



**PM Shehbaz felicitates UAE on 53rd National Day**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has extended heartiest felicitations to the leadership and people of UAE on their 53rd National Day. In a post on his X handle, he appreciated the vision, wisdom and sagacity of the UAE leadership to achieve excellence through innovation and modernization.



**BISP Kafaalat: Quarterly payment increased**

Chairperson (BISP), Rubina Khalid, has announced an increase in the quarterly payments. The payment amount will rise by Rs 3,000, bringing the total to Rs 13,500 per quarter, up from the previous Rs 10,500. Launched in 2008, the BISP Kafaalat Program is the largest cash transfer initiative in Pakistan's history. It aims to provide financial assistance to vulnerable households, keeping in mind both short- and long-term goals.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Cabinet Meeting**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting on Monday.



Photo: PID

**Cabinet approves National Prevention of Violent Extremism Policy 2024**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet, on the recommendation of the Interior Ministry, approved the National Prevention of Violent Extremism Policy 2024 on Monday.

The cabinet also approved in principle the proposal of the interior ministry with respect to the establishment of Islamabad Central Business District Development Authority.

The meeting, on the recommendation of commerce ministry, authorized to file review petition against the Supreme Court of Pakistan's decision of lifting ban on the

export of Monosodium glutamate (Ajinomoto).

The decision was taken in the light of the report of the expert's special committee that was formed to monitor the impacts of Monosodium glutamate on human health. The report had termed the Monosodium glutamate safe for human health. The committee was comprised of representatives from Pakistan Scientific and Industrial Research, National Agriculture Research Center, National University of Sciences and Technology, Institute of Food and Nutritional Sciences, Federal Ministry of National Food Safety and Research, Pakistan

Standards and Quality Control Authority and Board of Investment.

The meeting of the federal cabinet was held here under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The cabinet, on the proposal of ministry of education and professional training also gave a go ahead to the renewal of the Memoranda of Understandings with respect to University of Cambridge, Saint Antony's College University of Oxford, University of Jordan, Peeking University China, University of Hydal Berg, and Pakistan Chairs in Germany.

Furthermore, the cabinet, on

the recommendation of ministry of education and professional training approved nomination of Dr Habib ur Rehman and Dr Kamran Ansari as subject experts in the Board of Governors of University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore and the nomination of Dr Muntaz Muhammad Shah and Dr Muhammad Ahmed Farooqi as subject experts in Board of Governors of Center of Excellence in Mineralogy, University of Balochistan Quetta.

The federal cabinet, on the proposal of ministry of law and justice in line with Sindh High Court orders approved the amendment in the jurisdiction

of special courts.

On the recommendation of ministry of law and justice and in line with Balochistan High Court orders, the cabinet also approved amendments in the jurisdiction of special courts (customs, taxation and anti smuggling) Quetta and Khuzdar.

Similarly, on proposals of ministry of law and justice and in line with orders of Peshawar High Court, Lahore High Court, Islamabad High Court, Sindh High Court, and Balochistan High Court, the cabinet authorized the additional session judges and other relevant courts to hear the cases under lawyers welfare and protection act 2023.

**DPM Dar arrives in Mashhad, Iran to attend ECO ministerial meeting**



**Spokesman Report**

MASHHAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday arrived in Mashhad, Iran to attend the 28th meeting of the Council Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

He was warmly received at the airport by Vice Governor General of Razavi Khorasan province Mohammad Ali Nabipour and Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran, Mudassar Tipu, according to a press release issued by the Deputy PM Office.

In his address at the ministerial meeting, DPM Dar will

reiterate Pakistan's commitment to the ECO Charter and highlight the potential of greater connectivity in the ECO region, through the development of road and rail networks; liberalization of visa regimes and simplification of border procedures; and to attain sustainable growth and enhance the geo-economic potential of the ECO region.

The deputy prime minister will sign the 'Charter for ECO Clean Energy Center' and hold bilateral meetings with participating ministers and dignitaries on the sidelines of the ministerial meeting.

**Prime Minister's visit to Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to attend 'One Water Summit'**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will visit Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 3-4 December 2024 to participate in the "One Water Summit".

A joint initiative of Saudi Arabia, France, Kazakhstan, and the World Bank, the Summit aims to promote global cooperation and a coherent international approach towards water resource management through high-level political commitments.

At the Summit, the Prime Minister will deliver a keynote address at a Roundtable focusing on restoration, preservation, and adaptation in the context of fresh water

resources and wetlands. He will also highlight steps being taken by Pakistan to promote water conservation, strengthen climate resilience, improve water quality, create livelihoods, and conserve biodiversity.

The Prime Minister will underline the importance of international cooperation to tackle the impact of climate-induced floods, erratic and extreme weather patterns, and heat stress on water resources and ecosystems. He will also call for meaningful international collaboration for sustainable water resource management.

On the sidelines of the Summit, the Prime Minister is expected to hold bilateral meetings and engagements.

**FIA Cybercrime Wing Balochistan launched crackdown against anti-state propaganda**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Under the leadership of Director Imran Mehmood, the FIA Cybercrime Wing Balochistan Zone has launched vigorous operations against elements involved in anti-state propaganda on social media. Director Cybercrime Wing West, Imran Mahmood, was appointed three months ago to lead the efforts in combating cybercrimes and state adversaries online.

A specialized team has been formed to monitor and analyze social media accounts for suspicious activities. This team utilizes advanced technology to keep track of activities on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, and other platforms that may be involved in anti-state propaganda.

Over the past three months, the FIA Cybercrime Wing Balochistan has identified 924 social media accounts involved in sharing anti-state content on Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, and others. The reported accounts include 487 on Facebook, 190 on TikTok, 147 on Twitter, 88 on Instagram, and 12 on other applications.

Additionally, 14 inquiries have been registered, and investigations have begun against the anti-state elements. Out of 924 accounts, 312 Social Media accounts have been marked as blocked by the PTA, whereas 607 social media accounts are in process for blocking by PTA. Besides, FIA Cybercrime Wing, Balochistan has reported a total of 28 different Social Media Applications that have a high potential for facilitating anonymous communication and misuse by anti-state elements.

**Spotlight of Aaj News reveals number of PTI supporters killed in firing**

**Monitoring Desk**

ISLAMABAD: PTI protest: How many workers martyred? Aaj News investigation reveals shocking details! Aaj News Amid conflicting reports over the death toll in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Islamabad protest, Aaj News' programme Spotlight with Munizae Jahangir conducted its investigation and found that at least six supporters of former prime minister Imran Khan's party were killed in the firing. Another was killed when a speedy car hit him.

According to the former ruling party, 12 of their followers were killed in firing on the last day of the protest. PTI's information secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram shared details in a press conference on November 29.

"This is our verified data from our own data collection centre," Akram said and named the people who were allegedly killed. He also claimed that the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences hospital, where casualties were brought, was not handing over bodies to the families of the deceased. The PTI leader warned that the Islamabad firing would have repercussions.

Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub, who accompanied him at the presser, claimed that American weapons were used in the

firing against the PTI supporters at the D-Chowk.

Munizae Jahangir shared the details on her news programme which was aired on Aaj News on Monday.

According to her team's investigation, Anees Shahzad Satti, 20, was killed after shot in bullet in the stomach. He was shot around 6pm on November

children. His eldest daughter studies in ninth standard and the youngest boy is two years old.

The fourth PTI supporter was Muhammad Ali, 28, from Charsadda. He was killed near D-Chowk on November 26 after being shot in his chest.

Muhammad Shafiq, 35, from Punjab's Dera Ghazi Khan also died on November 26. His cousin Adnan refrained from speaking about the cause of death. Shafiq is a landlord and has two children.

Tariq Khan, 27, from Shangla, was also killed in protest on November 25 night after a speedy car hit him, according to his brother Muhammad Zada. It was the same incident which also killed

three Rangers personnel in the federal capital.

The seventh person was Abdul Qadir from Abbottabad after shot in the back near 10pm at 26 Number Chungi on November 25, his cousin Sajjad Khan said. The bullet wound was his cause of death, Khan added.

Qadir worked at a tandoor and has seven children. Apart from this, PTI has claimed five more were killed including Abdul Rashid, Mubeen, Aurangzeb, Ilyas, Ahmed Wali, and Imran Abbas. But Spotlight was not been able to contact any family member of them



26 near Kulsum Hospital in Blue Area. Sadar Ali, 40, from Mardan was shot in the head around 8pm November 26, his brother Abdul Wali told Spotlight. His body was shifted to the PIMS hospital.

Moreover, Tajuddin, 35, from Charssada, died around 7pm on November 26 in Blue Area after being shot. His brother, Shahzad Imran, stated that Tajuddin was shot two bullets: one in the head and another in the chest. Tajuddin's body was shifted to PIMS.

Imran said that Tajuddin was a labourer in Islamabad and he had six

# Presidential Ordinance 'black law' in Azad Kashmir: Sardar Attique

**Bureau Report**

RAWALPINDI/GHAZIABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the Presidential Ordinance is a black law. The Muslim Conference rejects both the frivolous and unwise measures such as non-state and non-local recruitment in the police department for the anti-terrorism force in Azad Kashmir under the Presidential Ordinance. The state government of Azad Kashmir should withdraw it immediately because it is completely against human rights and democratic values.

This will not only spoil the peaceful atmosphere of Azad Kashmir but will also give an opportunity to anti-Pakistan forces to rise once again. If an attempt is made to provide legal justification or approve the Presidential Ordinance, the Muslim Conference will separate itself from the government benches. Sardar Attique expressed these views while addressing the condolence reference held in



memory of the late central leader of the Muslim Conference, Sardar Taimur Abbasi.

Leaders and workers of various political parties and the Muslim Conference participated in the condolence reference large numbers of people attended the condolence meeting. Former Prime

Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, senior leader Abdul Rashid Chughtai, Advocate Major R. Nasrullah Khan, Maulana Usman Abbasi, Sardar Abdul Raziq, Advocate Sardar Majid, Officer, President Mission Kashmir Task Force, Dr. Abid Saleem Awan, Sardar Kamal Khan, Raja Sheesh Khan, Sardar Tariq

Abbasi, Sardar Irfan Abbasi, Sardar Lal Khan, Sardar Tajammal Abbasi, Sardar Shaukat Afzal, Raja Tabarak Ali Khan, Sardar Atiq Abbasi, Raja Yasin Luqman, Syed Amjad Gardezi, Advocate Raja Munir Khan, Raja Khurshid Khan, Raja Shahbaz Abdul Quddus Abbasi and others spoke and paid tribute to the political and social services of Sardar Taimur Abbasi in a grand manner.

Speaking on the occasion, former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, said that the Presidential Ordinance is a black law and the Muslim Conference cannot support any law that is against the fundamental rights of the people.

The government of Azad Kashmir should show seriousness and consult all stakeholders. Such measures are increasing chaos. The situation in Azad Kashmir is not good. The recruitment of non-state persons in the police department will create new sedition within the state. If services can be obtained from retired soldiers in Azad Kashmir, it is not necessary to recruit non-state persons.

## Farooq Siddiqui Expresses Concern Over Arrests of political Leaders in Azad Kashmir

**Spokesman Report**

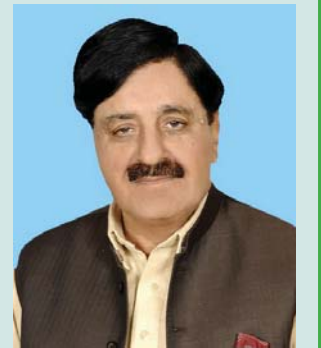
NEW YORK: The President of the Kashmir Global Council, Farooq Siddiqui, has voiced strong concerns over the ongoing arrests of political leaders in Azad Kashmir, describing the situation as deeply troubling. In a statement to the media, he criticized the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Ordinance, asserting that such laws have no place in a democratic society and are being misused to silence political dissent.



However, Siddiqui emphasized that the suppression of peaceful protests and restrictions on freedom of expression are unacceptable in any democratic system. He stated, "In a democracy, authoritarian measures have no place. Laws should serve the common good and not be used for personal or political agendas. The government must not use laws to oppress its critics or suppress legitimate political expression." Meanwhile, he called upon the Azad Kashmir government to stop its efforts to crush peaceful protests and instead address the genuine grievances of the people. He added that attempts to stifle the freedom struggle would not weaken the movement but would only galvanize it further. More, Siddiqui also condemned India's ongoing aggression in occupied Kashmir, noting that thousands of Kashmiri youth remain imprisoned in Indian jails. He warned that the situation in both occupied Kashmir and Azad Kashmir could have a negative impact on the broader freedom movement. "The struggle for Kashmir's independence will not be extinguished by oppression or violence," he said.

## Sheikh Aftab MNA hails Punjab government for taking 'historic' steps for public welfare

ATTOCK: Member of the National Assembly and Convener of the District Coordination Committee, Attock, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, stated that the Punjab government is utilizing all resources for public welfare. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the District Coordination Committee at the DC Office. The meeting was attended by Provincial Assembly members Chaudhry Sher Ali and Malik Itibar Khan, Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza, Assistant Commissioners, and other relevant officials.



Sheikh Aftab Ahmed emphasized that the federal and provincial governments are taking unprecedented and historic steps for public development and welfare. He appreciated the efforts of the district administration and police for effectively managing the recent protests by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

The meeting was informed that all possible measures are being taken to reduce the prices of essential commodities, and further instructions will be issued to price magistrates in this regard. It was also highlighted that 134 development schemes are underway across the district, costing a total of 32,099.623 million rupees. These schemes include initiatives in health, education, infrastructure rehabilitation, sports, agriculture, and other sectors.

## Pakistan Peoples Party says attacks on Pakis are part of enemy's plan

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: President of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said that attacks on Pakistan Army and security forces are a systematic conspiracy of the enemy. We strongly condemn the attacks on Pakistan Army and security forces. We pay tribute to Captain Zohaib and the martyred soldiers who are sacrificing their today for the nation's tomorrow. He expressed these views while talking to various delegations yesterday.



He said that the nation is fully aware of the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army and the entire nation is paying tribute to them. The entire nation is proud of the sacrifices of these martyrs and the entire nation stands behind them like a leaden wall. The great sacrifice of the martyrs is an expression of the unwavering determination of our brave sons who never hesitated to make sacrifices to defend our motherland. Our brave brothers, sons and friends are protecting the borders.

## JKDFP draws attention of global leaders towards Kashmir detainee's plight

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: The Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) has called upon international leaders, including United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and Organization of Islamic Cooperation Secretary-General Houssein Ibrahim Taha, to address the worsening conditions of Kashmiri detainees languishing in jails of India and Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



According to Kashmir Media Service, in letters sent to both organizations, JKDFP Acting Chairman Mehmood Ahmed Saghar highlighted the systematic mistreatment of Kashmiri political prisoners and human rights activists. Thousands of Kashmiris have been incarcerated under draconian laws before and after the abrogation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir's special status by India's Modi regime on August 5, 2019.

The letter pointed out severe abuses faced by the detainees, including torture, solitary confinement, denial of medical care, and sexual harassment. The health of prominent figures such as Shabir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Asiya Indrabi, and Khurram Parvez has significantly deteriorated due to prolonged detention. The situation has been exacerbated by recent restrictions like the denial of phone and electronic meeting privileges for inmates in Tihar Jail.

## Exhibition

HYDERABAD: Provincial Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro visiting the stalls during 19th Degree Show (Annual Thesis Display/Exhibition) at Shaheed Allah Buksh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritages Jamshoro.



Photo: Online

# Inauguration Ceremony of 3rd International Conference at Women University Multan

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Third International Conference on Sustainable Development in Agriculture, Health and Food Security has begun at Katchery Campus the Women University Multan, in which more than a hundred domestic and foreign agricultural, health and food experts are participating. According to the spokesperson, the third international conference on agriculture, health and food security was inaugurated under the auspices of the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, the Women University, from 2-3 December 2024.

On the inauguration ceremony the special guests were Vice Chancellor Emerson University, Prof Dr. Ramzan, Prof Dr. Saqlain Naqvi (former Vice Chancellor of Bacha Khan University) and Professor Dr. Asghar, Dean of Biosciences NUST Isb. While



addressing the opening session, they said food security is a challenge and research based planning is the need of the time for sustainable agricultural practices to ensure food security.

They stressed the need for enhancing collaboration among academia, agriculture experts, farmers and industry for the development of the agriculture sector to overcome food security

issues in the climate change scenario. The Women University is well aware of the daily problems. The research conducted in this regard will help our practical life.

The conference is organized in this global context, revolving around how sustainable development in agriculture, health and food security is possible.

The results of this conference will be revealed later. On the first day of the conference, technical sessions were held in Jinnah Hall and L-Shape Building, in which more than 28 research papers were read.

The chief organizer of the conference is Dr. Tahir Younis, while the initiator committee includes Dr. Maryam Zain, Dr. Raheela Jabeen, Dr. Saba Zafar, Dr. Aqsa Pervaiz, Dr. Um Habiba, Dr. Raheela Waheed, and Mehwish Batool Kazmi. All chairpersons and students attended the opening ceremony.

# 'Hyderabad's Cultural Transformation: A Tribute to Sindhi Heritage'

**Qayoom Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: In a significant move to promote Sindhi culture, Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad, Zainul-Abideen Memon, has initiated a district-wide beautification project. Launched in mid-November, this initiative aims to restore the city's aesthetic appeal by incorporating elements that reflect Sindhi's rich cultural heritage.

According to a press release, the project includes several key features:

### Ajrak-Themed Flyovers:

Flyovers painted with designs inspired by Sindhi's iconic Ajrak, symbolizing culture through urban infrastructure.

### Sindhi Cap-Inspired Public Seating:

Seating areas designed to resemble the traditional Sindhi cap, celebrating Sindhi identity and pride.

### Heritage Monuments:

The establishment of monuments that showcase Sindhi's history and legacy, fostering cultural awareness and appreciation.

### Tree Plantations and Cleanliness Drives:

Green initiatives to create a cleaner and greener environment for Hyderabad's residents.

### Celebrating Sindhi Culture:

Events and activities to honor and

promote Sindhi's rich cultural heritage.

Deputy Commissioner stated that this initiative is a remarkable way to highlight the city's cultural identity and instill a sense of pride in the community. By incorporating traditional Sindhi elements into urban infrastructure and promoting cleanliness and greenery, the project aims to transform Hyderabad into a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful place to live.

**Coordinator General COMSTECH meets Bangladesh's Minister**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of COMSTECH (OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation), had a productive meeting during his visit to Bangladesh, aiming to enhance scientific and technological collaboration.

In his engagements, Dr. Choudhary met with Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Adviser/ Minister of Science and Technology, and Finance, Government of Bangladesh, Md. Delwar Hossain, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, and other distinguished academics and officials, including Prof. Dr. Liaquat Ali, Chairman of Prothikrith Institute of Health Studies and former Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Health Science, and Prof. Dr. Hafizur Rahman, Chairman of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dhaka International University.

The meetings covered comprehensive agenda items, including COMSTECH-Bangladesh collaboration and developmental programs, Scholarships and Education linkages, COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence program, establishment of COMSTECH National Coordination Office in Bangladesh, and other developmental programs with Bangladesh.

**PPP Coordination Committee meeting focuses on political challenges and strategy**

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

KARACHI: The Pakistan Peoples Party's Coordination Committee held a crucial meeting under the chairmanship of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal House. The main objective was to devise strategies and discuss current political challenges. Committee members from Central Punjab, South Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh, and the federal level engaged in discussions about ongoing and unresolved issues in political, policy, and developmental sectors. Key topics included the restoration of flood-affected areas, water management disputes, agriculture and digital economy challenges, and legislation in the public interest. Concerns were raised regarding the federal government's lack of timely consultation on political, poli-



cy, and legislative matters, particularly regarding unfulfilled promises. The rising incidents of terrorism and the challenges posed by new ground realities were also highlighted, with members expressing concern over the absence of a new consensus to tackle these issues.

The PPP Chairman directed committee members to engage with political parties to determine areas where political consensus could be reached. The committee's recommendations will be presented to the party's Central Executive Committee at the end of the month.

**Summer vacations, smog and protests affect current academic session in Punjab: President APSAMA**

**City Desk**

President APSAMA North Punjab Abrar Ahmed Khan said that the current academic session in Punjab was severely affected by the long summer vacations, smog, protests, and now due to this scenario expected 23-day winter vacations will also be affected. He demanded to Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat Khan should reconsider the decision of winter vacations, Limit the winter vacations to January 1 to January 10.

This demand was submitted by President APSAMA North Punjab

Abrar Ahmed Khan to Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat in the form of a written request. The request took the position that the education system has been badly affected by the daily closure of educational institutions in Punjab. 9 education boards of Punjab have also released the schedule of matriculation examinations starting from March 4 and the beginning of Ramadan is also expected from March 1. He said that Keeping all these aspects in mind, such decisions should be made that are better for the students.

**LMKT and researchers from INSEAD Celebrate Graduation of 160 Startups**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD:- in collaboration with researchers from INSEAD Business School, proudly celebrated the Graduation Day of the XSEED Incubation Program, a first-of-its-kind transformative initiative that empowered 336 startups across Pakistan.

This milestone marks the culmination of a year-long journey where startups participated in a rigorous 3-month training program, with 160 successfully graduating after reaching significant entrepreneurial milestones.

The Graduation Day event brought together key leaders, industry experts, mentors and visionary founders to honor the achievements of the graduating startups. It was a day to celebrate innovation, resilience and the remarkable contributions these entrepreneurs are making to Pakistan's startup ecosystem.

Many of the graduating startups were incubated at NIC Karachi and NIC Hyderabad centers further highlighting the role of these centers enabled by MOITT in advancing entrepreneurial growth.

**Thar Coal: A cost-effective energy source for Pakistan**

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

KARACHI: Sindh's Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah, has declared Thar coal as the cheapest energy source in the country, although he highlighted that transmission challenges have hindered the full delivery of this affordable electricity. Since 2019, Thar coal has generated 27,000 GWh of electricity at just 4.8 rupees per kWh, compared to the 19.5 rupees per kWh generated from imported coal. The use of Thar coal has saved the country \$130 million in foreign exchange. CM Shah made these remarks while presiding over a meeting of the Thar Coal Energy Board at the Chief Minister's House on Monday. The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister for Energy, Nisar Hussain Shah, MNA Shazia Marri, Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah, Principal Secretary to the CM Agha Wasef, and Secretary Energy Musaddiq Malik. Key stakeholders from the federal government participated via video link.

Shah emphasized that Thar coal is a local and cost-effective energy source for Pakistan, but the country faces challenges in electricity production due to limited transmission. However, both the federal and Sindh governments are working on infrastructure projects to address these issues. Thar is now the least



expensive energy source in the country, generating 2,640 MW of electricity and supplying power to 6 million homes.

Additionally, a railway line from Islamkot to the Thar coalfield will significantly reduce the cost and ease the transportation of coal. A contract for this project has been awarded to Frontier Works Organization (FWO), and ground work has already commenced. The project also includes the construction of a 9 km railway line from Bin Qasim to Lakhy Power Plant for coal unloading.

Shah also stated that Chinese investors are ready to assist in increasing the capacity of Thar's Block 2 mine, which currently produces 7.6 million tons per year, to 12 million tons per year by 2025. The project's funding is being arranged locally, with an agreement with Meezan Bank to ensure necessary financial resources.

**Sindh opposes canal projects amid water shortages, says Jam Khan Shoro**

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro stated that the Sindh government has opposed canal projects at the Council of Common Interests (CCI) and has written two letters on the matter. Speaking to journalists after attending the 19th Degree Show

at Shaheed Allah Bakhsh University of Art and Design in Jamshoro, he explained that the opposition is based on the lack of water availability in Pakistan. Without adequate water resources, new command areas for canals cannot be established, he emphasized.

Shoro mentioned that this case is currently pending at

the CCI. When it reaches ECNEC, the same arguments will be presented. He added that if a case is disputed at the CCI, it cannot be approved by ECNEC. The Sindh government had also raised this issue at the CDWP forum to prevent its approval. The Chief Minister of Sindh will present the province's case at the next CCI meeting.

**Two Star International Trading Company Partnership with Lepton Solar will play significant role for the Solar Energy in Pakistan. Lepton Solar Energy (Tier1) Japanese Brand**

*The Interview of Rana Latif Asghar Khan, Managing Partner, Two Star International Trading Company, Gujranwala and CEO of Khan Star Corporation*

**Tahir Amin Malik**

Two Star Trading Corporation and CEO of Khan Star Corporation said in an interview that I started my career in business with Ningbo (China) in under the platform Khan Star Corporation in 2002. While Two Star International Trading Company was established in 2012. He said I have also worked as a Director in AE Solar. He said we deals in different items from China, South Korea, Japan, as well. He further said we have been also working in solar energy since 2012 and we have done the work with renowned Solar Sector business companies like AE Solar, Sunkite, JA, Seraphim Solar, Canadian Solar, and now we have a collaboration as a Partner with Lepton Solar Energy which is the (Tier1) Japanese Brand and this company is based in Japan as a World's Leader in Solar PV Industry, and Lepton Energy is specializing manufacturing high quality (Tier-1), Solar Modules, and the products of Lepton Energy is available in more than 60 countries and regions. With over 10 years of development in solar energy, and Lepton Energy has built a solar module manufacture base Lepton Solar (Changshu) Co. Ltd. in Jiangsu, China.

He further talked about Lepton Solar Energy he said its headquarter located in Japan and this Company is one of the top class company in the world and its leader in Solar PV Industry, and Lepton Solar Energy is specializing in manufacturing high quality



Rana Latif Asghar Khan, Managing Partner, Two Star International Trading Company, and CEO of Khan Star Corporation.



Muhammad Imran Chaudhary, Managing Partner, Two Star International Trading Company.



Imtiaz Jellani Sahi, Managing Partner, Two Star International Trading Company.

(Tier-1) Solar Module. He said the products of Lepton Energy is available in more than 65 countries and regions with over 10 years of development in Solar Energy. He expressed his views about the quality of Lepton he said the Lepton Energy produces high quality Solar Modules for 25 years products warranty and 30 years efficiency power warranty for standard module, and 30 years warranty for bifacial and N-Tye modules, and Lepton can provide the most suitable modules for each

solar system. He said the Lepton Solar Energy also a project developer in Japan and its holds around 100 pieces of Land reserve for power plant development. The PV Module brand is sold to 50 countries and regions and its more than 300 distributors, 21 Japan Banks, with financing support. He said Lepton Solar Energy Head office is located in Japan, While China, Australia, USA, Germany, Brazil are also Lepton Solar Energy Offices. He said that company has achieved many certificates

of occupational health and safety, management system and these certificate was awarded for compliance with the standard ISO.

He said the Lepton Solar Company was established in 2012 in Kobe (Japan) and its mission to provide safe reliable and efficient energy solutions. He said Lepton Solar Panels, Lipton Lithium Batteries and Invertors are very popular in the world. Talked about Two Star International Trading Company he said this company is located in Gujranwala. He said Two Star International

Trading Company is leading the solar energy transformation since 2012 which is empowering a sustainable future with reliable solar solutions and we led in renewable energy which is dedicated to making solar power accessible for all and participating with global innovators and we bring advanced Photovoltaic (PV) technology to homes, business, and industries.

He said we have partnership with Lepton Solar which is complete Japanese Brand known for quality and efficiency and we are delivering high quality and efficiency and we are also providing solar solutions which are registered with EDB and AEDB and our priority is to provide the sustainable energy for our clients. He said its great honour for Two Star Trading International Company has become the partner with renowned Lepton

Solar Energy Company and I hope with the partnership with this company will be very umn beneficial for us and we will provide better brand to our customers.

At last he said the future of Solar Energy in Pakistan is very bright and useful. He said we will do jointly work together with Lepton Energy and will help and facilitate the Agriculture sector with solar in Pakistan in near future. He said I would like to request our Government of Pakistan to facilitate Solar Energy in Pakistan which can be very beneficial for our economy and social development sector as well. He said Pakistan is facing every year smoke issue and our AQI of different cities at very high risk, So we should pay attention on green and clean energy projects to avoid this kinds of problems of environmental issues.





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**LEPTON ENERGY**  
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Head quartered in Japan as a world's leader in solar PV industry, Lepton Energy is specializing manufacturing high quality Tier-1 solar module. Now the products of Lepton Energy is available in more than 50 countries and regions. With over 10 years of development in solar energy, Lepton Energy has built a solar module manufacture base Lepton Solar (Changshu) Co., Ltd. in Jiangsu, China.



25 YEARS  
Quality  
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Warranty



TIER 1  
Efficiency

**Details we need from you:**  
Business Name - Owner / Director Name - Current Business Background - Experience in Solar Business - Distributor / ECP Company - Details of manpower - Area of Distribution / City - No. of Retails outlets

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# NUML hosts International Conference on Prioritizing Economic Agenda in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Faculty of Social Sciences at the National University of Modern Languages, in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission under the National Research Program for Universities (NRPU), inaugurated a two-day international conference titled "Prioritizing Economic Agenda in Pakistan's Foreign Policy Towards the United States, China, and the European Union."

The conference brought together policymakers, academicians, and thought leaders to address the critical role of economic diplomacy in reshaping Pakistan's foreign policy priorities.

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr. Haroon Sharif, Former Minister of State and Chairman of Pakistan's Board of Invest-

ment, delivered the keynote address.

In the Inaugural session, welcoming remarks were delivered by Brig. Shahzad Munir, DG NUML, emphasized Pakistan's transformative potential, stating, "Pakistan is at a defining moment in its history. By setting clear priorities and implementing sound economic policies, we can unlock a brighter future," he said.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Riaz Shad, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Jean Monnet Chair, outlined the conference objectives, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for Pakistan in the global economic landscape.

Mr. Haroon Sharif underscored the importance of redefining economic diplomacy. He called for a pragmatic approach to trade and investment, stating, "Selling geo-location and cheap labour is no longer viable. Pakistan must focus on value addition, creating competitive exports, and leveraging its human capital."

The first session of the conference focused on "Prioritizing Economic Agenda in Pakistan-US Relations." Experts discussed challenges, opportunities, and policy lessons to strengthen economic ties. Dr. Saira Aquil from QAU, Dr. Noor Fatima from IUI, Dr. Ahmed Ijaz Malik from QAU, and Dr. Usman W. Chohan from the Center for Aerospace & Security Studies were among the distinguished speakers.

The second session, titled "Prioritizing Economic Agenda in Pakistan-China Relations," featured insightful discussions on challenges and opportunities within the context of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Speakers included Dr. Khalid Waleed (SDPI), Muhammad Ali Kemal (Ministry of Planning), Dr. Mahmood Khalid (PIDE), Dr. Muhammad Fahim Khan (Bahria University), and Dr. Hassan Daud Butt (former CEO KP-BOIT).



## Le Perfumist celebrates its grand opening in Sharjah

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Le Perfumist proudly celebrated its grand opening with an exclusive event attended by distinguished guests from various fields, including prominent businessmen, social personalities, and influencers. Among the notable attendees were Syed Saleem (Vice Chairman, Sharjah Business Council), Fahad Asad (Influencer, Director, and Entrepreneur), Muhammad Shoib (Owner of Cakes and Bakes), Faraz Chaudhry (Director of Pakistan Social Center Sharjah), Asim Shehzad (Businessman), Veena Uttamchandani (Influencer), Mian Matloob, Sardar Ashiq Nawaz, Abid Hussain, and other respected guests who graced the event with their presence.

In a message to the public, Mr. Waqas Awan stated, "Le Perfumist is more than a brand; it is an embodiment of sophistication and individuality. Our mission is to offer scents that not only captivate the senses but also leave a lasting impression. We thank everyone who joined us today for making this event truly special."



The event was seamlessly managed by PS Events & PR Agency, ensuring every detail was executed to perfection. Media representatives were also present to capture the essence of the

launch, adding to the buzz surrounding the brand's entry into the market. All guests were gifted exclusive fragrance goodie bags featuring some of Le Perfumist's finest scents.

Le Perfumist is now open at Shop 14, Toufiq 5 Building, Ind Area 17, Malhi Road, Sharjah. Explore the world of luxurious fragrances and redefine your signature scent.

## Young Parliamentarians Forum Delegation Visits Sindh Assembly

Bureau Report

KARACHI: A delegation of the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) from the National Assembly, led by its President Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, visited the Sindh Assembly on Monday and met with Speaker Sindh Assembly, Syed Awaiz Qadir Shah.

The delegation included Pakistan's youngest parliamentarian Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, Barrister Aqeel Malik, Mir Jamal Khan Raisani (General Secretary YPF), Muhammad Iqbal Khan (Information Secretary YPF), Raja Usama Sarwar, Saad Rafiq, Waseem Sheikh, Kiran Imran Dar, Akhtar Bibi, Shaista Khan, Syed Ali Qasim Gilani, Ali Jan Mazari, Salahuddin Junejo, Pir Amir Ali Shah Jeelani, Zulfiqar Sattar Bachani, Muhammad Maqdad Ali Khan, and other young parliamentarians.

Speaker Awaiz Qadir Shah warmly welcomed the delegation and appreciated the initiative of YPF. Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar and Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry thanked the Speaker for the hospitality. Members of the Sindh Assembly also participated in the discussions.

Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar emphasized that YPF aims to empower young parliamentarians and promote their role in social and legislative matters.

She highlighted the forum's commitment to tackling fake news, reducing polarization, and addressing youth issues across the country.

The delegation also visited the historic Sindh Assembly building, where they were briefed on its rich history and significance.

This visit underscored YPF's dedication to fostering collaboration among young lawmakers from all provinces for the betterment of the nation.

## Worship

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, offered prayers at the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad, Iran on Monday.



Photo: PID

## Daraz 11.11: Unlocking consumer trends and transforming shopping habits across Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Daraz, Pakistan's leading e-commerce platform, successfully concluded its highly anticipated 11.11 Biggest Sale of the Year on November 21. This event featured discounts up to PKR 50 crores, exclusive promotions, and the lowest prices of the year, captivating millions of customers nationwide.

This 11.11 highlighted the rapid growth of online shopping in Pakistan and showcased the strong trust and engagement of customers, sellers, and brands. Reinforcing Daraz's position as the market leader, the event delivered exceptional deals, innovative shopping experiences, and significant growth opportunities for sellers across the country.

Daraz's customers revealed their preferences with Makeup, Women's Fashion, Men's Fashion, Audio, and Skin Care topping the list as the most popular categories, which demonstrates

a growing consumer shift in Pakistan with younger, digital-first shoppers opting for e-commerce to find more variety within their budgets.

Additionally, categories with the highest growth this year included Home & Living, which saw an uplift of seven times in terms of GMV, along-



side Fashion and Health & Beauty. The surge in Home & Living indicates a new trend of customers opting to buy items such as furniture and décor online for convenience and easy price comparisons.

The most-loved brands during 11.11 on Daraz included renowned names like Dawlance, Haier, and TCL, which dominated the electronics and appli-

ance categories. Brands such as Mezan and Meclay London stood out in the personal care and Groceries category. This highlights customers' preference for high-quality, trusted brands when shopping for big-ticket purchases.

Ehsan Saya, Managing Director of Daraz Pakistan shared his thoughts on the success of 11.11: "The success of this year's 11.11 Sale is a testament to the growing trust our customers, sellers, and brand partners place in Daraz as Pakistan's leading e-commerce platform. The incredible engagement reflects the accelerating adoption of online shopping and the evolving needs of a dynamic, tech-savvy consumer base. At Daraz, we remain committed to driving innovation, offering unmatched value, supporting sellers and brands across the country as they scale their businesses and connect with millions of customers. Our goal is to make e-commerce in Pakistan more accessible, inclusive, and transformative for all."

## FAO Workshop Aims to Bridge Gaps and Boost Climate Resilience in Sindh's Agriculture and Water Sectors

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Government of Sindh, has today launched a two-day workshop focused on enhancing climate resilience in the agriculture and water sectors. Titled "Bridging the Coordination Gap in the Agriculture & Water Sector: Fostering Coherent Efforts Against Climate Change, Sindh." Representatives from the Agriculture Extension, Agriculture On-Farm Water Management, Women Development Department, Labor Department, Live-

stock, and other departments participated in the workshop. The workshop is part of FAO's Transforming the Indus Basin with Climate Resilient Agriculture and Water Management project, which is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and co-financed by the Government of Sindh. The goal of the workshop is to improve coordination among stakeholders, integrate climate resilience into policy, and strengthen the capacity of government departments to respond effectively to the impact of climate change.

DG Agriculture Extension Sindh, Munir Ahmed Jumani, who was representing the agri-

culture department, was of the view that the project is a collaboration to bolster the Sindh's agriculture sector, and we need to save our production despite the rapid changes in climate. "We need to promote data driven solutions ensuring real time climate advisories to farmers within the coming five years," he emphasized.

"The need for coordinated action to address the impacts of climate change has never been more pressing and our collaborative efforts can make a difference," said Belal Omer, FAO's consultant on the project. "This workshop is a critical step toward improving collaboration

across sectors and ensuring that climate resilience is integrated into the policies that govern agriculture and water management in Sindh."

The project is focused on building the capacity of local communities to adapt to climate change, particularly by improving agricultural practices and enhancing water management. The workshop marks an important milestone in the effort to strengthen Sindh's climate resilience, and it is expected that the discussions will lead to actionable strategies for policy integration and inter-departmental collaboration.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
103,274.94	101,357.32
Day's High	Day's Low
103,386.46	101,921.20
Index Value	Change
33,053,847,519	+1917.62
Percentage	Time
+1.89%	2 Dec, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,312.89	+25.59
Percentage	Time
+0.31%	2 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
44,751.65	-159.00
Percentage	Time
-0.35%	2 Dec, 12:21 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,513.02	+304.99
Percentage	Time
-0.80%	2 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180.75	183.00
Bahrain Dinar	733.50	741.50
Canadian Dollar	198.60	201.00
China Yuan	37.97	38.37
Danish Krone	39.01	39.41
Euro	290.05	292.80
Hong Kong Dollar	35.36	35.71
Indian Rupee	3.19	3.28
Japanese Yen	1.85	1.91
Kuwaiti Dinar	895.70	905.20
Malaysian Ringgit	61.93	62.53
New Zealand \$	162.27	164.27
Norwegians Krone	24.88	25.18
Omani Riyal	717.90	726.40
Qatari Riyal	75.65	76.35
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	207	209.00
Swedish Korona	25.2	25.50
Swiss Franc	312.71	315.46
Thai Bhat	7.95	8.10
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	349.75	353.25
US Dollar	277.60	279.00

# FPCCI chief demands special attention of government on industrialization in Balochistan

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised of FPCCI's stance that Balochistan needs special attention of the government vis-à-vis industrialization; waivers in taxes & duties; setting up, incentivization & operationalization of special economic zones (SEZs); establishing Bank of Balochistan on the lines of other provinces and maintenance of law & order – which is an absolute necessity for economic activities to flourish and attract

investors. FPCCI Chief explained that like Bank of Punjab (BoP); Bank of Khyber (BoK) and Sindh Bank, the federal and provincial governments should facilitate the establishment of the Bank of Balochistan (BoB) to make access to finance for setting up industries in Balochistan possible and viable.

Mr. Nasir Khan, VP FPCCI from Balochistan, maintained that the situation is grave and employment opportunities are shrinking fast for the youth as SMEs are the most



affected business entities – and, SMEs are the real engine of growth for a developing country like Pakistan and generate the most employment in the country.

Mr. Nasir Khan, highlighted the need for a major marketing and PR campaign for Balochistan to attract domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI) into Balochistan through assuring the investors and entrepreneurs full safety and security. FPCCI will be fully supporting the armed forces and the government in all such endeavors, he added.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja chairing 45th R & D Fund Policy Committee meeting on Monday.



Photo: PID

# PTCL Partners with Mumtaz City to Empower 2,000 Homes with its Flagship High-Speed Internet



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Country's leading ICT services provider, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has signed a strategic agreement with Mumtaz City to revolutionize connectivity for its residents and businesses through its premium and flagship internet service, Flash Fiber.

This collaboration highlights the shared vision of PTCL and Mumtaz City to deliver a modern connectivity infrastructure that fosters seamless digital experiences and accelerates technolog-

ical progress in one of Pakistan's rapidly growing urban hubs. Under the terms of the agreement, PTCL will take on the comprehensive design, development, and deployment of a state-of-the-art optical fiber network across Mumtaz City.

This advanced infrastructure will provide high-speed internet access to 2,500 plus homes and high-rise structures, delivering unmatched connectivity and high-capacity networks that cater to the demands of modern living.

This deployment is a key step towards empowering the Mumtaz City commu-

nity with high-speed internet solutions.

The signing ceremony was attended by Nauman Durrani, VP Business Operations North, Salman Ali Bajwa, VP Sales PTCL, and Aqil Jamal Butt, Chief Executive, Mumtaz City, along with senior officials from both sides. This partnership is a testament to PTCL's commitment in providing advanced digital solutions that enhance the quality of life for the customers.

With state-of-the-art infrastructure, the company aims to set new standards in connectivity and contribute to the technological advancement of Pakistan.

# Bank Alfalah honored at the Pakistan Banking Awards 2024

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Bank Alfalah has been honored by Pakistan Banking Awards (PBA) with two prestigious accolades: the 'Best Bank for Digital Excellence' award for the third (3rd) consecutive year and 'Best Bank for Customer Engagement' award for the sixth (6th) year.

Speaking on this auspicious occasion, Atif Bajwa, President and CEO of Bank Alfalah, said, "We are honoured to receive these two distinguished awards

at the Pakistan Banking Awards 2024. Being named the 'Best Bank Digital in Excellence' award winner for the third consecutive year highlights our relentless pursuit of empowering customers with secure, seamless, and technology-driven solutions that redefine financial convenience in Pakistan's rapidly evolving digital banking ecosystem.

At the same time, receiving our 'Best Bank for Customer Engagement' award demonstrates our dedication to customer-centricity.

# World Bank Mission Visits Flood Detention Dam at Mole River in Kohistan



**Zainab Hyder**

KARACHI: A World Bank (WB) mission, led by Task Team Leader Yohannes Kesete and Co-Task Team Leader Bilal Khalid, visited the Mole 5 Flood Detention Dam at Mole River in Bachal Shehino village, Thana Bula Khan, Jamschoro district.

The mission, which also included members Ayalew Kebede Bel, Shahid Sohail, Shoaib Siddiqui, Shams Jarfani, and Hibah Tipu Sheikh, was briefed on the ongoing impact of the Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP) in the region.

During the visit, the WB team received a comprehensive briefing from Zahid Hussain Shaikh, the Irrigation Component Leader of SFERP. Shoaib Siddiqui, one of the WB mission members, highlighted the positive changes observed after the construction of 11 flood detention dams in Kohistan, which have led to increased agricultural and economic

activities. He shared that water levels in the region, previously dropping to 450 feet during droughts, have now recharged to a more sustainable 150 feet.

The Mole River, a major tributary of the Malir River, frequently causes urban flooding in Karachi. Siddiqui emphasized that the flood detention dams were strategically built to control this urban flooding, with the potential to significantly reduce flood risks for Karachi.

Bilal Khalid, Co-Task Team Leader of the WB mission, Shams Jarfani, Zahid Hussain Shaikh, Senior Water Resource Specialist of SFERP, Shahnawaz Hamrani, Nasir Panhwar, SFERP's Environment and Social Specialist were also spoke and highlight the issues.

The visit also included discussions with SFERP officials Naem Arif, Aqeel Memon, Mohammad Ibrahim Daudpoto, and Dr. Abbas Ali.

# Second investment conference will be an important milestone in Pak-Saudi relations: CG Khalid Majeed

**Muhammad Adeel**

JEDDAH: The second investment summit and expo organized by Pakistan Association of Exhibition of Industry Industry was held yesterday at Jeddah Hilton Hotel. Of Exhibition of Industry Founder Khurshid Barlas, Chairman Fahad Barlas, Sadia Khan, Consul General Trade and Investment, Jeddah.

Ibrahim Baksh Director Jeddah Vision for Expo and Conference was also present. Addressing the event, PAEI Chairman Fahad Barlas thanked the guests and said that he is deeply grateful to Saudi Arabia and Consul General Khalid Majeed for the success of the successful Investment Summit and Smart Expo. Cooperated fully

And the credit of this success belongs to him.

Khurshid Barlas while addressing the ceremony said that with the support of the current government, there has been a positive change in the cooperation and trade policy with Saudi Arabia and there has been a significant increase between the two countries. In his speech, Consul General Khalid Majid said that the second investment conference in Pakistan will be an important milestone in Saudi relations, it is very important to have such conferences between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

This will help in enhancing mutual cooperation between the two countries at commercial, diplomatic and business level. This conference will have lasting effects on the

Pakistani economy. Investment will increase. Other speakers including Syed H. Kazmi, Naem Waraich, Sardar Tahir Mahmood, Atiqur Rahman and other speakers related to tourism, education, real estate, civil aviation, power and energy, minerals addressed.

During her special conversation, Sadia Khan, Consul General Trade and Investment, Jeddah, also expressed her views on the proposals to be made regarding tourism, education, medical, civil aviation, power energy, natural resources and other industries.

In the closing ceremony of the conference, the Pakistan Association of Exhibition and Industry distributed awards to Pakistani high performers.



## MCB Bank partners with BPC to strengthen digital security

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: MCB Bank Limited (MCB), one of Pakistan's leading banks, has selected BPC, a global leader in payment solutions, to strengthen the security of its digital channels by implementing the BPC SmartVista Fraud Risk Management Solution.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Waqas Mahmood, Chief Compliance Officer MCB, and Mr. Furrugh Ali Baig, Managing Director Pakistan at BPC in the presence of senior leadership from both organizations.

Mr. Shoaib Mumtaz, President & CEO at MCB Bank, said: "At MCB Bank, the security of our customers and their financial data has always been and will remain our highest priority. With the adoption of the SmartVista Fraud Management solution, we are further strengthening the digital safety of our valued customers while proactively enhancing our digital banking infrastructure. This state-of-the-art technology will enable us to detect and prevent fraud in real time, ensuring that our customers continue to enjoy a secure and seamless banking experience as we drive innovation in the financial sector."

Mr. Furrugh Ali Baig, Managing Director Pakistan at BPC, added: "We are honored to onboard MCB in their mission to strengthen fraud prevention measures. Our SmartVista Enterprise Fraud Management solution is designed to meet the evolving challenges of digital fraud."

## Gold prices in Pakistan today

Gold rate in Pakistan today on December 2, 2024 is Rs274,500 per tola for 24 carat of the precious metal, while the price for 10 gram gold is Rs235,340 in the local bullion market.

On Monday, the price of 1 tola gold decreased by Rs1,700 and 10 gram gold declined by Rs1,457.

The rates of gold in Pakistan closely follow trajectory of the US dollar and international rates of the commodity as the country remains a net importer of the precious metal.

# Pakistan Army Won the 52nd National Athletics Championship Got By 17 Gold Medals

*Pakistan Wapad Second Position and Pakistan Navy got Third Position*

Shahid Saeed Mirza

MULTAN PAKISTAN: The 52nd Four-Day Athletics Championship has concluded. The Army team topped the list with 17 gold medals.

The exciting competitions of the 52nd Four-Day Athletics Championship have concluded. A closing ceremony was organized in this regard at Ayub Stadium, Multan. The teams and players who secured positions were awarded medals and prizes in the ceremony. In the men's competitions, the Pak Army team topped the list by winning the most medals, 17 gold medals, 12 silver medals and 10 bronze medals. While the WAPDA team came second with 6 gold and 7 silver medals. HEC managed to win two silver medals. The women's WAPDA team stood out with 8 gold, 11 silver and 8 bronze medals. While the HEC team managed to secure the second position by securing 5 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronze medals. The Army team managed to secure 8 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals. Earlier, various sports, pole vault, race, hammer throw, triple jump, high jump and separate relay races for men and women were held. The Army won the first position in the



men's 4x100 meter relay race. While HEC won the women's 4x100 relay race. In the women's pole vault,

Uzma of the Army, Malika Shahzad of HEC in the 400 meter women's race, Maleeha Saleem of HEC in the



women's hammer throw and Maira Bibi of WAPDA won the first position in the 5000 meter race. In the men's 200 meter race, Shafiq Shahid of the Army won the first position. In the triple jump, Shahbaz Majeed of the

Army and Ahmed Faraz of the Army won the field in the high jump. In the hammer throw, Shakeel Ahmed of the Army took first position and in the 5000 meter race, Muhammad Akhtar of the Army also took first

position. The chief guest of the function distributed medals and trophies to the athletes and teams who secured prominent positions in the 52nd National Athletics Championship.

## Asia Cup Under 19 Cricket Championship

# Shahzaib Khan. Riazullah hit j in Pakistan U19 win over UAE

Imran Usm

DUBAI: Opener Shahzaib Khan continued his purple patch with the bat, recording his second successive century to guide Pakistan U19 to a comfortable 69-run victory over the United Arab Emirates U19 in a Group-A match of the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Monday.

The UAE were also punished by No.3 batter Muhammad Riazullah, as Pakistan U19 amassed 314 for three in the allotted 50 overs after being sent into bat. Later in the afternoon, fast bowler Abdul Subhan delivered a player of the match performance, decimating the middle-order with exceptional figures of 10-0-57-6. His spell saw the home side collapse from 170 for three to finish at 245 for eight.

Shahzaib, who had scored 159 against India on Saturday, smashed 11 fours and six sixes in a 136-ball 132. Riazullah was equally impressive, hitting nine fours and three sixes in a well-crafted 91-ball 106.

Shahzaib and Riazullah put on 183



runs for the second wicket in just over 27 overs. Their partnership followed a strong 94-run opening stand between Shahzaib and Usman Khan (41). After Shahzaib was dismissed on the final delivery of the 46th over, Riazullah added 37 runs in the last four overs with Faham-ul-Haq (20 not out).

Chasing a stiff target, the UAE stumbled to 57 for three before Ethan D'Souza and Muhammad Rayan stitched together a 113-run partnership for the fourth wicket. However, Rayan's departure at 170 marked the end of UAE's resistance, as they eventually finished at 245 for eight.

D'Souza, the seventh batter to be dismissed, scored a 102-ball 84 with 11 fours, while Rayan contributed 50 off 66 balls, including three sixes and one four.

The victory places Pakistan atop Group-A, followed by the UAE, India and Japan. In Group-B, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have won two matches each, while Afghanistan and Nepal remain winless. The top two sides from each group will progress to the semifinals.

Pakistan will face Japan in their final league match on Wednesday at the Dubai International Sports Stadium.

### Scores in Brief

Pakistan U19 beat UAE U19 by 69 runs, Dubai International Cricket Stadium

Pakistan U19 314-3, 50 overs (Shahzaib Khan 132, Muhammad Riazullah 106, Usman Khan 41; Noor-ullah Ayobi 2-68)

UAE U19 245-8, 50 overs (Ethan D'Souza 84, Muhammad Rayan 50, Uddish Suri 29 not out, Aryan Saxena 24; Abdul Subhan 6-57, Mohammad Ahmed 2-45)

Player of the match: Abdul Subhan (Pakistan U-19)

## Lahore Gymkhana have lured to this bridge playing arena

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The bridge tables of Lahore Gymkhana have lured to this bridge playing arena the elite bridge players from Karachi, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and other cities. As for the Lahori excellent ones, virtually every one who is adept at the game of bridge is either watching premier quality bridge moves or intent on getting selected as a national team member. Right now action is making headway as Pakistan Bridge Federation is holding trials to select National Bridge Teams in 4 categories, the relevant ones being Open, Women, Mixed and Seniors to represent Pakistan in the Bridge Federation of Middle East Championship scheduled to be held in Dubai in April 2025. These teams will later be contestants in the Bermuda Bowl in Denmark in August 2025.

After some fierce tussle and spell binding play the teams that have reached the finals are the Bilal Team and the Tehseen Team. Members of the Bilal Team are Gulzar Ahmed Bilal, Sarfraz Ahmed Khan, Mohsin Chandna, Arsalan Mansoor, Imran Abedi and Mirza Shauq Hussain. And worthy members of the Tehsin Team are Tehsin Gheewala, Khaled Mohiuddin, Muhammed Mubasher, Junaid Puri and Anwar Mumtaz Kizilbash. All these players represent the pick of the country. As for the flow of the Championship play, the Tehseen Team beat the Baghi Tv Team and moved into the prestigious final of the National Trials.

The other finalists Team Bilal had the honor of upstaging the illustrious Elementary Team.

Team Bilal will face Team Tehsin in the final on Tuesday at the Lahore Gymkhana Bridge Hall.

## Morrisville Samp Army defeat Delhi Bulls to reach Abu Dhabi T10 League final

Sports Desk

ABU DHABI: Jack Taylor held on to his nerves and played a quick 23-run cameo to steer Morrisville Samp Army to victory in Qualifier 2 of the Abu Dhabi T10 League against Delhi Bulls here on Monday.

With this victory, Morrisville Samp Army qualified for the final of the Abu Dhabi T10 League against Deccan Gladiators, scheduled to be played later today.

Morrisville Samp Army invited Delhi Bulls to bat first and restricted them to 89-7, courtesy of a dominant bowling performance.

Tim David top-scored for Delhi Bulls with 24 runs from 14 balls, while Nikhil Chaudhary (16) and captain Rovman Powell (13) were the other two notable contributors. Notably, all three of them fell prey to Isuru Udana, who returned with figures of 3-17.

Amir Hamza also bagged two wickets, while Imad Wasim and Karim Janat managed one wicket each.

In response, Morrisville Samp Army achieved the target in 9.1 overs despite a disciplined bowling performance by Delhi Bulls' bowlers. Andries Gous top-scored with a 38-run knock from 23 balls with the help of five boundaries and one six, meanwhile, Jack Taylor played an unbeaten cameo of 23 runs from 11 balls.

Salman Irshad was the major wicket-taker for Delhi Bulls with two wickets on one over, while Fazalhaq Farooqi, Muhammad Rohid and Shadab Khan picked one wicket each.

## GSL 2024: Shan Masood's blitz in vain as Guyana edge past Hampshire

Sports Desk

GUYANA: Shan Masood struck a quick-fire half-century however his heroics went in vain as Hampshire Hawks suffered a four-wicket loss at the hands of Guyana Amazon Warriors in the Global Super League (GSL) here at Providence Stadium on Sunday.

With this victory, the Guyana Amazon Warriors solidified their stronghold for a spot in the finals, currently sitting in second place in the standings. With one last group stage match against



the struggling Rangpur Riders ahead, they are well-positioned for advancement.

Warriors' captain, Imran Tahir, had a stellar evening. After successfully winning the

toss and opting to field first, he made a significant impact on the game, earning the Player of the Match accolade with impressive bowling figures of 3-18.

Hampshire Hawks' Shan Masood showcased his batting prowess with a 79-run knock from 53 balls, which featured eight boundaries and two sixes.

Masood's entertaining innings was curtailed when he was stumped off Imran Tahir's bowling, but not before laying a solid foundation for his team.

Following Masood's departure, Tahir maintained his

relentless attack, swiftly taking out both Howell and Liam Dawson in succession to restrict Hampshire Hawks to 146-6 in their allotted 20 overs.

However, this score fell short of what was needed to challenge the confident batting lineup of the Warriors.

Shimron Hetmyer contributed with 24 runs and Roston Chase added 33 runs to the total before Hassan Khan hit a quick-fire 27 runs off just 18 balls to steer Guyana Amazon Warriors to a four-wicket victory with ten balls to spare.

## Kohler-Cadmore's blitz helps Deccan Gladiators clinch third Abu Dhabi T10 League title

Sports Desk

ABU DHABI: Tom Kohler-Cadmore played an unbeaten 56-run knock to power Deccan Gladiators to thump Morrisville Samp Army by eight wickets and clinch their third Abu Dhabi T10 League title here on Monday.

Notably, Deccan Gladiators became the first team to lift the Abu Dhabi T10 League trophy three, having previously won the tournament in 2021 and 2022.

While batting first Morrisville Samp Army posted 104-7 courtesy of quick cameos of Faf du Plessis, Andries Gous and Karim Janat.

Faf du Plessis, who came into bat as an

opener, top-scored with a 34-run knock from 23 balls, which featured five boundaries and one six before falling prey to Richard Gleeson in the eighth over.

Meanwhile, Andries Gous struck 21 runs from nine balls with the help of two sixes and one four followed by Karim Janat's unbeaten 16 off eight balls.

Richard Gleeson took two wickets for Deccan Gladiators, while Maheesh Theekshana, Anrich Nortje, Usman Tariq and Ibrar Ahmad chipped in with one wicket each.

While chasing a target of 105, Tom Kohler-Cadmore and captain Nicholas Pooran gave Deccan Gladiators a flying start with a 51-run opening stand in 3.2

overs. Pooran smashed three sixes and one four on his way to a 10-ball knock of 28 runs before he fell victim to Isuru Udana, who took three wickets in Qualifier 2 against Delhi Bulls.

Kohler-Cadmore continued his onslaught during a one-sided partnership of 44 runs with Rilee Rossouw (12) to take his team within touching distance of victory.

Amir Hamza dismissed Rossouw, bringing Jos Buttler to bat. Buttler scored 12 runs off five balls, guiding his team to victory with 19 balls remaining.

Kohler-Cadmore's 21-ball 56 was laced with five boundaries and four sixes.



## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Ms. Melinda Bohannaon, Director General for Humanitarian and Development at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).



Photo: PID

## President urges society's role to create a more inclusive Pakistan for PWDs

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari reiterating Pakistan's commitment to full participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all aspects of life, urged the society to help create an environment for their dignified treatment and provide them resources to thrive.

"Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to a more inclusive Pakistan, where every individual, regardless of their ability, has the opportunity to reach their full potential," the president said in his message on International Day of Persons with Disabilities annually observed on December 3.



He said that the Day was observed to promote the rights, well-being and inclusion of PWDs in all spheres of society and acknowledge the resilience, strength, and invaluable contributions of PWDs and their families towards the society.

He said that to ensure the full partic-

ipation of PWDs in all aspects of life, Pakistan had made significant strides in empowering and uplifting them through various legal and institutional frameworks.

The president said that the promulgation of the ICT Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020 stood as a landmark achievement, guaranteeing improved accessibility, vocational training, job opportunities, and an inclusive environment for PWDs in all walks of life.

"The establishment of the ICT Council on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under this Act represents another critical step toward ensuring a comprehensive, coordinated, and

inclusive approach to addressing the challenges faced by PWDs. This Council will serve as a central body for policy formulation, implementation, and advocacy for the rights and welfare of PWDs," he added.

President Zardari said that Pakistan recognised the importance of special education and training for PWDs.

He said that for this purpose, the country had developed a nationwide network of Special Education Centres and Vocational Training Institutes, catering to the diverse needs of PWDs. These centres are designed to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to become self-reliant and contributing members of society.

## CJP agrees to many requests of SCBAP for efficient dispensation of justice

## City Desk

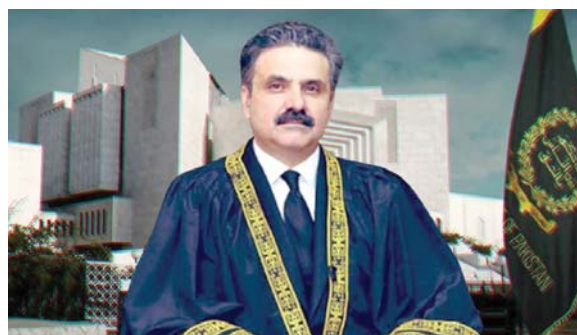
ISLAMABAD: The Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr Justice Yahya Afridi has agreed to early fixation of all types of bail applications soon after the filing, restoration of the chamber hearing to interim applications and many other steps requested by the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan (SCBAP), Pakistan's bar.

The President SCBAP, Mian Muhammad Rauf Atta, accompanied by the General Secretary, Mr. Salman Mansoor, met with the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, to discuss challenges faced by the legal fraternity in ensuring efficient dispensation of justice at the Supreme Court of Paki-

stan. The Chief Justice was acceded to many genuine requests of the Bar. He agreed to early fixation of all types of bail applications soon after the filing and to allow the request of restoration of the chamber hearing of the cases with regard to interim applications and stay matters.

CJP indicated that throughout the week, judges nominated by the Supreme Court would be hearing the cases in chamber. Following the SCBA leadership's request, the Chief Justice agreed to increase the number of judges assigned to chamber appeals to further expedite the process.

He also acceded to the request of the SCBAP that all



applications requesting a video link would be entertained on the same day of the hearing of cases in the respective Registries. This initiative is aimed at facilitating lawyers, minimizing delays, and reducing the need for adjournments, particularly for those practicing in distant regions.

Regarding the timely provision of certified copies, the Chief Justice outlined that the system is being revamped in the digitization initiative underway to streamline operations and improve service delivery. In response to concerns about file tracking and accessibility, particu-

larly for lawyers from remote areas, the Chief Justice desired that all the Advocates of the Supreme Court should provide their designated emails and WhatsApp No's in the office so that the provisions of filing petitions directly online and issuance of certified copies and notices etc, be expedited.

The SCBAP leadership expressed appreciation for these proactive measures and reaffirmed their support for initiatives that enhance the efficiency and accessibility of the justice system. The Chief Justice reiterated his commitment to addressing the challenges faced by the legal community and ensuring the smooth administration of justice.

## 'Uzbek Envoy, Jam Kamal Khan Chart New Course for Trade, Tourism Growth'

## Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtayev, met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to explore avenues for enhancing business opportunities and bilateral relations. The meeting emphasized trade, tourism, and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

During the discussion, Minister Jam Kamal Khan shared highlights from his recent visit to Uzbekistan, expressing admiration for the country's infrastructure and rapid development. "The progress in Uzbekistan is remarkable, and I was particularly impressed by its railway system," the minister said, underscoring the importance of learning from Uzbekistan's advancements.

The minister highlighted the newly launched flights between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, noting their high occupancy rates as a sign of significant potential for collaboration. He identified religious tourism and other sectors



as areas ripe for growth and called for further efforts to facilitate travel. Stressing the need for a streamlined

visa process, he advocated measures to ensure genuine visitors while maintaining rigorous scrutiny.

Ambassador Tukhtayev agreed on the untapped potential of bilateral trade, emphasizing sectors like agriculture, food, pharmaceuticals, and tourism. He reassured the minister of the Uzbek Embassy's round-the-clock availability to facilitate coordination and promote business ties. The ambassador also stressed the importance of sustained hard work and collaboration to achieve mutual goals.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan proposed partnerships with local airlines to boost trade and travel connectivity and suggested organizing business-to-business (B2B) interactions during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's expected visit to Uzbekistan. The idea of holding a business forum during the visit also featured prominently in their discussions.

Concluding the meeting, the minister conveyed greetings to Uzbekistan's President and other officials, emphasizing the deepening ties between the two nations. Both sides agreed to work closely to unlock the full potential of their relationship.

## Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Holds Meeting with FCDO Delegation

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue chaired a meeting with Ms. Melinda Bohannaon, Director General for Humanitarian and Development at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Ms. Bohannaon was accompanied by Ms. Jo Moir, Development Director, and Mr. Louie Dane, Senior Economist. Senior officers from Finance Division also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Federal Minister apprised the delegation of the government's stabilization and structural reforms program.

He outlined key initiatives, including the privatization agenda,

rightsizing of the federal government, pension reforms, and reforms in state-owned enterprises (SOEs). He highlighted that the quarter 1 tax revenues (YOY) increased by 25.6% in FY 25.

Ms. Bohannaon appreciated the government's comprehensive reforms program and assured the full support to FCDO.

Both the Minister and Ms. Bohannaon agreed on the importance of adopting a responsive and proactive approach to reforms. In the end, the minister also emphasized the need to stay the course to ensure that the reform initiatives achieve lasting impact and contribute to Pakistan's long-term economic and social development.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with RSNF Western Fleet Commander Rear Admiral Mansour Bin Saud Al-Juaid at Naval Headquarters

## AIOU opens its Matric to Ph. D admissions from January 1

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will open its Matric to Ph. D admissions for the Semester Spring 2025 simultaneously across the country from January 1.

To save precious time of students, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood instructed all faculties, academic departments and director admissions to offer all admissions in a single phase to reduce the admission processing time and enable the students to complete their studies

in time.

It is to mention here that previously, the university used to offer admissions in two phases in each semester. In the first phase, programs such as Matriculation, FA, BS (face-to-face), MS, MPhil, and PhD were offered, while in the second phase admissions were offered in BS (ODL), Associate Degree Programs, Teachers' Training Programs, and Postgraduate Programs. However, under the new policy, admissions for all these programs will now begin in a single phase starting January 1, 2025.

## Woman dies while making video for social media

## Abdul Majid

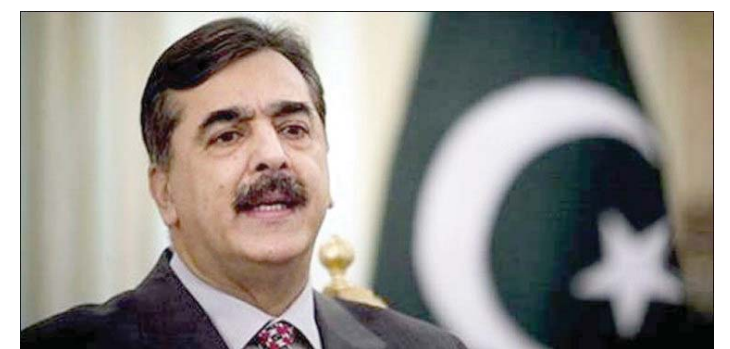
JARANWALA: In a tragic incident, a bride lost her life in Jaranwala, Punjab, reportedly due to a gunshot while filming a TikTok video.

According to reports, the police have issued conflicting statements regarding the death of 22-year-old Fatima Bibi, who was married just two days ago to Azmat, a resident of the same village.

According to the initial police report, Fatima accidentally fired the gun while recording a TikTok video. However, sources suggest that the fatal bullet may have come from an unidentified direction.

The police have transferred the body to the hospital and collected evidence from the crime scene. SHO of the Saddar police station stated that the true circumstances will only be revealed after a thorough investigation.

## Collective responsibility of all to ensure equal opportunities, rights for Persons with Disabilities: Chairman Senate Gilani



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, on Monday, underscored the collective responsibility to ensure equal opportunities and rights for Persons with Disabilities.

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Yousuf Raza Gilani said that comprehensive policies have been developed and are being implemented in Pakistan to support the welfare of persons with disabilities, enabling

them to lead dignified and independent lives.

He said that recognizing the capabilities of persons with disabilities, encouraging their participation, and providing them with necessary resources and opportunities are hallmarks of a strong and progressive nation.

"I pray that Allah Almighty grants us the ability to fulfil this responsibility in the best possible manner," he concluded.