to raise awareness, educate the public, and influence policymakers without the need for disruptive demonstrations. Social media can be a powerful tool for sharing information, highlighting key issues such as corruption, climate change, and women's rights. Online campaigns that focus on education and awareness can be just as impactful as physical protests, without the risk of violence or property damage. Movements like #SaveTheEnvironment and #EndGenderBasedViolence demonstrate how digital campaigns can mobilize people globally. Pakistani youth can harness the power of hashtags and online campaigns to amplify their voices and bring attention to critical issues in a non-disruptive way.

Another impactful avenue for Pakistani youth to drive change is through local community development and volunteerism. Rather than participating in protests, young people can directly engage with the issues affecting their communities by volunteering their time and skills. Whether it's working in education, healthcare, or social welfare, community-based action offers an opportunity for mean-

ingful and lasting change. Volunteering allows youth to see the tangible outcomes of their efforts—be it organizing educational programs for disadvantaged children or helping to clean up local neighborhoods. This sense of accomplishment fosters a stronger sense of community and social responsibility. By participating in volunteer work, young people can bridge social, economic, and ethnic divides, building understanding, solidarity, and a stronger, more cohesive society. By concentrating on local issues, young people can foster a culture of peace and mutual support, counteracting the divisions often caused by violent protests. Community development initiatives have lasting benefits for both individuals and society, empowering youth to create a more inclusive and prosperous future. Education stands as one of the most effective tools for young people to tackle the social and economic challenges facing Pakistan. By prioritizing their studies and focusing on personal growth, young people can make a deeper and more lasting contribution to the country's development and progress. Rather than engaging in protests, youth should invest in their academic and personal development, positioning themselves as key players in addressing Pakistan's most urgent challenges. Acquiring new skills and knowledge enables youth to become leaders in their respective fields and advocates for meaningful change. Whether in science, technology, business, or the arts, young people have the potential to drive national progress and solve critical issues without resorting to protests.

Educated youth can serve as powerful advocates for change, not just for them-

selves but also for their communities. They can raise awareness about important social issues by organizing seminars, lectures, and workshops that promote peace, tolerance, and social justice. By focusing on education and lifelong learning, youth prepare themselves to take on leadership roles that will help tackle Pakistan's challenges in a constructive way.

Moreover, Pakistani youth must embrace the responsibility of being accountable citizens. This involves respecting the rule of law, honoring the rights of others, and actively contributing to a fair and just society. While protests often arise from frustrations with the political system, a collective commitment to civic responsibility can alleviate these frustrations by encouraging individuals to work within legal and social frameworks to resolve their concerns. By advocating for the rule of law, youth can help prevent the violence that frequently accompanies protests, respecting public property, avoiding disruptive civil disobedience, and promoting peaceful, lawful solutions to grievances. Encouraging accountability within institutions will also ensure that governance and justice systems function effectively, reducing the likelihood of protest-driven unrest.

Pakistani youth have the potential to be role models in promoting civic responsibility, helping to create a stable and peaceful society. The youth of Pakistan are patriotic and deeply love their country. They fully understand the negative consequences of repeated protests and stand against violence, hatred, and anarchy. They are committed to seeing Pakistan become stronger and more developed. To continue this spirit of patriotism, the youth must remain steadfast in their rejection of protests driven by political interests that do not address the real, pressing issues of the people.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

PIA hopes to resume Europe flights soon

Pakistan International Airlines expects to resume European routes soon and is eyeing several UK destinations after the EU aviation regulator lifted its ban on the flag carrier.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) suspended PIA's authorisation to operate in the EU in June 2020 over concerns about the ability of Pakistani authorities and its Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to ensure compliance with international aviation standards.

"PIA plans to approach the UK's Department for Transport (DfT) for UK route resumption, as EASA clearance is a prerequisite for their decision," PIA spokesman Abdullah Hafeez Khan told.

EASA and UK authorities suspended permission for PIA to operate in the region after Pakistan began investigating the validity of pilots' licenses following a deadly plane crash that killed 97 people.

Khan said the airline expects to resume flights to Europe, starting with Paris, within the next three to four weeks.

Once PIA gets approval for UK flights, Khan said London, Manchester, and Birmingham would be the most sought-after destinations.

PIA and the government, which is aiming to sell a 60 per cent stake in the carrier, had urged EASA to lift the ban, even provisionally. The ban cost the airline Rs40 billion (\$144 million) annually in revenue.

Khan said the company has sufficient cash flow to add new routes. Decisions on leasing new aircraft will be made after the government finalises privatisation discussions, he said.

The loss-making national carrier has a 23% stake in Pakistan's domestic aviation market, but its 34-plane fleet can't compete with Middle Eastern carriers which hold a 60% market share, due to a lack of direct flights, despite having agreements with 87 countries and key landing slots.

The government's attempt to privatise the airline fell flat when it received only a single offer, well below its asking price.

With Europe now, and upcoming UK routes, we anticipate increased revenue potential and hence a rise in PIA's value during the privatisation process," Khan said.

The European aviation regulator has lifted the ban on Pakistan International Airlines flights to Europe after more than four years. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (Easa) banned the national carrier from Europe over dubious pilot licences in 2020 after PIA's flight from Lahore crashed near Karachi's Jinnah International Airport, killing around 100 people.

In a speech on the National Assembly floor after the crash, the then aviation minister Ghulam Sarwar claimed "almost 40 per cent" of pilots working in Pakistan airlines have fake licences.

Following the minister's statement, European and UK authorities banned PIA from their territories, which were the airline's most profitable routes.

A number of foreign airlines also grounded Pakistani-origin pilots over concerns about their licences.



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

Towards Unity and Accountability: Building a Peaceful and Sustainable Pakistan

In Pakistan, any form of oppression or injustice, whether it targets members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), or any other political or social organization, is undoubtedly wrong and must be condemned in the strongest terms. However, addressing these injustices requires more than just condemnation—it calls for political awareness and a commitment to accountability. Until political leaders and workers alike acknowledge their mistakes, learn from them, and ensure they are not repeated, the vision of a peaceful and sustainable society will remain elusive.

The government bears the responsibility of addressing the root causes of these issues by considering the most appropriate solutions for the public. At the same time, political parties and their supporters must critically reassess their ideologies and practices. Blind loyalty to political figures or ideologies often leads to emotional decision-making, which exacerbates conflicts rather than resolving them. Political maturity is not just a requirement for leaders but also for workers, who play a pivotal role in shaping

public discourse and driving grassroots movements.

There is a pressing need for the training and education of political workers and leaders. They must be equipped with the skills to engage in constructive dialogue, address disagreements through democratic means, and prioritize the larger national interest over short-term political gains. This training should include a deep understanding of past political events, an analysis of their consequences, and strategies to avoid repeating the same mistakes. Emotional political affiliations, while understandable, often lead to actions that harm the collective good. A more pragmatic approach rooted in facts and foresight is essential.

Transparency is another critical element in fostering political and social stability. The truth behind political events, allegations, and incidents must be investigated and disclosed to the public without bias. This is essential not only for justice but also for rebuilding trust between the state and its citizens. A culture of accountability and honesty can pave the way for a stronger and more resilient political system.

Moreover, all political parties must

recognize that national interest should always take precedence over political agendas. When political actors prioritize their personal or party interests over the state's welfare, they inadvertently weaken the country's credibility on both domestic and international fronts. This self-serving approach must be replaced with a commitment to unity and collective progress. Political leaders have a moral obligation to lead by example, demonstrating integrity and a genuine commitment to the nation's well-being.

The state, for its part, must adopt a balanced and fair approach when dealing with political and social groups. Biased actions against any group not only deepen divisions but also erode public trust in the state's institutions. A participatory and inclusive approach, where all voices are heard and respected, is essential for lasting peace and stability.

In conclusion, the challenges facing Pakistan can only be addressed through a combination of political maturity, accountability, and a commitment to truth and justice. By prioritizing national interest, fostering political awareness, and ensuring transparency, the nation can move towards a future of unity, peace, and sustainable progress.

Writer is student at University of Sargodha. He can be approached at azamtarqiqlhaidar@gmail.com



Analysis

M Azam Tariq

A New Beginning for the Preservation of Sindhi Culture and Rights

Sindh's Cultural Day, celebrated every year in the first week of December, is not just a cultural festival but a powerful message where the people of Sindh rise as one to protect their culture, heritage, and rights. This year, on December 1, 2024, the celebrations took place in a different manner, spreading the colors of culture and delivering a message of unity from every corner of Sindh—from Keenjhar to Kashmore, and from Karunjhar to Karachi.

Sindh's Cultural Day is not merely a cultural event, but a message that raises awareness among the people of Sindh about the importance of their rights, heritage, and culture. Culture is not limited to Ajrak, cap, or pink-colored clothes; it holds a power that unites Sindh people, motivating them to stand together and fight for the protection of their rights.

In Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Nawabshah, Sukkur, and Larkana, central events took place where people, dressed in cultural colors, participated in large numbers. This year, Cultural Day received new energy, with all political parties, civil society, and the public uniting as one voice to celebrate Sindh's culture and rights. On this day, a collective resolve emerged among the people of Sindh, each taking pride in their culture and heritage.

The celebration of Cultural Day marked the start of a new protest campaign, raising the slogan "Kanal Na Manzoor." Major water projects and their effects on Sindh, particularly its culture and heritage, have become a critical issue. The slogan "Kanal Na Manzoor" symbolizes the beginning of a cultural struggle where

the people of Sindh are adopting a strong stance to protect their resources and rights.

Sindh's cultural heritage does not represent any specific era or time period; rather, it holds values of peace, tolerance, and love. The philosophy of poets like Bhattai, Sachal Sarmast, and Shah Anayat is a part of Sindh's culture, always conveying messages of humanity and peace. The celebration of Cultural Day emphasizes

that Sindh is a region where people of different beliefs, castes, and colors live together, believing in mutual respect and maintaining peace.

Sindh's Cultural Day is not just a celebration for the elders but also an important occasion for the youth, whose determination and enthusiasm play a vital role. The youth not only understand their culture but are also ready to dedicate themselves to its protection. This celebration provides the youth with a platform through which they can work for their heritage while also fighting for their rights.

The key message of Cultural Day is unity, autonomy, and the protection of the rights of the people of Sindh. When the people of Sindh speak with one voice for culture, heritage, and rights, it is not only a celebration of culture, but also the beginning of a new era, where the people of Sindh move forward to secure their place and protect their cultural identity.

The celebration of Cultural Day, held with enthusiasm and passion across Sindh, sends a clear message: Sindh will always remain a symbol of peace, love, and the preservation of cultural heritage. This day has become a demonstration of resolve and strength for the autonomy, unity, and protection of Sindh's cultural heritage.



Analysis

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

UAE's National Day celebrations to be called Eid Al Etihad



Spokesman Report

DUBAI: The official name for the UAE National Day celebrations is 'Eid Al Etihad', its organizing committee announced on Tuesday.

The name emphasises the theme of 'union' (Etihad) and celebrates the unification of the Emirates on December 2, 1971. The theme is central to the country's "identity, symbolising heritage, unity, strength, and national pride".

On December 2 every year, the UAE puts on a grand show that is usually attended by the Rulers of the Emirates. The location for the show this year has

not been revealed yet. The committee, however, said there will be multiple activations in 'Eid Al Etihad zones' across the seven Emirates on the day.

The year's National Day holiday is the last long weekend of 2024. December 2 and 3 fall on Monday and Tuesday, respectively. When combined with the Saturday-Sunday weekend, that's a four-day holiday.

Eisa Alsuboussi, director of Strategic and Creative Affairs of the Organising Committee of the 53rd Eid Al Etihad Celebration, said: "We are delighted to invite everyone to share in the joy of this historic moment, as we celebrate the unification of the seven emir-



ates. To support these festivities, we have created comprehensive guides to inspire and assist in preparations to celebrate sustainably. We encourage government entities, private companies, schools, and families to download these resources and join in marking this significant celebration."

The 53rd Eid Al Etihad will highlight the importance of sustainability and collaboration. Residents are encouraged to participate consciously

by minimising waste, recycling or upcycling what they already have, and reusing resources.

"For example, we can repurpose existing decorations to celebrate Eid Al Etihad. The 53rd Eid Al Etihad activities are accompanied by guides on how to participate sustainably, whether you're at home, school, or work. There's always a way to contribute consciously and make a positive impact," organisers said.

China, Central Asian countries agree to deepen cooperation

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday that the 5th China-Central Asia Foreign Ministers' Meeting enhanced mutual trust and deepened all-round cooperation.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when jointly meeting the press with the foreign ministers of the five Central Asian countries in Chengdu City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, after the meeting was concluded, CGTN reported.

Wang and foreign ministers of the five Central Asian countries had in-depth communication on launching preparations for the 2nd China-Central Asia Summit, which will be held in Kazakhstan next year.

The Chinese foreign minister summed up five consensus reached by the six foreign ministers during the meeting. First, the six countries agree



to adhere to the guidance of the head of states and make the China-Central Asia mechanism better and stronger.

Second, the six countries will adhere to the goal of modernization and deepen all-round cooperation. China is willing to expand cooperation with Central Asian countries in BeiDou Navigation Satellite System applications, poverty reduction and alleviation, desertification control,

higher education and people-to-people exchanges, and build platforms for exchanges.

Third, the six countries will share weal and woe and uphold regional peace and tranquility and actively implement the China-proposed Global Security Initiative, oppose external interference in the internal affairs of Central Asian countries and assist Afghanistan in realizing

peaceful reconstruction as early as possible.

Fourth, the six countries will adhere to mutual learning among civilizations and strengthen the foundation of everlasting friendship. "In the coming three years, China will provide 1,500 training opportunities to the five Central Asian countries and increase the number of scholarships by 600, so as to train more talents in various fields that are urgently needed for their development."

Fifth, the six countries will uphold multilateralism and safeguard international equity and justice, continue to strengthen coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs, promote solidarity and coordination in the global South, and oppose any form of "decoupling and breaking chains."

The six countries will fully support China in assuming the rotating presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and jointly push the SCO to achieve new development and raise it to a new level.

CGI launches 'Clean and Green Islamabad' campaign in F-9 Park

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Clean and Green Islamabad (CGI) Movement has launched a cleanliness drive in the parks of the federal capital. On Sunday, Chairman CGI Movement Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, along with his team, actively participated in cleaning Fatima Jinnah F-9 Park using special waste-picker sticks, dedicating their efforts to making the park clean and green.

The CGI team, wearing designated uniforms and equipped with waste-picking sticks, collected garbage from the park and filled approximately ten large biodegradable waste bags. They also distributed awareness pamphlets and encouraged other park visitors to join the campaign.

The activity saw participation from notable individuals, including First Women Bank Assistant Vice President Rubina Nasir, Fatima Hassan,



Sobia, Ayesha, Zia Chaudhry, Owais Malik, Shahbaz Chauhan, and others.

Addressing the participants of the campaign, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari emphasized: "Cleanliness is half of faith, and

it is our collective responsibility to keep our environment clean. Instead of littering parks and public places, every citizen should take responsibility and carry a waste bag with them. Food wrappers and other trash should be

placed in waste bags and disposed of in nearby bins. This campaign is not just an activity but a means to encourage citizens to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle."

He highlighted that most of the garbage consists of plastic bags, which are harmful to both health and the environment. He urged the public to switch to biodegradable waste bags and emphasized that abandoning plastic bags is the need of the hour.

Bakhtawari further stated "To improve the environment and safeguard our health, we must actively participate in tree-planting initiatives, cleanliness campaigns, and awareness drives. This will benefit not only our city but also future generations."

The campaign serves as a testament to the CGI Movement's commitment to fostering a cleaner, greener Islamabad and inspiring citizens to take proactive steps for environmental conservation

Trump threatens 100% tariffs if BRICS creates new currency

Reuters



President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose 100% tariffs on BRICS nations if they create a new currency to challenge the US dollar.

Trump, in a post on Truth Social, stated that any BRICS country creating a new currency or supporting an alternative to the dollar would face these tariffs, effectively barring them from the US market.

The BRICS group, initially comprised of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has recently expanded to include several other countries. The potential for a new BRICS currency is driven by a desire among member nations, particularly Russia and China, to reduce reliance on the US dollar and circumvent Western sanctions. Brazil's president had previously suggested a common South American currency.

Trump's threat comes shortly after he announced plans for significant tariff increases on goods from Mexico, Canada, and China, citing concerns about illegal immigration and border security. While he has spoken with the Mexican and Canadian leaders following these announcements, their accounts of the conversations differ.

The expanding BRICS alliance presents a challenge to US global leadership, and Trump's aggressive stance signals his intention to counter this emerging economic bloc.

Mehbooba Mufti raises grave concerns over religious polarization, ill governance in India

Spokesman Report

MIRPUR: In the Indian Illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir (IIOJK), former "Chief Minister" and J&K People's Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday expressed grave concerns over rising communal tensions and the neglect of developmental priorities in India besides the disputed IIOJK territory, says a report reaching here Sunday night from across the line of control



Drawing parallels with 1947, she accused the Indian government of fostering division, alleging attempts to demolish mosques to search for temples and communalizing spaces like Ajmer Sharif Dargah, the most ancient shrine in the Islamic history of the subcontinent.

Expressing grave concern over the increased poverty and unemployment in IIOJK, Mufti bitterly criticized the lack of jobs, poor infrastructure, and questioned, what she stated, "electoral integrity", citing discrepancies in voting percentages and results.

Comparing India's treatment of minorities to Bangladesh, she warned against compromising the so-called secular fabric.

Dynamic lighting brings new life to Burj Khalifa's visual identity

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Emaar Properties has announced the completion of a revolutionary facade lighting upgrade for Burj Khalifa.

This dynamic Red, Green, Blue, White (RGBW) lighting system, integrating cutting-edge technology with the building's architectural artistry, will debut during the UAE's Eid Al Etihad celebrations on Sunday (December 1, 2024), and set the stage for the 15th anniversary of the world's tallest building on January 4, 2025.

The upgrade transforms the iconic facade into a stunning visual spectacle, offering a wide spectrum of vibrant colours and effects, enhancing the guest experience while reinforcing Dubai's status as a global leader in innovation and design excellence.

The process was carefully coordinated, with a six-month mock-up testing to ensure seamless integration. The upgraded system features dynamic RGBW technology, replacing static lights with colour-changing, addressable fixtures to create complex lighting effects.

Without compromising Burj Khalifa's sleek design, the system can create dynamic lighting scenes, from festive displays to everyday illuminations, complementing the tower's media screen and adapting to various occasions and celebrations.

In his comments, Executive Director, Emaar Properties, Ahmad Al Matrooshi said Burj Khalifa has always stood as a beacon of what is possible when vision meets innovation. He said this lighting overhaul is a testament to Emaar's continuous pursuit of excellence and a tribute to the UAE's spirit of progress.

"As we unveil this stunning upgrade during Eid Al Etihad celebrations and approach the tower's 15th anniversary, this transformation marks a new chapter in its legacy, reaffirming Dubai as a city of boundless ambition," he added.

The lighting system not only enhances Burj Khalifa's visual presence but also strengthens its position as a global icon of architectural brilliance and a symbol of modern design innovation. By perfectly blending technology with artistry, this project sets a new benchmark for architectural lighting and promises to inspire future projects worldwide.



EU funds village-level financial literacy workshops in Sindh to end gender-based violence

City Desk

KARACHI: The EU-funded Poverty Alleviation & Inclusive Development across Rural Sindh (PAIDAR) programme, implemented by UNIDO, marked the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence with a transformative series of financial literacy workshops across the programme target districts in Sindh. In collaboration with local partners, these workshops empowered women with essential financial skills while championing the global message of #NoExcuse for violence against women—a call to action for creating safer, more inclusive communities.

Held from November 25 to 30, the workshops were part of a larger initiative supporting PAIDAR microgrants, open until December 20. Offering grants of up to EUR 10,000, the programme aims to uplift micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Sindh, generating income and reducing poverty.

From the coastal villages of Thatta and Sujawal to the arid lands of Tharparkar and bustling Badin, the sessions were alive with engagement. Women entrepreneurs gained practical tools for income management, saving, and business growth, while creative tableaux performances reinforced the campaign's 16 Days of Activism message of empow-

erment and resilience. In Mithi, Tharparkar, the participation of men alongside women in a role-play exercise stood out, showcasing how gender collaboration can drive community progress and shared prosperity. The campaign concluded in Larkana, celebrating women-led businesses and inspiring financial independence.

UNIDO's National Programme Coordinator for PAIDAR programme, Mr. Badar ul Islam, shared, "The 16 Days of Activism is a powerful reminder of the work needed to build inclusive, safe, and economically resilient communities."

"When Mohammed Rafi sang bhajans, it felt like a true Hindu was

performing' Spokesman Report

Indian singer Sonu Nigam has paid tribute to the late playback singer Mohammed Rafi for his unique versatility, as the latter different kinds of songs in his career. "When he sings bhajans, it feels as if a true Hindu is performing. Despite being a Muslim and a devout person, how was he able to transform his identity through his singing?" Nigam said during a session for the singer at the 55th International Film Festival of India in Goa.

Rafi was commemorated at the event. A special session titled 'Asmaan Se Aaya Farishta - A Tribute to Mohd Rafi - The King of Melody' was dedicated to his



memory, featuring insights from celebrated singer Sonu Nigam.

Nigam praised the Gulabi Ankhensinger's versatility, mentioning that the late artist, who was a Muslim, would embrace "dharam parivartan" while performing bhajans.

He noted Rafi's ability to adapt his voice to a diverse range of actors in his era. "He could sing 'Hum Kaale Hain Toh Kya Hua Dilwaale Hain' as well as 'Sarr Jo Tera Chakraaye Ya Dil Dooba Jaaye.' His voice was a "perfect match for legends like Dilip Kumar, Johnny Walker, Mehmood, and Rishi Kapoor,"

Nigam added. He emphasised the rarity of Rafi's talent and claimed that not everyone can achieve that.

"I know many singers who excel at Sufi songs but struggle with bhajans. Rafi sang for various occasions, including Ramzan and Raksha Bandhan, and performed a wide range of songs, from joyous tracks to emotional ballads—even the iconic 'Happy Birthday'. There was nothing he couldn't do. Who is this man? He was like a volcano, erupting only when he took the microphone."

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

Second Pakistan Investment Summit and Smart Expo held in Jeddah

✉ **Muhammad Adeel**

JEDDAH: The Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry (PAEI) organized the second annual Pakistan Investment Summit and Smart Expo to promote investment in Pakistan. The event took place in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah, with 21 companies from Pakistan participating. These companies represented various sectors, including travel, tourism, real estate, and other industrial fields.

The exhibition was attended by prominent Pakistani and Saudi traders, investors, and community figures. The event began with a welcome address by Fahad Khurshid Birlas, Chairman of the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, who emphasized the organization's efforts to attract overseas Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan. He highlighted the numerous investment opportunities in Pakistan and stated that the aim of the exhibition was to raise awareness about these opportunities.

Pakistani and Saudi traders considered the event highly significant, stating that such exhibitions would further improve the investment climate. The heads of the Pakistani companies participating in the exhibition expressed satisfaction



a positive step forward and stressed that such events would further improve the investment climate.

The heads of the Pakistani companies participating in the exhibition expressed satisfaction

with the event's successful organization. They emphasized the need to encourage more overseas Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan to further boost the country's economic growth.

At the conclusion of the event, participating

companies were presented with honorary shields for their important role in the successful execution of the event. The occasion also took another step in strengthening the trade relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Price hike

LAHORE: Citizens are buying fruits and vegetables at Shadman Sasta Bazaar of the provincial capital on holidays.



Photo: Online

Pakistani food exporters to extend stay in Malaysia by another one week: spokesman

✉ **Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Encouraged by the positive response from Malaysian buyers, the Pak food exporters delegation currently on the last leg of two weeks visit has decided to extend their stay by another one week to capitalize on the growing interest and finalize trade agreements.

According to a message received here Sunday from Kuala Lumpur, the leader of Pak delegation Saif Ur Rehman said delegation members successfully showcasing Pakistan's diverse and high-quality food products especially varieties of Nimko which is attracting their counterparts. He said by the grace of Allah, Pak products meet all international stand-

ards and superb in taste. He said the extended visit will focus on strengthening bilateral trade ties, exploring new market opportunities, and fostering collaborations that could lead to increased export volumes. This initiative underscores Pakistan's commitment to expanding its footprint in the Malaysian food market while boosting economic ties between the two nations.

During the visit, the delegation participated in business-to-business meetings, product demonstrations, highlighting Pakistan's strengths in processed foods. The response from Malaysian stakeholders has been highly encouraging, with significant interest in long-term partnerships, he concluded.

Pakistan's First Locally Assembled Electric SUV, the Seres 3 unveiled



✉ **Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Regal Automobiles Industries Limited, a trailblazer in Pakistan's automotive sector, has made history with the unveiling of the country's first locally assembled electric SUV, the Seres 3.

The landmark ceremony, held at the Regal Automobiles plant on Multan Road, Lahore, celebrated a significant step forward for Pakistan's automotive industry and its journey toward sustainable electric mobility.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Adeel Usman, Managing Director at Regal Automobiles stated, "The launch of the Seres 3 is a proud moment for us and the nation. As Pakistan's first locally assembled electric SUV, it represents our commitment to innovation, sustainability, and contributing to a cleaner, greener future. This achievement is a testament to the potential of Pakistan's automotive industry to lead in the global transition toward electric mobility."

The introduction of the Seres 3 underscores Regal Automobiles' dedication to reducing Pakistan's dependence on fossil fuels and contributing to a sustainable future. By offering an affordable, high-quality electric vehicle option, Regal Automobiles aims to cater to eco-conscious consumers and businesses while driving the growth of the electric vehicle market in Pakistan.

The Seres 3 is expected to reshape the automotive landscape in Pakistan, positioning the country as an emerging hub for electric mobility innovation.

Tariq Sadiq Sworn in as Chairman of Founder Group ICCI

✉ **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Tariq Sadiq, former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), was sworn in as the new Chairman of the Founder Group of ICCI. The oath was administered by the outgoing Chairman, Khalid Iqbal Malik.

The ceremony was graced by Atif Ikram Shaikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCD), who attended as the Chief Guest. He congratulated the newly elected Chairman, Tariq Sadiq, and expressed confidence that he would serve the business community with his exceptional abilities. Shaikh also lauded the outgoing Chairman, Khalid Iqbal Malik, for his relentless efforts in fostering unity within the business community.

Newly elected Chairman Tariq Sadiq thanked the members of the Founder Group for entrusting him with this significant responsibility. He assured them that he would work towards strengthening the Group and making major decisions in consultation with its members.



Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of ICCI, congratulated Tariq Sadiq on assuming the role of Chairman and commended the services of former Chairman Khalid Iqbal Malik.

Khalid Iqbal Malik reflected on the successes of the Founder Group during his tenure, thanking both senior and junior colleagues for their contributions, which led to the historic victory of the Founder Group in the elections.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General

of the United Business Group, acknowledged the challenges facing the business community, particularly in terms of easing the business environment. Despite these obstacles, he assured that the community remains committed to driving innovation, increasing exports, and generating much-needed foreign exchange to support Pakistan's economic stability.

The ceremony was conducted impressively by Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui.

Shahid Imran says FDI in corporate farming holds promise for uplifting agriculture

✉ **Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional standing committee on food Shahid Imran Sunday said, foreign direct investment in corporate farming holds the potential to benefit the country's agriculture sector in offsetting the impending hovering threat of food insecurity besides meeting food staple needs of the people.

Speaking here today to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Chaudhry Shaheer Asif Arain Sahiwal he said Pakistan is in dire need of foreign direct investment (FDI) to improve its foreign exchange reserves and to bridge the investment gap

the country is currently experiencing. Such investments are crucial to boost its agricultural and industrial production, which can lead to job creation, increased exports, and the generation of additional tax revenues, he added.

He said several countries, like India and Indonesia, went for public-private partnerships with foreign partners to increase local production of high-yielding seeds.

This initiative aims to enhance the country's crop productivity and farm incomes by ensuring the availability of affordable, high-yielding seeds. Such partnerships side-stepped the complex and lengthy process of developing new cultivars, he added.

Diversification of economic activities can help Pakistan thrive: Iftikhar Ali Malik

✉ **Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday said diversification of economic activities across various sectors including technology, renewable energy, agriculture, healthcare, and manufacturing can shield Pakistan from the uncertainties of global markets.

In a statement issued today he said as Pakistan continues to navigate the complexities of the international economy, diversification can prove to be a pivotal strategy for sustainable growth and resilience. He said in today's interconnected world, economies are increasingly inter-



dependent. By investing in diverse sectors, we can mitigate risks associated with economic downturns in specific industries, he added.

He said more over, diversification fosters innovation and entrepreneurship. Encouraging a wide range of industries not only creates job opportunities but also nurtures a culture of creativity and adaptability. Adding he said Innovation is a driving force behind economic progress, and diverse industries provide a fertile ground for new ideas and inventions. He said we can build a robust and resilient economy that can withstand the challenges of the modern world while fostering sustainable development and prosperity for all citizens

of Pakistan.

Iftikhar Malik said additionally, diversification enhances our global competitiveness as a varied economic base allows us to cater to a broader range of international markets. He said this adaptability will position Pakistan favorably in international trade and foster economic growth. He said further more, diversification contributes to regional development and strategically investing in different sectors across various regions of the country, we can bridge the economic disparities between urban and rural areas. This inclusive approach not only uplifts communities but also strengthens the social fabric of our nation, he concluded.

IS 52nd National Athletics Championship

Third Day: Players of WAPDA and Pakistan Army perform brilliantly

Shahid Saeed Mirza

MULTAN PAKISTAN: 52nd National Athletics Championship—Third day of various competitions underway in Multan. WAPDA and Army remained the heavy favourites.

The 52nd Four-Day Athletics Championship 2024 continued on the third day today. On the third day of the event, WAPDA and Army were in a heavy fight. Marathon, javelin throw, discus throw, hurdles race, heptathlon and other competitions were organized in various stadiums of Multan today in the championship. Navy's Shoaib Akhtar won the men's marathon. Army's Faryal won the women's discus throw title. Muhammad Irfan won the first position in the men's 3000 race. 13 teams participated in the men's javelin throw. WAPDA's Yasir Sultan won the javelin title with the best throw of his three throws of 78.23. While Army's Muhammad Abrar was in second place with 67.84 meters. WAPDA's Fatima Hussain also won the first position in the women's javelin throw competition

with 43.65. He won the meter throw. In the heptathlon, WAPDA's Malhan stood first with 3156 points. It should be noted that Monday, December 2, is the last day of the championship competitions, after which the position holders will be awarded medals and prizes.

Earlier The special guest of the 52nd National Athletics Championship, Paris Olympics gold medalist Arshad Nadeem, while talking to the media at Shafqat Stadium, said that the successful holding of the 52nd Athletics Championship in Multan is a source of joy. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the organizers of the 52nd Athletics Championship. Arshad Nadeem said that there is no shortage of sports talent in Pakistan. Only after finding the talent, it needs to be polished. Arshad Nadeem said that I started javelin throwing from a village near Mian Channu at the school level and after that I joined the Multan Board, District and Division levels and WAPDA Sports Department and I thank Allah Almighty. Apart from my parents and family



members, I also thank the entire Pakistani nation for praying for me and the flag of Pakistan to be raised. Arshad Nadeem, who won a gold medal for Pakistan in the Olympic Games, further said that just as the

government of Pakistan and departments promote cricket and hockey, I will request the government of Pakistan and the Army Chief to help build athletics stadiums at the district, division and provincial levels in Paki-



stan and provide full support to the players so that Pakistan can win more gold medals at the world level and the Olympics in the near future.

Finally, Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem paid a great tribute to the players participating in the 52nd National Athletics Championship.

PCB suggests Pakistan, India matches on neutral venues, ICC likely to approve arrangement today

Sports Desk

DUBAI: Pakistan has suggested to the International Cricket Council (ICC) a new formula under which its matches against India in any tournament hosted by the BCCI will be held on neutral venues.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has been in Dubai to resolve the dispute over Champions Trophy tournament created due to India's refusal to play in Pakistan.

According to sources, under the new formula,

put forward by Pakistan, matches between the two countries [in Champions Trophy] will be held in Dubai. Likewise, Pakistan's matches in any future tournament which India will host, will also be held on neutral venue.

The arrangement will be applicable for three years. The new formula will also not be called a hybrid model but some other name.

Sources said that the ICC meeting regarding the Champions Trophy is likely to be held today (Sunday). They expressed the hope that

the deadlock over the issue of Champions Trophy will be resolved today.

There will be no voting if India agreed to Pakistani formula, they said.

Interestingly, there is a new development in the cricket's governing body. Greg Barclay's term as ICC chairman ended on November 30 and Jay Shah, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), took over the world body on December 1 (today). Shah was elected unopposed in August.

On Saturday, PCB chief

Naqvi had said that "we will try to achieve what is the best for Pakistan."

He told the media that "whatever happens now will be on the basis of equality. Whatever formula is agreed, will be a precedent for the future. Now it is not limited to just the Champions Trophy."

Also read: Pakistan rejects hybrid model for Champions Trophy, informs ICC officially

Pakistan has officially informed the International Cricket Council (ICC) that it rejects the hybrid model for the Champions Trophy.

PSB urged to review proposed plans threatening autonomy of sports federations

KARACHI: Sports federations, under the umbrella of the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA), have written a joint letter to the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), urging a review of proposed measures that they claim threaten the autonomy of national sports federations.

The letter, signed by leaders of 23 different sports federations, expressed grave concerns over the PSB's proposed measures, which the federations argue could undermine the independence of NSFs and violate the principles set forth by the Olympic Charter. "It has come to our attention that the Pakistan Sports Board is in the process of enacting rules and regulations that may significantly affect the autonomy of National Sports Federations (NSFs) affiliated with the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA)," the letter states.

IS Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Zone-VI W will meet Zone-VII W in the Final on Tuesday 3rd

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VI Whites will meet Zone-VII Whites in the Final of Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament on Tuesday 3rd December at KCCA Stadium.

On this occasion Junaid Khalil Naitalwala Group Managing Director Medicam Group of Companies will be the Chief Guest and Distribute the Prizes, While Nadeem Omar President Regional Cricket Association Karachi Preside over the Ceremony.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies.

The Two teams will be Selected from the following Players before the start of the Match.

Zone-VI Whites: Abdullah Jawed, Aish Malik, Naveed Babar, Faisal Qurban Shah, Mudasser, Sufyan Kamran, Mahad Khatri, Drain Faraz, Yahya Aslam, Durrani Khan, Sufyan, Ghufuran Afridi, Areeb Noor, M. Ahmed, Usaid Ashfaq, Coach Adnan Kaleem, Manager Naveed Al-Ameen.

Zone-VII Whites: Amanullah Khan, Abdur Rehman, Omar Admani, Hassan Ahmed Siddiqui, M. Hassan, Majeed ullah, Riaz Ahmed, M. Uzair, Syed Abdur Rafay, M. Omar Shahryar, M. Hunain Naeem, Muhammad Irfan, Mustajabul Hassan, Mehmood Alam and M. Zahid. Coach Faraz Patel, Manager Mehmood ul Hassan.

Pakistan stun Nepal to reach Blind T20 World Cup 2024 final

LAHORE: In a major achievement, Pakistan blind cricket team on Sunday inflicted a humiliating 10-wicket defeat on Nepal to reach Blind T20 World Cup 2024 final at Multan Cricket Stadium.

Chasing a modest 95-run target, the home side comfortably knocked the winning runs in just 5.3 overs without losing a wicket.

Opening batter Kamran Akhtar came out all guns blazing in the run chase as he smashed 13 boundaries including a six on his way to an unbeaten 63 off 21 deliveries. He was supported by fellow opener Babar Ali, who made a brisk 32 not out from 14 balls.

Batting first, Nepal only managed 94/7 in the allotted 20 overs despite Durgadatta Paudel's gutsy knock.

The middle-order batter waged a lone battle for Nepal with a cautious 40 off 42 balls and remained the top-scorer, followed by Ramesh Baniyan, who scored an unbeaten 17 off 30 deliveries.

The rest of the Nepal batters struggled against a ruthless Pakistan's bowling attack as none of them could amass double figures.

Mati Ullah was the standout bowler for Pakistan, registering economical bowling figures of 3/5 in his four overs, while Badar Munir chipped in with one scalp.

The Green Shirts will face either Sri Lanka or Bangladesh in the Blind T20 World Cup 2024 final, scheduled to be played at the same venue on Tuesday.

Pakistan's squad for Blind T20 World Cup 2024

B1 Category: Zafar Iqbal, Muhammad Idrees Saleem, Muhammad Shahzaib, Fakhar Abbas, Muhammad Asif, and Muhammad Salman

B2 Category: Nisar Ali (c), Badar Munir (vc), Babar Ali, Nematullah, and Haroon Khan

B3 Category: Muhammad Saifdar, Kamran Akhtar, Akmal Hayat Nasir, Talha Iqbal, and Matiullah.

IS Pakistan Vs Zimbabwe, 1st T-20

Pakistan Cricket Team crush hosts Zimbabwe Cricket Team by 57 runs to take 1-0 lead in series

Asim Tanveer

BULAWAYO/ ZIMBABWE: Pakistan has won the first T20I against Zimbabwe by 57 runs. In the match played in Bulawayo, Pakistan batted first and scored 165 runs. The Zimbabwean team was bowled out for 108 runs in the 11th over. Earlier, the Pakistan team won the toss and started batting. Now, against Zimbabwe, the Pakistan team was batting under the leadership of a new captain, Salman Ali Agha. How did the innings start? Umair Yousuf and Saim Ayub gave Pakistan an 18-run start. On this occasion, Umair Yousuf was dismissed for 16 runs. Pakistan's second wicket fell for a total score of 51 when Saim Ayub returned to the pavilion after scoring 24 runs off 18 balls. After this, Usman Khan played a good innings. He scored 39 runs off 30 balls and was the only batter to hit two sixes. When he was dismissed for 39 runs, Pakistan's total score was 91 for three wickets. Captain Salman Ali Agha, who was the captain, seemed to be under pressure. He wasted 19 balls and could only score 13. Now, after playing three overs and one ball, when he could score 13, Pakistan's score was 100 for four wickets and the game was over in 14.2 overs. This was not a good position. From here, Pakistan was rescued



by Tayyab Tahir and Irfan Khan. Both of them did not let any more wickets fall and set a good score of 165 for four wickets for Pakistan. At the end of the peace overs, Tayyab Tahir scored a brilliant 39 runs and played 25 balls in it. Irfan Khan made 27 off 15 balls.

For Zimbabwe, Sikandar Raza gave away only 14 runs in four overs and took one wicket. Ryan also took one wicket. The other two bowlers also took one wicket each. Thus, Zimbabwe got a target of 166 runs to win.

In reply, although Zimbabwe did not start well, when Sikandar Raza and Marumani took their team's score to 77



for two for the third wicket, the 9th over was underway. This was a wonderful opportunity. For Zimbabwe, if they had played, they would have given Pakistan a tough time. Here, Maruni fell ill after scoring 33 runs and was run out. Marumani was run out and then a little later Sikandar Raza was also out after scoring 39 runs and the Zimbabwe team could not recover after that and all its players were out after scoring 108 runs in 15.3 overs. The important thing was that

no Zimbabwe player could even enter double figures except these two.

For Pakistan, Sufyan Muqem bowled brilliantly and took three wickets for 20 runs. Another spinner, Abrar Ahmed, also bowled brilliantly and took three wickets for 28 runs. Haris Rauf is also a special bowler in T20s. He took two wickets for 17 runs. Pakistan has taken a 1-0 lead in the three-match T20 series. The second T20 match will be played in Bulawayo on December 3.

Encouraging Grassroots Sports

Sports is a universal language that brings people together, breaking barriers and building connections. Sports are not just a form of recreation; they are a powerful tool for character building, physical fitness, and mental well-being. The importance of promoting sports activities at the grassroots level cannot be overstated, as it lays the foundation for a healthier and more disciplined society. Recognizing this, the government has been actively working to encourage sports through initiatives like

Khelta Punjab, which are organized at tehsil, district, and division levels.

Khelta Punjab is an exemplary effort aimed at nurturing talent, fostering teamwork, and creating opportunities for youth across the province. By bringing sports closer to local communities, such events serve as a catalyst for developing a positive attitude and a healthy mindset among participants. They not only allow young athletes to showcase their talent but also instill qualities like perseverance, discipline, and respect—values that are essential for building a cohesive society.

The significance of such programs goes beyond individual development. Sports have long been recognized as a unifying force that transcends barriers of language, culture, and social class. Events like Khelta Punjab encourage youth participation across diverse demographics, fostering a sense of unity and mutual respect. When young individuals engage in sports, they learn to compete with fair-

ness, accept defeat gracefully, and celebrate success with humility—all traits that contribute to their growth as responsible citizens.

Moreover, these initiatives address a critical challenge faced by our youth today: the sedentary lifestyle. With the increasing prevalence of screen time and a lack of physical activity, young people are at a greater risk of health issues like obesity, diabetes, and mental stress.

Encouraging sports from an early age promotes physical fitness and helps instill lifelong habits of staying active. It also keeps young minds engaged in productive activities, reducing the likelihood of them falling prey to negative influences.

The government's role in promoting sports cannot be understated. The grassroots approach adopted through programs like Khelta Punjab ensures that talent from even the remotest areas is identified and nurtured. Many budding athletes often lack access to proper infrastructure and training facilities, which hampers their growth.

By providing a platform for competition and skill development, these events bridge the gap between rural and urban youth, giving everyone an equal chance to excel.

However, there is still room for growth. While initiatives like Khelta Punjab are commendable, they must be supplemented with sustained efforts to develop sports infrastructure, provide professional coaching, and offer scholarships to promising athletes. Schools and local communities should also play an active role in organizing regular sports events and encouraging participation.

No doubts sports are an epitome of character building and should be encouraged at every level, starting from the grassroots. Events like Khelta Punjab are a step in the right direction, setting the stage for a healthier, more dynamic, and united society. Let us look forward to more such initiatives and work collectively to create an environment where every child has the opportunity to unlock their potential through sports.

"Encouraging grassroots sports is not just an investment in physical health, but in the moral and social fabric of a community."



Aamir Ramzan Sidhu

Donation

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong giving a donation check to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar during Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) charity bazaar 2024 at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Govt followed IHC order to ensure law and order during PTI protest: Secretary Interior

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Interior Secretary Capt. (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha on Sunday said that on November 21, Islamabad High Court (IHC) had issued directives to the federal government to maintain law and order in the federal capital at any cost.

Addressing a press conference here at the Press Information Department (PID), the Secretary said the High Court also directed the Minister for Interior to engage the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership regarding the maintenance of law and order.

He further said that because of the visit of the Belarusian president and a high-level Chinese delegation, as well as the law-and-order situation in



Kurram, the PTI was repeatedly asked to postpone its protest.

The Secretary said that the High Court had upheld the right to protest while emphasizing the need to adhere to legal requirements. He mentioned that in the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act, it was clearly written that protesters were required to submit

an application at least seven days in advance, and after that, the District Magistrate would designate a suitable location for the demonstration. The PTI leadership was repeatedly informed about this legal requirement, but no application was submitted.

The court also emphasized the need to protect people's lives and property during protest, particularly with the ongoing visit of the Belarusian President and the presence of key government buildings and embassies in the Red Zone. In the light of these security concerns, a comprehensive security plan was devised and implemented to ensure public safety, he added.

He said law enforcement agencies' personnel despite suffering serious injuries showed extreme restraint while

dealing with the violent protesters led by trained miscreants.

Three Rangers personnel assigned on duty at a check post in Islamabad were martyred, besides, a police constable was also martyred by the violent protesters, he added.

The Secretary said the Pakistan Army was deployed in Islamabad under Article 245 of the Constitution and the purpose of its deployment was to secure important installations and ensure a safe environment for foreign diplomats and visiting delegations. Pakistan's cuisine

He categorically rejected the claim of the use of force by law enforcement agencies and said that Police and Rangers did not use live ammunition to disperse the violent and unruly mob.

Ali Muhammad's alleged audio leak provides insights into Nov 24 protest

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: An alleged audio leak of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan has surfaced, raising questions about the November 24 protest.

According to reports, Ali Muhammad Khan in the alleged audio leak expressed his concerns over recent decisions taken within the party, raising questions about internal leadership dynamics.

The audio, reportedly recorded during the PTI political committee meeting, highlights Ali Muhammad Khan's frustration with certain actions, particularly the call for November 24 protest issued by

Aleema Khan instead of Barrister Gohar.

Ali Muhammad Khan in the purported audio leak stated that it should have been Gohar who led the call for the November 24 PTI protest, not Aleema Khan, questioning the legitimacy of the move.

According to the leaked conversation, the PTI central leader seemed upset with the decision to initiate protests without prior consultation with party leadership.

Ali Muhammad Khan further questioned the decision to move towards D-Chowk, stating that the founder had never instructed them to go there. He mentioned that Imran Khan had only asked for PTI members to reach



Islamabad, with the specific location to be determined upon arrival.

Khan's comments indicate that there was inconsistency between the leadership's instructions and the actions taken on the ground.

In the purported audio, Khan also expressed dissatisfaction with

the handling of protest strategies, mentioning that the founder had explicitly opposed separate protests in Sindh and Punjab.

He revealed that Imran Khan had also directed the leadership to sit at Sangjani and engage in negotiations, but the decision was ignored, with the party continuing its march towards D-Chowk.

Khan criticised the participation of PTI founder's wife, Bushra Bibi, in the protest, claiming that the party founder was unaware of her involvement. He also suggested that any decisions regarding protests should have been communicated by the party leadership, specifically the chairman and secretary-general.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima urges business users, freelancers to continue registering IPs



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja has urged business users and freelancers to continue registering their IPs for uninterrupted VPN access.

She said in a statement that the government is fully cognisant of the need for secure communications, and is working towards further smoothening the process of activation and usage of VPN, and till then situation will remain as is.

"We strongly urge users to continue registering their IPs through PTA website", she added.

Warring tribes in KP's Kurram reach ceasefire as forces, police deployed at outposts

Bureau report

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi will travel to Kohat today to participate in a Jirga with political and tribal leaders, in an effort to address the ongoing crisis in Kurram District.

Provincial political leaders are currently assembling at the Governor's House in Peshawar before departing for Kohat.

The ongoing arrival of leaders from various political parties at the Governor's House continues.

The Governor is leading a delegation of

political leaders to Kohat to engage in discussions aimed at resolving the conflict.

Deadly tribal clashes in Pakistan's Kurram District



continued for an eleventh day on Sunday, leaving six more dead and eight injured, bringing the total death toll to 130 and injuries to 186.

The ongoing violence has forced the closure of the main

Peshawar-Parachinar road and the Pak-Afghan Kharlachi border crossing, causing shortages of essential supplies like fuel, food, and medicine in the region.

A communication blackout, including suspended mobile and internet services, further compounds the crisis, with schools also closed.

A ten-day truce declared last week has proven ineffective due to persistent fighting, which began eleven days prior with deadly ambushes on two police convoys. The situation remains volatile, with police struggling to restore order.

Four militants killed as police foil terrorist attack in Mianwali



Correspondent

MIANWALI: Punjab Police foiled a terrorist attack on Chahapri Police Station in the Isakhel Circle, near the KP-Punjab interprovincial border.

In the ensuing gunfight, four militants were killed.

A Punjab police spokesperson confirmed that more than 20 heavily armed militants launched a surprise attack, using rocket launchers and hand grenades.

Despite heavy gunfire, all police personnel remained safe, with only two officers sustaining minor injuries.

Following the attack, District Police Officer Mianwali, Akhtar Froog, and senior officials arrived at the scene.

Punjab IGP Dr Usman Anwar praised the police officers and reaffirmed the commitment to thwart the plans of anti-peace elements in the province.

FBR fails to attain tax collection target for November

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) would fail to reach its tax target collection for November 2024, sources here said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) could demand a mini budget from Pakistan if the tax collection authority would fail to attain its target of December, according to sources.

Despite heavy taxes imposed, the FBR failing to reach to tax targets with overall 343 billion rupees shortfall in tax collection, sources said.

The taxation authority has collected Rs 852 billion during November 2024 against the monthly target of Rs1,003 billion, leaving a gap of Rs151 billion.



Sources said that the tax collection shortfall of last four months was Rs 192 billion.

The FBR has collected Rs4,292 billion during first five months of 2024-25 against the assigned target of Rs 4,639 billion set for July-November of the current fiscal year, reflecting a shortfall of Rs344 billion.

The taxation authority has collected Rs851 billion in November 2024 against Rs736 billion collection in November 2023, an increase of Rs 115 billion.

Palestine: Warns of the dangers of racist Israeli calls to displace citizens from the Gaza Strip

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Palestine condemns in the strongest terms the provocative calls made by the extremist and racist Israeli Minister Ben Gvir to displace Palestinians from the Gaza Strip under the blatant misleading name (voluntary migration), noting that more than one Israeli official has boasted of his call to displace Gazans and reduce

their numbers in the Gaza Strip and deport more than half, as well as what the Israeli war machine is doing in terms of genocide and destruction of all the elements of life in the Strip and turning it into scorched earth unfit for human life.

The Ministry warns of the consequences and repercussions of these calls and demands the international community and all countries to deal with them with the utmost seriousness and to intervene quickly to stop their implementation immediately, especially since the Israeli government quickly implements such policies and responds to calls from

extremist ministers to preserve the ruling Israeli coalition.

In a related context, the Ministry holds the Israeli government fully and directly responsible for the martyrdom of prisoners Mohammed Idris and Moaz Rayan inside the occupation prisons, and calls on the international community and its specialized organizations and bodies, most notably the International Red Cross, to respect their legal respon-



sibilities and provide protection to the prisoners and know their whereabouts, and to intervene urgently to stop the occupation's crimes against prisoners, especially beating, torture, starvation, overcrowding, enforced disappearance, medical negligence, deliberate killing, harassment, rape, and deprivation of the most basic rights, which led to the spread of diseases among prisoners, and others.

Atta Tarar dares PTI to show video evidence of straight firing by LEAs on protestors

Continued from Page 1

He said that the Pakistan Institute of the Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Poly Clinic had already issued their press releases that clearly stated that no death occurred due to the firing of the law enforcement agencies.

"Likewise, we are calling them

out for their fake propaganda and communicating the fact to the people through different channels," he added.

He said the armed protestors were being identified through video evidence as there were a large number of people who were directly involved in creating chaos and anarchy in the country.