

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
 سلام بن عبد اللہ نے بیان کیا انہوں نے اپنے
 والد عبد اللہ بن عمر رضی اللہ عنہما سے کہی
 کہ تم مجھے اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ میں نے
 دیکھا جیسے ایک سیاہ عورت پر آگڑیاں، مدینہ
 سے نکلی اور مہیبہ میں جا کر کھڑی ہوئی۔ مہیبہ
 چغندر کو کہتے ہیں۔ میں نے اس کی پیٹھ پر
 کہ میں نے کہا وہاں محمد صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم ہیں۔
 (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 7038)

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PM Shehbaz winds up two-day Saudi visit after One Water Summit

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday wound up his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia where he addressed the One Water Summit and proposed a six-point agenda at the global level to overcome water-related challenges.



5,000 PTI workers missing, Gohar says

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has stated that Imran Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, has no affiliation with the party. He also claimed that approximately 5,000 PTI workers are missing, and the party is currently collecting data on missing workers at the district level. Barrister Gohar confirmed that Bushra Bibi, Imran Khan's wife, is currently in Peshawar. He also said that Ali Amin Gandapur, is not using the province's resources effectively.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza met with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Shia' Al Sudani during his official visit to Iraq.

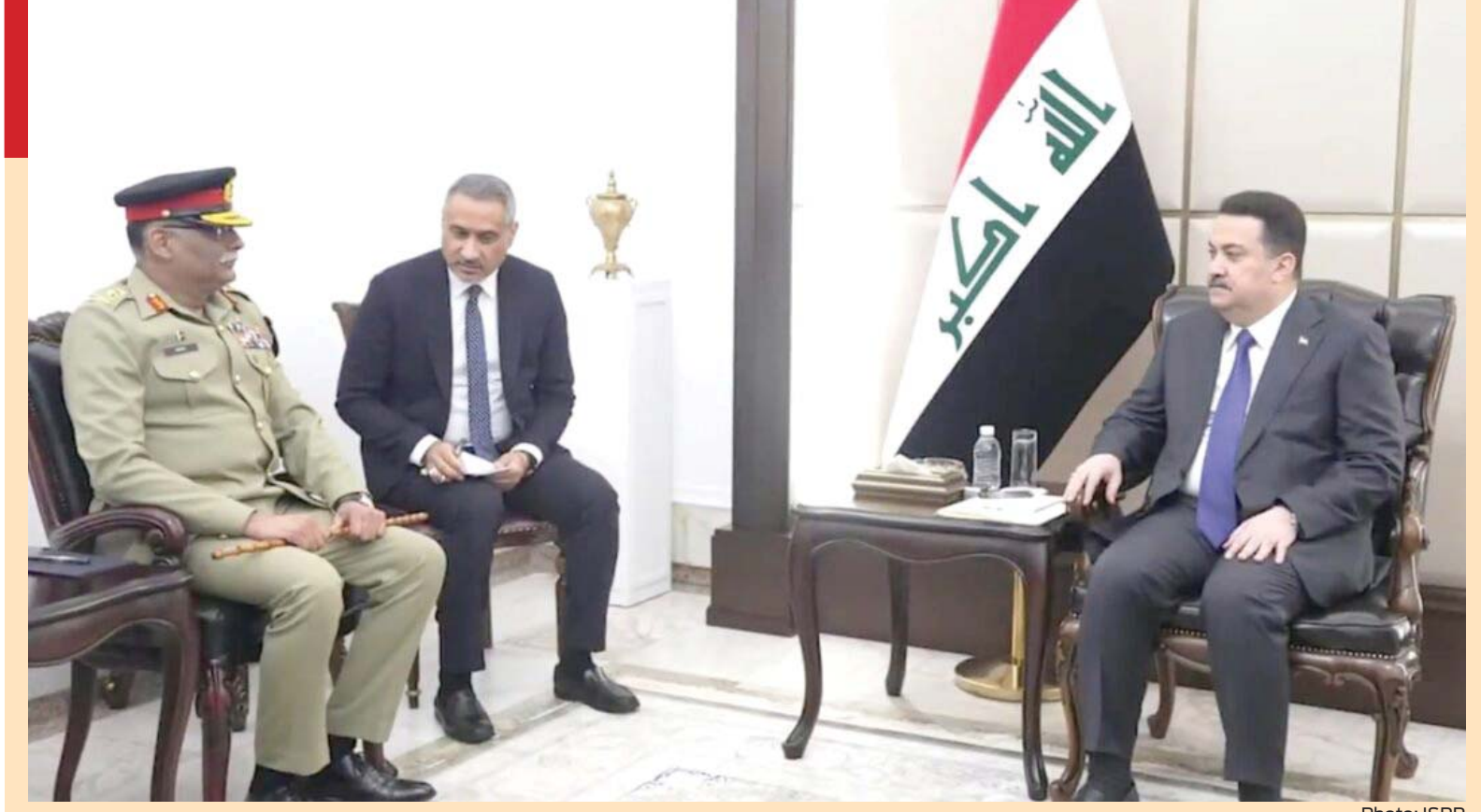


Photo: ISPR

CJCS Gen Sahir meets with Iraqi PM, chief of defense forces in Baghdad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, who is on an official visit to Republic of Iraq, called on H. E. Mohammad Shia' Al Sudani, the Prime Minister, H. E. Thabet Muhammad Saeed Al-Abbasi, Defence Minister, H. E. Abdul Amir Al Shammari, Interior Minister and H. E. General Abdul Ameer Rasheed Yar Allah, Chief of Defence Forces. During these meetings, both sides discussed key areas of interest, including security,

defense cooperation and the current regional environment. The dignitaries explored ways to expand the scope of military cooperation between the two countries and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening defence ties. The Iraqi civil and military leadership lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in fight against terrorism. Earlier upon arrival at Iraq Armed Forces Headquarters, smartly turned-out military contingent presented "Guard of Honour" to Chairman JCSC.

Billion dollars' investment from Saudi Arabia being actualized: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia this year for billion dollars of investment have been actualized, boosting the national economy and creating job opportunities in the country. The Minister revealed the information in a news conference following the successful visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Saudi Arabia where he attended the One Water Summit and held meetings with the global leaders including Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman and President of France Emmanuel Macron. He said PM Shehbaz had



returned from Saudi Arabia today after a brief but successful and significant visit. In last six months, he said the prime minister had held five meetings with the Saudi Crown Prince that reflected a significant boost in the Pak-Saudi relations that had reached to the new heights. "It also validates that the 28 MoUs signed

between the two countries during the recent visits of the high-level Saudi delegations are on the ground and actualizing," he added. The minister cited opening of Aramco Petrol Pumps in different cities of Pakistan as an outcome of these billion dollars' investment from Saudi Arabia. The process for the launch of

Al-Baik food chain in Pakistan was also underway, he added. He said the leadership of Saudi Arabia, in the last night meeting, had expressed their delight and satisfaction over actualization of the MoUs signed between the two countries in diverse sectors including agriculture, mines and minerals, energy, and IT skills. Tarar cited the Crown Prince as saying that "Pakistanis are our brothers and sisters, and there is no limit for investment in Pakistan." Yesterday meeting of the prime minister with the Crown Prince was a historic event and a milestone in the bilateral relations of the two countries," he added. He said during the meeting, both the countries' leadership agreed on enhancing relations in the areas of economy, business and investment to further

Govt showed patience in handling protesters on Nov 24: Dar tells foreign diplomats



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Wednesday the government demonstrated complete patience in handling the protest of a political party on Nov 24. Briefing the foreign diplomats at the Foreign Office in Islamabad, he clarified that law-enforcement agencies were not provided with live ammunition, but water cannon, tear gas and batons. Dar also emphasised that the army was called in as per the constitution and it remained in the third defence line to protect the diplomatic corps and federal institutions, including the Parliament

House, the Prime Minister's House, and the Presidency. The deputy prime minister regretted the use of resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in the protest by the political party, stressing that no federating unit had the right to march on the capital. Ishaq Dar mentioned that ensuring the Red Zone remained free from protests and violence had been a priority of the government and for this purpose, a special law was enacted earlier this year to ensure the security of diplomats. He also pointed out that it was surprising that this particular party chooses to protest when foreign delegates visit Pakistan.

PM appreciates security forces for successful anti-terror operation in Lakki Marwat

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tribute to the security forces for successful anti-terrorism operation while eliminating five Khawarij terrorists and arresting two injured in Lakki Marwat district. The prime minister said, according to a PM Office news release that the nefarious intentions of the enemies of humanity would continue to be crushed in the same way. The PM added that the government was actively working to completely eradicate terrorism from the country.

Pakistan defers LNG contract with Qatar for a year, petroleum minister says

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has deferred an agreement to buy liquefied natural gas from Qatar for a year, Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik said on Wednesday, and will now receive the contracted LNG cargoes in 2026 instead of 2025. "We currently have a surplus of LNG, so we are not importing any new cargo," said Malik. There were no financial penalties for deferring, rather than cancelling the order, he added. Annual power use in Pakistan, which gets over a third of its electricity from natural gas, has fallen 8-10% year-on-year over the past three quarters, its power minister told Reuters in November, primarily due to higher tariffs curbing household consumption. The South Asian nation has deferred five LNG cargoes from Qatar and is negotiating to defer five more with other markets,



Malik told journalists, without disclosing the names of the sellers. The government said in November it was slashing its electricity tariffs over the winter to boost consumption and cut the use of natural gas for heating. Many power utilities in Pakistan have had to curtail or even halt operations in winter months due to demand dropping by up to 60% from peak summer levels.

Security forces kill 5 terrorists in NW Pakistan

Xinhua

ISLAMABAD: Five terrorists were killed and two others injured in a clash with security forces in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Wednesday, the military said in a statement. The exchange of fire took place in Lakki Marwat district where the security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation on the reported presence of the terrorists, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistani army, said in the statement. During the operation, the troops successfully engaged the terrorists at their hideouts, inflicting significant losses, the statement added. A clearance operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area, the ISPR said.

KP govt airlifting life-saving drugs to Kurram

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A severe shortage of essential medicines in Kurram, including life-saving drugs, has prompted the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government to airlift supplies to the region via helicopter. Officials attribute the shortage to a road blockage that has disrupted the usual supply routes. The Chief Minister's helicopter is being used for the urgent delivery of medicines. In a statement to the media, KP Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam confirmed that the

situation in Kurram is gradually returning to normal, with a complete ceasefire now in effect. He added that food and other essential supplies will also be sent to Parachinar alongside the medicines. Authorities are working to restore peace and reopen the blocked roads as quickly as possible. Judges and their families from Kurram have been safely evacuated.



National Day of Thailand celebrated in Islamabad

Thai embassy was committed to taking Pakistan-Thailand relations to the next level: Charge d'Affaires

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan paid tributes to the leadership of the Kingdom of Thailand for leading the country and the masses on the path of

unprecedented economic growth in diverse sectors such as Food Industry, Tourism, Information Technology and aviation, etc.

He was speaking as Chief Guest on the occasion of National Day of Kingdom of Thailand hosted by Embassy of Thai-

land at Serena Islamabad. H. E. Rongvudhi Virabutr, ambassador-designate and his spouse, Ms Kamolwan Sriposil, Charge d'Affaires and Defense Attaché warm welcome to guests. Diplomats, Business community, media persons and ASEAN countries Ambassadors, High Commissioners were also present on the occasion.

The national day also coincided with the Birthday Anniversary of the late King Bhumibol and Thailand's Father's Day. It is my great honour to address the reception of a country I have always wished to visit and have indeed visited it on many occasions, said Dr. Umar Saif adding Thailand served as a case history for being a country of unique potential and huge economic growth.

Earlier in her welcome remarks, Kamolwan Sriposil, Charge d'Affaires of the Thai embassy said under the leadership of Rongvudhi Virabutr, the embassy was committed to taking Pakistan-Thailand relations to the next level.

"As we celebrate more than 70 years of diplomatic relations, Thailand and Pakistan share a bond and historical ties that go back 2,000 years to the Gandhara civilisation," said Kamolwan Sriposil.

With ongoing negotiations between Thailand and Pakistan on a free trade agreement, Kamolwan Sriposil informed her guests with confidence that greater opportunities awaited for more collaboration.

She said Thai companies operating and investing in Pakistan



highlighted the potential of the partnership between the two countries, to drive economic growth, create jobs and improve livelihoods.

"Pakistan is a nation of immense treasures and potential from the abundance of natural resources to the strength of the young population," she said while appreciating the hospitality and generosity of Pakistani people across the length and breadth of the country," she said.

As the world became increasingly interconnected amidst

various challenges, the strength of partnership between the two countries was a sign of hope and opportunity, she added.

About bilateral relations, She said Thailand and Pakistan enjoyed diplomatic relations for the last 72 years but these ties have been established for more than 2,000 years through the Gandhara route.

She said, while Thailand is always proud to host visitors from Pakistan for tourism purposes, he wished Pakistanis to consider Thailand's world-class health

care and wellness services and internationally recognized educational institutions.

As an active member of ASEAN, Thailand has worked closely with our ASEAN family in Islamabad to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in

The celebration offered a unique opportunity to sample Thai dishes. Additionally, the celebration included traditional Thai dances performed by Thai artists

Photos by Ramzan Mughal

Poster competition

ISLAMABAD: A group photo of winners with Former Principal Farhat Mujtaba, Chief Guest Sultana Siddiqui on the occasion of poster competition at Islamabad Model College for Girls F-7/4.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Governor of Punjab, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari welcome new political leaders to PPP

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: ATTOCK 4th dec Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, along with notable political figures of District Attock, met Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Accompanying the Governor, TLP ticket holder from PP-4 Malik Amanat Rawal and PP-5 ticket holder Syed Atif Hussain Shah Gillani, along with their associates, joined the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

"The PPP has been revitalized in Punjab with new energy and enthusiasm," said Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari welcomed the newly joined leaders to the PPP and stated, "We will not leave PPP workers alone." Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari directed Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan to organize the PPP in every district of Punjab.

"The people of Pakistan will elect the young leader, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, as the Prime Minister of Pakistan," said Governor Sardar Saleem Haider. Former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf was also present on this occasion.

"The PPP will secure a clear majority in the upcoming general elections across Punjab and all of Pakistan," declared Governor Punjab. "The PPP knows how to claim its rightful place at every level, including Punjab," added Governor Sardar Saleem Haider.

"The PPP has made countless sacrifices for Pakistan," stated the Governor of Punjab. Notable participants at the event included Sardar Faizan Haider (Patron-in-Chief, PPP Attock), Malik Sher Ali Khan (former MPA), Malik Asif Khan, Haji Malik Riyasat Sadryal, Haji Akhtar Ali, Malik Noor Muhammad Rao, Sardar Ahsan Ali Khan, Malik Asghar Hanjra, Malik Rizwan Majeed, Malik Wajahat Sadryal, and Syed Mujtaba Haider.

Thatta Goldsmith Association Threatens Strike After Brazen Robbery Incident

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

THATTA: The Goldsmith Association of Thatta has warned of a shutter down strike in protest of the worsening law and order situation in the district. This warning comes after a robbery incident occurred in Thatta city, where a gang of robbers broke into the house of Aslam Memon, a goldsmith and key member of the Goldsmith Association.

CCTV footage obtained by the local police shows a gang of bandits, led by a woman wearing a black burqa, entering the house and looting cash and valuables after holding the residents hostage. The family members reported that the bandits took cash, gold ornaments, and other valuables, and also physically assaulted the female members of the family.

An FIR has been lodged at the Thatta police station against unidentified suspects. The incident has been termed one of the biggest robbery incidents in the district.

The Goldsmith Association has expressed grave concerns over the police's inaction and has urged the IG Sindh to take notice of the incident.

Islamia University Vice Chancellor visits Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine

Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Vice Chancellor the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kamran recently visited the Faculty of Pharmacy and Faculty of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences at Khawaja Farid Campus. The purpose of the visit was to highlight the university's commitment to advancing education and research in pharmaceutical and allied health sciences. Prof. Dr. Saeed Ahmed, Dean, Faculty



of Pharmacy, gave a detailed briefing to the Vice Chancellor about the academic

and research achievements of the faculty. He highlighted the recent developments in research projects, innovative teaching methods and collaborations. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kamran also visited the state-of-the-art laboratories dedicated to undergraduate and postgraduate students and research scholars. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhtar, Chairman, Department, gave a presentation and outlined the educational and research programs offered by both the faculties.

'Persons with Disabilities' need empathy, much attention, and inclusion, says Lt Col Tanzeel

Rafiullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: 'Persons with disabilities should not consider themselves inferior in society but should accept their disability as a challenge. The community needs care, inclusion, and empathy', emphasized Wing Commander Zhob Militia Lieutenant Col Tanzeel.

He was speaking at a ceremony to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities here at the Zhob Militia Headquarters (ZMHQs). The ceremony

was organized by the Frontier Corps Balochistan in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department Balochistan.

FC officials, teachers, disabled persons, and their families participated in the ceremony.

Maj Saad and Captain Sajid, while speaking on the occasion, said that around 1.2 billion people are suffering from some kind of disability globally, which makes fifteen percent of the total population of the world. Celebrating the day as the 'International Day of

Persons with Disabilities' aims at highlighting the grievances of the community and making them realize that they should not consider themselves inferior in society.

Head of the Towheed Technical Institute, Dr. Mousarat Aziz, said that the proper way to call persons with disabilities is 'special persons', but calling them disabled persons is an insult, adding that the only weapon that persons with disabilities should possess for their survival and sustainable future is their education.

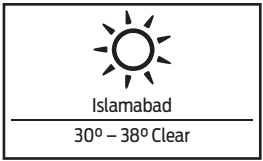


Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department Malak Ehsan-ul-Haq Mandokhel

thanked the Frontier Constabulary Balochistan for organizing the ceremony and said

that special persons deserve special attention and care in society.

Physical disability should not be considered an obstacle in the way of their progress.



SERVICES	
Namaz Timings	
Fajr	5:29 am
Zohr	11:58 am
Asr	3:21 pm
Maghrib	4:59 pm
Isha	6:28 pm

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

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

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

DEPARTMENTS	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
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 Tanker	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

YouTube reveals Pakistan's Top Videos of 2024

KARACHI: YouTube has announced its End-of-Year List 2024, celebrating the platform's most popular videos. The list is a reflection of moments that resonated with audiences across Pakistan, suggesting the nation's diverse entertainment and information consumption patterns.

This year's lists, spanning three categories—Top Trending Videos, Top Music Videos, and Top Creators—offer a captivating glimpse into Pakistan's digital landscape. In 2024, YouTube witnessed significant growth, with Pakistani creators uploading more content than ever. The total hours of content uploaded by local creators surged by 60% in the past year.

The trends of 2024 paint a vivid picture of Pakistan's video preferences. Entertainment reigns supreme, with dramas and action-packed films topping the Top Trending Videos list. Captivating local dramas like "Ishq Murshid," "Jaam Nisar," and "Kabhi Main Kabhi Tum" hold the top three spots, reaffirming Pakistan's enduring love for compelling storytelling. The allure of action-packed cinema is evident too in the popularity of South Indian action films, such as "Tiger Nageswara Rao" and Ram Pothineni's "SKANDA."

Two-Day International Conference on 'Re-Imagining the Real Estate' kicks off at NUML

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Modern Languages inaugurated its two-day International Conference on Real Estate titled "Re-imagining the Real Estate Industry" today. Organized by NUML's Faculty of Management Sciences in collaboration with Islamic Relief, the Higher Education Commission (HEC), and the Institute of Management Sciences (IM Sciences), the conference brings together leading experts from academia and industry to address the pressing challenges facing Pakistan's real

estate sector. The inaugural session was graced by Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Riaz Hussain Pirzada, who served as the Chief Guest. Shafiq Akbar, CEO of IMARAT Group, delivered an impactful keynote address, and Dr Usman Ghani, Director of IM Sciences, provided his valuable insights on the importance of education and innovation in the real estate sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig Shahzad Munir, Director General NUML, welcomed the participants and underscored NUML's commitment to

organizing conferences on significant issues. He highlighted the challenges of rapid urbanization, such as traffic congestion, pollution, and unplanned urban sprawl, and emphasized the potential of the real estate sector to play a pivotal role in economic growth.

The Chief Guest of the conference, Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Riaz Hussain Pirzada, lauded NUML for organizing this groundbreaking event, remarking that such impactful conferences have been rare in recent years. He emphasized the importance of engaging and empowering the youth, urging

them to contribute actively to Pakistan's progress and development.

Shafiq Akbar, CEO of IMARAT Group, elaborated on the sector's vast potential, stating that real estate accounts for 40% of Pakistan's GDP but remains underutilized due to inadequate planning and resource management. He highlighted that out of approximately 8,000 housing societies in the country, 5,500 are illegal, which poses significant challenges to sustainable development.

Dr Usman Ghani, Director of IM Sciences, highlighted the role of education and research in overcoming valuation

discrepancies and irregularities in the real estate sector.

The first day of the conference also included four thematic sessions where renowned speakers addressed topics such as valuation practices, legal frameworks, urban sprawl, and making real estate a market. Experts provided actionable insights and strategic solutions to the challenges facing the sector.

The conference will continue tomorrow with more discussions and collaborative sessions to reimagine the future of Pakistan's real estate industry and its role in national development.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Federal Minister, Ministry of Housing and Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada and Brig Shahzad Munir, DG NUML along with others posing a group photo on the occasion of "International Conference on Re-imagining the Real Estate: Sustainable Market Growth and Urban Planning" held at NUML.



Reopen Food Street after complaints of traders during international matches



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Additional Deputy Commissioner General Dr. Hassan Tariq issued orders to open the Food Street after a delegation of traders led by the Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association assured full cooperation with law enforcement agencies during the matches.

Yesterday, the traders of the Food Street, led by Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, President Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association, held an important meeting with Additional Deputy Commissioner General Dr. Hassan Tariq.

On this occasion, Chairman Association Mumtaz Ahmed, Vice President Nadeem Alam Kiani, Habibullah Zahid, Chaudhry Qamar Usman, Haji Pasha Khan and Moazzam-ul-Haq, among others, were present. President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry and Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed informed Additional Deputy Commissioner General Dr. Hassan Tariq about the concerns of the food street traders and said that during international matches, we fully cooperate with the administration and security agencies, however, it is completely unfair to keep the food street closed during domestic matches.

Aga Khan University paediatrician receives American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene award

City Desk

KARACHI/NEW ORLEANS: AKU's Chair of Paediatrics & Child Health, Dr Fyezah Jehan, has been selected as a Distinguished International Fellow of the prestigious American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene for her accomplishments in research, advocacy and service for malnourished mothers, children and infectious diseases.

The award was granted at the Society's annual meeting in New Orleans at a ceremony with ASTMH President Dr. Linnie Golightly and CEO Jamie Bay Nishi.

The award is conferred in recognition of outstanding accomplishment by an individual who is not an American citizen and has made "eminent contributions to some phase of tropical medicine and hygiene."

One of Dr Fyezah's key interventions leveraged ready-to-use supplemental foods through peri-urban clinics in Karachi, reaching over 10,000 women and children at risk of malnutrition. She collaborated with Rotary International and the Trust for Malnutrition and Stunted Growth to develop initiatives aimed at early diagnosis and management of malnutrition among children and pregnant women; work that earned her recognition as a Paul Harris Fellow.

In the MUMTA trial, Dr Fyezah led a team that studied the impact of balanced energy protein supplementation, along with micronutrients in pregnant and breastfeeding women on newborn outcomes.

This effort, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is groundbreaking in examining how targeted maternal nutrition can support early brain health.

Dr Fyezah is the second Pakistani and AKU faculty to have received this award. Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta received it in 2018.

Aalmi Urdu Conference opens with exhibition of Pakistan's Master painters

City Desk

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, organized an exhibition of Pakistan's Master painters from Karachi was held at the Ahmed Pervez Art Gallery as part of the 17th Aalmi Urdu Conference—Jashan-e-Karachi. The exhibition was inaugurated by Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah and President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmed Shah. On this occasion, Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah said that Arts Council is not a new institution for me, as I have been noticing Ahmed Shah for the past twelve years. Saying something about Ahmed Shah is like showing a mirror to the sun. World Culture Festival was a significant challenge to undertake and its success is credited to Ahmed Shah. Under his leadership, World Culture Festival in Karachi was successfully completed. Today, I am happy that the Aalmi Urdu Conference is being held.



Tomorrow, officially inaugurate the 17th Aalmi Urdu Conference, where Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah will attend as a special guest. Today, we have organized an exhibition featuring rare masterpieces by great past painters from Karachi. He further stated that I do not believe in similarity; every year, we try to do something new at the Urdu Conference. All the departments of the

Sindh government, under the guidance of the Chief Secretary, provided full support for the security of the World Culture Festival. The Chief Secretary has also issued special instructions for the 17th Aalmi Urdu Conference. The exhibition featured rare artworks by Ahmed Pervez, A. R. Nagori, Qudsia Nisar, A. S. Nagi, Eqlal Mehdi, Abdul Hayee, Mansoor Rahi, Sadequain, Murtaza Bashir,

Hajra Mansoor, Bashir Mirza, Ozzir Zubi, Naheed Raza, Wahab Jaffar, Kebriya, Sardar Muhammad, Mansoor Saleem, A. Islam, Mansoor Aye, G. Mustafa, Ismail Gulgee, Laila Shahzada, Mirza Sajjad Hussain, Hanjra, and Rabia Zuberi. At the end of the event, Farrukh Shahab, Shahid Rassam, and Tanweer Farooqi presented a bouquet to Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah.

Quality and Innovation in Education Require Collective Action, Says IIUI President

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the two-day conference titled "Quality and Innovation in Higher Education" (CQIHE), Prof. Dr. Shuja, President, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), has said that quality and innovation in higher and lower education needs collective and collaborative efforts at all levels. On the occasion, Prof. Dr. Ahmad Shuja highlighted that this conference reflects IIUI's unwavering commitment to educational excellence and innovation. The confer-

ence is being hosted by the Faculty of Education in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission Pakistan, Iqbal International Institute for Research & Dialogue (IRD), Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC), and Admas University, at Allama Iqbal Auditorium Faisal Masjid Campus from 04-05 December, 2024. Researchers are presenting papers in multiple sessions during the conference. More than 300 participants, including distinguished academics, policymakers, and researchers from around the globe are participating in the conference.

The Chief Guest of the conference, Dr. Shafiqat Ali Janjua, Joint Educational Advisor at the National Curriculum Council, Ministry of Education and Professional Training, Islamabad stressed upon aligning education policies with global trends to ensure quality and accessibility.

Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, Dr. Anzar Khaliq, Chief Learning Officer at San Francisco Bay University, USA; Dr. Leele Susana Jamian, Associate Professor at UiTM, Malaysia, and Dr. Steve Warner from the University of



the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago are the keynote speakers of this important conference.

During the opening session, Dr. Azhar Mahmood, Incharge Programs at the Faculty of Education, Dr. Muhammad Munir Kayani, Chair-

person of the Department of Teacher Education and Dr. Fouzia Ajmal, the Conference Convener, emphasized the importance of blending quality and innovation in education to address modern challenges.

At the end, a souvenir was presented

by the President IIUI to the Chief Guest, Dr. Shafiqat Ali Janjua, Joint Educational Advisor at the National Curriculum Council. Later, Dr. Shafiqat also visited the exhibition area and appreciated the students' efforts on the occasion.

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B2B Matchmaking Meeting on Textile Sector

The Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing and the Consulate-General in Shanghai, in collaboration with the Board of Investment (BOI), successfully organized the fourth sector-specific B2B matchmaking event in Jiangsu Province.

Held in Suzhou, a renowned hub for the textile industry in China, the event focused on fostering joint ventures, trade, and investment partnerships between leading Pakistani and Chinese textile and apparel enterprises.

The event included an opening session, individual B2B meetings, networking opportunities, and a closing session.

Eleven prominent Pakistani companies participated, including Crescent Bahuman Ltd., Fazal Cloth Mills Ltd., Kohinoor Mills Ltd., Magna Group, Mahmood Group, Matrix Sourcing, Naveena Exports, Nishat, Saritow Spinning Mills Ltd., Shams Textile Mills Ltd., and Servis Long March.

These companies engaged extensively with 37 major Chinese enterprises such as SUMEC Textile Co. Ltd., JD United, Anhui Huamao Textile Co. Ltd., Jiangsu Linafa Textile Co. Ltd., Yuyue Home Textile Co. Ltd., Jiangsu GTIG Eastern Co. Ltd., Zhejiang Giuseppe Garment Co., Fortune Tech, Sheng-hong Textile, Wujiang Changyuan Textile Co. Ltd., Jianfa Living Material Co. Ltd., and Orient Group Shanghai Textile Co. Ltd., discussing concrete proposals and exploring avenues for future collaboration.

In his remarks, Pakistan Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi highlighted the strategic advantages of investing in Pakistan textile sector.

He emphasized Pakistan global market access, long-standing expertise, and vertically integrated supply chain.

Highlighting preferential access under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA), the European Union's GSP+ scheme, and the UK Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), he stated, Investing in Pakistan opens doors to some of the world largest and most lucrative markets.

Ambassador Hashmi expressed his gratitude to the Board of Investment, the Consulate-General of Pakistan in Shanghai, and all participating companies for their concerted efforts in making the event a success. He encouraged businesses to capitalize on the opportunities presented and forge mutually beneficial partnerships.

Secretary Board of Investment, Rahim Hayat Qureshi, delivered a detailed presentation outlining Pakistan robust investment policies and facilitation mechanisms tailored for the textile sector.

He elaborated on a range of incentives, including streamlined regulatory processes, tax benefits, and infrastructure support within Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Qureshi also emphasized Pakistan adaptability to global textile trends, making it an ideal destination for innovation-driven investments.

The event also featured a success story presented by Omer Saeed of Servis Long March and his Chinese joint venture partner. Their partnership exemplified the high returns and

Is Trump's Threat to BRICS a Hoax?

I recently contributed an article titled "Looming Challenge to Dollar Dominance," and soon after its publication, the U.S. President-elect Donald J. Trump issued a bold and threatening statement. He warned that if any or all members of BRICS pursued business in any currency other than the dollar, he would impose a 25% tariff on imports from those countries. This is an extremely loaded and alarming statement, seemingly made without thorough background research, consultation, or evaluation.

It appears that Trump may be either overestimating the power of the mighty U.S. economy or underestimating the collective strength of the BRICS member countries. Alternatively, it is possible that, deep down, he had no real intention of implementing such a drastic measure, fully aware that in an interconnected global economy, exports are just as critical as imports to maintain economic stability. Such a move would risk destabilizing commodity prices, exacerbating inflation, and igniting public discontent. History shows that economic mismanagement of this scale can lead to widespread protests, creating immense pressure on the government, and, in the worst-case scenario, result in its downfall.

He must be knowing that BRICS is one of the most powerful block. The BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—represent approximately 3.7 billion people, nearly 46% of the global population. Together, they hold a combined GDP of \$27.6 trillion as of 2023, accounting for 26.3% of the world's economic output.

In 2023, the BRICS nations—collectively exported approximately \$578 billion worth of goods to the United States, with China accounting for the majority at around \$427 billion. Conversely, the U.S. exported goods valued at about \$151 billion to these countries, with significant

exports including pharmaceutical preparations, gem diamonds, crude oil, and cotton apparel.

If the U.S. imposed a 25% tariff on imports from BRICS countries, it would significantly impact inflation, industrial costs, and overall economic output. The higher tariffs would increase the cost of goods like electronics, machinery, textiles, and agricultural products, driving up consumer prices and fueling inflation. U.S. industries reliant on imports from BRICS countries would face higher production costs, reducing profitability and competitiveness in global markets. The ripple effect would likely slow economic growth as consumer spending diminishes and industrial output declines due to costlier inputs.

Conversely, if BRICS countries imposed reciprocal tariffs on U.S. exports, it would reduce the competitiveness of U.S. goods in key BRICS markets, leading to a decline in export volumes. This would particularly affect industries such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and machinery, which rely heavily on BRICS consumers. The combined tariffs would disrupt global supply chains, increase costs for businesses, and create logistical challenges. In the U.S., these changes could lead to job losses in export-driven sectors, further dampening economic activity and reducing GDP growth.

BRICS countries would also face economic setbacks, as reduced access to the U.S. market would hurt their export-driven industries, particularly in China and Brazil. Higher tariffs on U.S. goods, such as advanced technology and pharmaceuticals, would raise costs for consumers and industries in BRICS nations. Additionally, these countries might experience slower GDP growth and job losses

in export-oriented sectors.

This strategy represents a clear lose-lose situation where both the U.S. and BRICS countries would suffer significant economic harm, with ripple effects lowering the quality of life for people in both regions. By resorting to tariffs, the U.S. and BRICS nations would effectively exacerbate inflation, disrupt global supply chains, and reduce industrial output, ultimately undermining their own economic strength. For the U.S., industries reliant on BRICS imports would face higher production costs, while reduced exports to BRICS markets would hurt key sectors like agriculture and technology. Similarly, BRICS nations would lose access to the lucrative U.S. market, damaging their export-driven economies and slowing growth. The resulting global price wars, market distortions, and overcapacity would not only strain businesses but also erode consumer purchasing power, worsening living standards across the board.

If the U.S. and BRICS countries imposed 25% tariffs on each other's imports, both sides would face a surplus of goods, leading to aggressive dumping in other markets. This competition to offload surplus products would trigger price wars in global trade, compressing profit margins for U.S. and BRICS exporters. Key industries, such as U.S. agriculture and BRICS manufacturing, would experience reduced revenues, overcapacity, and potential job losses. The economic strain would slow industrial output and GDP growth in both regions, while geopolitical tensions could escalate as global trade dynamics become more fragmented.

Other countries, particularly in Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Europe, would benefit from lower

Analysis



Qamar Bashir



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Azcat)

DG ISPR's Remarkable Efforts in Uniting Different Segments of Society

A recent and noteworthy example of DG ISPR's outreach occurred during an interaction with students at Balochistan University. In this session, DG ISPR shared compelling facts and figures about Balochistan, highlighting Pakistan's contributions and services to the province. He informed the students that Balochistan is the largest province by area, covering 45% of Pakistan's territory, yet it has a relatively small population of 15 million. Despite this, the province enjoys special status within Pakistan, with significant resources allocated to its development. He outlined that in the fiscal year 2023-24, Balochistan received an NFC share of 481 billion rupees, while the total tax collected from the province was 33.7 billion. Additionally, the federal government provided 96 billion rupees in 2022-2023, and Balochistan received 29 billion rupees in royalties during the same period. Moreover, foreign-funded projects contributed around 18 billion rupees to Balochistan's development.

DG ISPR also pointed out the impressive progress in education and healthcare in the province. In 1947, Balochistan had just 114 schools, whereas today it boasts 15096 schools, 12 universities, 5 medical colleges, 145 colleges, 13 cadet colleges, and 321 technical institutes. He emphasized

that this remarkable transformation has been made possible through the collective efforts of the entire nation. In the healthcare sector, DG ISPR highlighted how Balochistan has evolved from having only 3 hospitals and 6 dispensaries in 1947 to now having 13 major hospitals, 18 teaching hospitals, 33 district hospitals, 756 Basic Health Units, 541 dispensaries, 4 cardiac centers, 8 TB centers, and 24 dialysis centers. These figures not only reflect the significant investments made in Balochistan's development but also underscore Pakistan's commitment to uplifting the province and its people. Through such inter-

actions, DG ISPR continues to foster a deeper understanding of the army's pivotal role in shaping the nation's progress, particularly in its most underserved regions. This journey has been one of shared progress between Pakistan and Balochistan. In 1947, Balochistan had only 375 km of roads, but today the province boasts an extensive network of 45,640 km of roads.

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province by area, holds immense strategic importance both geographically and economically. Often referred to as the country's gateway to the Arabian Sea, it serves as a crucial link between South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. While the province's significance is evident—due to its abundant natural resources and pivotal geopolitical loca-

tion—its development has historically been hindered by challenges such as political unrest and security issues. Despite these obstacles, the collective efforts of Pakistan and Balochistan have driven significant progress in recent years. Despite the challenges, the Pakistani government has made significant efforts over the years to integrate Balochistan more fully into the national framework, addressing its socio-economic issues and creating opportunities for growth. The province's geographical importance to Pakistan cannot be overstated. Situated at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, Balochistan plays a pivotal role in regional connectivity, trade, and security.

One of Balochistan's most valuable assets is the Gwadar Port, a deep-sea port located on the Arabian Sea. Gwadar has the potential to transform Pakistan into a key trading hub, connecting landlocked Central Asia and Afghanistan to international markets. The port's strategic location is set to reduce Pakistan's reliance on the Strait of Hormuz, providing the country with a significant geopolitical advantage. Additionally, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a major infrastructure and energy project, runs through Balochistan, further increasing the province's importance for Pakistan's economic future. CPEC aims to link Gwadar with China's Xinjiang province via a network of roads, railways, and pipelines, creating new trade routes and opening up opportunities for economic collaboration between the two countries. This connectivity is expected to

Analysis



Abdul Basit Alvi

Huawei ICT Competition 2024-25 Journey

Haider Irfan

As a seventh-semester student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Artificial Intelligence at The Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering and Technology (GIKI), my academic journey has been a series of challenges, opportunities, and growth. Among the many enriching experiences, my participation in Huawei's ICT Competition 2024-25 Cloud Track's Regional Final stands out as a transformative chapter. This is the story of how I moved from self-doubt to representing Pakistan at one of the most prestigious technology competitions.

Discovering the Opportunity
 Every year since my first semester at GIKI, Huawei has conducted a roadshow to introduce students to the ICT Competition. The vibrant energy of these sessions left an impression on me, and I admired the students who dared to participate. Despite my growing interest in the competition, I never felt confident enough to take the plunge. It wasn't until this year—my final year, and consequently my last chance—that I decided to take part. Alongside a group of friends, we resolved to push past our insecurities and see how far we could go.

The Journey Begins: National Preliminary Round
 I registered for the Cloud Track, which encompasses topics in Cloud, AI, and Big Data, choosing it because of my passion for these domains. The ICT Competition also includes the Networking Track and Computing Track, but Cloud Track resonated with my academic interests. The first milestone was the National Preliminary Round held on November 10. The online test consisted of 60 single-answer,

multiple-answer and true/false questions to be attempted in 90 minutes.

National Finals: The Journey Gets Tougher
 The National Final, conducted on November 20, was a step up in terms of difficulty. This round featured 90 questions, requiring a deep understanding of the syllabus. I invested considerable time in preparation, determined to rise to the challenge. Once again, the results brought great news—I was among the top 20 students who advanced to the Interview Stage. At this point, I was joined by two of my friends, who had also made it this far.

Facing the Interview Stage
 The interview stage, held on November 23, was perhaps the most nerve-racking part of the journey. It required not only technical expertise but also the ability to articulate concepts clearly under pressure. In preparation, I meticulously reviewed the syllabus. On the day of the interview, I was nervous yet focused, and thankfully, it went smoothly.

Preparing for Regional Finals
 The Regional Final required not just individual excellence but cohesive teamwork. The three of us divided our responsibilities to maximize our preparation. Waleed focused on the Cloud section, Usman took on Cloud and Big Data, and I concentrated on AI. Our daily online meetings became brainstorming sessions, where we shared insights, clarified doubts, and motivated each other.

The Regional Final: A Test of Skill and Endurance
 The Regional Final took place on December 2 at Huawei's office in OEC Tower, Islamabad. It was an awe-inspiring moment, knowing we were competing with students from across the Middle East and Central Asia, all connected through an online platform. The competition comprised two

segments: a theory paper and a hands-on lab. The theory paper followed a familiar format, with 60 questions to be attempted in 60 minutes. The real challenge, however, lay in the 4-hour lab session, where we performed complex tasks on Huawei Cloud Portal, integrating concepts from Cloud, AI, and Big Data. It was a grueling yet exhilarating experience, testing not just our technical knowledge but also our ability to work under pressure.

Awaiting the Results
 As we await the results of the Regional Final, our excitement and hope are at an all-time high. If selected, we will move on to the Global Finals in China, with a stopover in Saudi Arabia on December 15 for the award ceremony of the regional stage. Representing Pakistan on this global stage would be an incredible honor, and we are optimistic about our chances.

Reflections
 Participating in Huawei's ICT Competition has been a remarkable journey. It has taught me to push past my insecurities and embrace challenges head-on. The competition not only deepened my technical expertise but also instilled in me the importance of teamwork and perseverance. Whether or not we make it to the Global Finals, I am proud of how far I've come—from a hesitant observer at Huawei's roadshows to a finalist in the Regional Finals.

This experience has solidified my belief in stepping out of one's comfort zone. For aspiring participants, my advice is simple: take the leap, prepare with dedication, and believe in yourself. Every journey begins with a single step, and this competition has been a testament to the transformative power of determination and teamwork.

Writer is student of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute (GIKI), D.I. Khan

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
105,104.33	104,559.07
Day's High	Day's Low
105,473.56	104,315.41
Index Value	Change
32,388,719,570	+545.26
Percentage	Time
+0.52%	4 Dec, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
8,335.81	-23.60
Percentage	Time
-0.28%	4 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
44,967.82	+262.29
Percentage	Time
+0.59%	4 Dec, 12:16 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
39,276.39	+27.53
Percentage	Time
+0.070%	4 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	178.75	181.00
Bahrain Dinar	733.50	741.50
Canadian Dollar	198.10	200.50
China Yuan	37.99	38.39
Danish Krone	39.15	39.55
Euro	289.60	292.35
Hong Kong Dollar	35.45	35.8
Indian Rupee	3.18	3.27
Japanese Yen	1.87	1.93
Kuwaiti Dinar	895.00	904.50
Malaysian Ringgit	61.75	62.35
New Zealand \$	162.4	164.4
Norwegians Krone	24.93	25.23
Omani Riyal	717.90	726.40
Qatari Riyal	75.7	76.4
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	207.25	209.25
Swedish Korona	25.1	25.4
Swiss Franc	312.75	315.55
Thai Bhat	7.95	8.10
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	349.80	353.3
US Dollar	277.45	278.95

Cleaning and Green Islamabad to hold waste-picking activity on Friday

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under the Clean and Green Islamabad Movement, a waste-picking activity will be organized on Friday, December 6, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM in the parks of F-8/1, 2, 3, and 4 as part of the cleanliness drive. The purpose of this activity is to raise awareness among citizens about cleanliness and to make Islamabad cleaner and greener.

Chairman of the Clean and Green Islamabad Movement, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, in his message to the citizens regarding this activity, stated that this campaign is not only a practical step towards environmental protection but also an effort to instill a sense of responsibility among the citizens. He said that the beauty of Islamabad lies in its cleanliness and lush greenery, and it is our duty to play our role in keeping our city clean.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has appealed to the residents of Islamabad to join hands and actively participate in this campaign.

TCL, Arsenal launch new campaign to celebrate unity and shared vision

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV brand has partnered with Arsenal to celebrate the power of unity and collaboration. In their latest campaign, Arsenal players Declan Rice, Mikel Merino, and Ben White star to showcase how resilience and team spirit can pave the way for greatness and extraordinary moments.

Majid Khan Niazi, Director of Marketing for TCL Middle East and Africa, stated, "At TCL, we are driven by a passion to inspire greatness and innovation in every aspect of life. Our collaboration with Arsenal allows us to highlight the values of determination, passion, and unity principles that are deeply embedded in both the club and our brand.

National Tax Council meets to Discuss Tax Reforms, Harmonization

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the National Tax Council (NTC) was held today at the Finance Division under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb. The meeting brought together key federal and provincial stakeholders to discuss critical matters related to tax reforms and harmonization.

The meeting was held in the context of the

recently signed National Fiscal Pact between the Federation and the Provinces, emphasizing the need for realizing the full tax potential from under-taxed sectors, particularly real estate, property, and agricultural income.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Ali Parvez Malik, the Minister of State for Finance & Revenue; Mian Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, the Finance Minister of Punjab; Mr. Muzzamil Aslam, the Finance Minister of KPK; Mir Shoib Nausherwani, the Finance

Minister of Balochistan; Chairman FBR, Chairmans of Provincial Revenue Boards, and the Federal and Provincial Finance Secretaries. Additionally, experts from the World Bank and other senior officials from Finance Division and provincial finance departments were also present.

The Council emphasized the importance of cohesive policy implementation, capacity building, and robust stakeholder engagement to achieve sustainable reform goals. Parti-

cipants acknowledged the potential of these measures to support national fiscal stability and promote equitable growth.

The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue reiterated the government's commitment to fostering collaboration among all stakeholders for a unified and efficient tax framework.

The meeting concluded with actionable steps to advance the discussed reforms in a timely manner.

National Tax Council Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired a meeting of the National Tax Council (NTC) at the Finance Division on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

PFC to participate in 3-day trade conference and single country expo

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council will participate in the 3-day 5th Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference and Single Country Exhibition (PATC & SCE) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, commencing from Jan 15.

Chairing here Wednesday board of directors meeting CEO PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq said Addis Ababa, a hub of African diplomacy, provides an ideal venue for fostering economic collaboration between Pakistan and Africa, promoting sustainable growth and long-term partnerships across the continent. The conference aims to facilitate meaningful business engagements between Pakistani exporters and African importers, showcasing Pakistan's diverse products, including textiles, pharmaceuticals,



surgical instruments, agriculture, and engineering goods. The single-country exhibition will provide a platform for Pakistani companies to display their offerings, fostering mutual trade and investment opportunities, he added.

Organized by the federal Ministry of Commerce, in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), this event underscores Pakistan's commitment to deepening trade and economic ties with African nations under its "Look Africa" policy, he concluded.

DWP Technologies wins Huawei's technology integration recognition award at GITEX 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: DWP Technologies, Pakistan's leading technology experts and part of the DWP Group, has been honored with the prestigious Data Center Technologies Integration Recognition Award at the Huawei Partner Connect event during GITEX 2024 in Dubai.

This top-tier recognition underscored DWP Technologies' exceptional ability to design and deliver state-of-the-art hybrid green data center solutions, meeting customer's advanced AI and high-performance computing requirements. It highlighted DWP Technologies' unwavering commitment to innovation, technical expertise, and project execution. By delivering cutting-edge data center infrastructure solutions and ensuring exceptional customer experiences, DWP Technologies has solidified its position as a trusted partner in the technology landscape and a leader in collaboration with Huawei.

While expressing his gratitude, Rohail Bashir, Chief Operating Officer, DWP Technologies, said, "We are deeply honored to receive this recognition from Huawei at GITEX 2024. This award is a testament to our relentless pursuit of technological excellence and our dedication to delivering innovative and sustainable data center solutions. We take pride in our ability to integrate advanced technologies seamlessly, enabling our customers to stay ahead in today's rapidly evolving digital world."

This recognition reflected DWP Technologies' success in executing multiple high-impact projects across diverse industries. The company's ongoing dedication to



innovation and sustainability continues to elevate its reputation as a leading data center infrastructure and technology integration partner. The recognition also reinforced DWP Technologies' role as a trailblazer in the industry and its ongoing dedication to technological excellence and seamless integration.

The Huawei Partner Connect event

at GITEX 2024 brought together technology leaders and innovators worldwide, celebrating outstanding contributions and achievements in driving technological advancement. Winning this prestigious award places DWP Technologies at the forefront of the data center solutions industry, setting a benchmark for excellence in the region and beyond.

Highway Authority reviews performance, ponders ways to boost investment

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level meeting of the National Highway Authority was chaired by Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization & Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan.

In this meeting the performance of NHA was reviewed while deliberations were made on the ongoing and future projects. The role of the National Highway Authority in economic and business activities and foreign investment was specially discussed in the meeting.

Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, while talking, said that further improvement of the road network across the country can significantly boost economic and business activities as the road network plays the role of backbone in economy of Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Communications said that Hyderabad-Sukkar Motorway M-6 and Karachi-Hyderabad M-9 can be constructed under Public Private Partnership mode similarly Mansehra-Kaghan Naran Road will be constructed on the Motorway model as highway projects in the upper areas of the country are also attractive for private sector.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan clarified that increasing the revenue of the National Highway Authority can reduce the burden on the national exchequer therefore NHA should increase its revenue by participating in construction projects in other countries as well and for this purpose legal ways should be adopted for NHA's activities, abroad.

In the meeting, Chairman National Highway Authority and other senior officers gave a detailed briefing to Federal Minister for



Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on the performance of the organization and informed him about the progress made so far in the light of his instructions, especially in generation of revenue.

Uzbekistan steps up regional connectivity as it seeks to boost economic growth

✉ **Jasur Rakhmatov**

In recent years, thanks to Uzbekistan's proactive regional policy, Central Asia has become consolidated, stable and sustainable, becoming one of the important centres of economic growth and regaining its historical role in connecting the West with the East and the North with the South.

Today, more than 10 international transport corridors pass through the territory of Central Asian countries, including 3 of the 5 corridors of the Eurasian transport framework: the Central Eurasian Corridor, TRACECA and the Eastern Route of the ITC "North-South". In addition, the process of implementing new railway corridors has begun, such as "China – Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan", "Uzbekistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan", as well as multimodal corridors "Uzbekistan – Turkmenistan – Iran – Turkiye" and "Belarus – Russia – Kazakhstan – Uzbekistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan" for the development of trade between Asia – Europe and North – South.

At the same time, the specified current and ongoing projects will make a major contribution to the creation of favorable conditions for long-term and multilateral cooperation on issues of forming an interconnected regional transport and communication system of the countries of the region.

This will also ensure the connectivity of Central Asia with the largest sea ports and world markets, which is very important for the region due to the significant distances to the nearest sea ports.

For example, the distance to the seaport of Karachi is 1.5 thousand km from Tajikistan, to Bandar Abbas – 1.6 thousand km from Turkmenistan and 2.7 thousand km from Uzbekistan, to Lianyungang – 3.7 thousand km from Kazakhstan and to St. Petersburg – 4.5 thousand km from Kyrgyzstan.

In this regard, interaction in the formation of an extensive transport and communications system will allow to fully realize the transport and transit potential of Central Asia and create conditions for access to seaports.

Firstly, today more than 80% of the total volume of world trade is carried out by sea, and according to UNCTAD, the share of countries far from it accounts for less than 1% of world exports, and the Central Asian countries – even lower (on average 0.43%): Uzbekistan – 0.1%, Kazakhstan – 0.3%, Tajikistan – 0.007%, Kyrgyzstan – 0.03%.

In order to compete in foreign markets, Central Asian countries are forced to reduce prices and enter into rather expensive import transactions to the detriment of their own interests. In the long term, this may put additional strain on the regional economy.

Secondly, without access to the sea, Central Asian countries cannot actively integrate into the international transport services market, which is growing faster than the global economy as a whole.

Over the past 10 years, global GDP has grown 1.3 times to \$105 trillion by the end of 2023, and the international transport market has grown almost 3 times and reached \$6 trillion. The share of the international transport market in the global economy increased from 2.5% to 6% in 2013–2023.

Thirdly, according to estimates by international organizations and experts, by 2050 the demand for freight transportation in the world will grow threefold, and in the region – even more, taking into account demographic growth. If in the next 25 years the world population grows by 15%, then in Central Asia – by 25%.

Of course, sea transport will still dominate with a share of 70–80%, but at the same time, a gradual capture of the market by rail and road transport is expected, since land corridors have a competitive advantage – delivery speed, which is two to three times higher than on sea routes.

Taking this into account, strengthening the transport and communication interconnectivity of the Central Asian states is one of the important factors in achieving the general economic prosperity of the region and a key condition for its integration into the global transport system.

The main thing is that Central Asia has formed a common understanding of this trend and there is a demand for the creation of new promising transport and transit corridors in order to enter foreign markets.

In this context, the relevance of the initiative to establish under the auspices of the UN Regional Center for the Development of Transport and Communications Links in Central Asia, put forward by the leader of Uzbekistan in September 2020 at the 75th session of the General Assembly, which was immediately supported by the heads of state during the Consultative Meeting in Turkmenistan in August 2021, is increasing.

This initiative is a logical continuation of the policy of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev aimed at further strengthening regional cooperation and ensuring high transport connectivity, which contributes to the dynamic growth of intraregional trade, the volume of which increased by 4.5 times by the end of 2023 from \$2.4 billion in 2016.

In this regard, further implementation of the above initiative will create a unified transport network in Central Asia with high quality standards, and in general will become a prerequisite for sustainable development of the region.

Such a result can only be achieved with a comprehensive approach to improving the transport infrastructure in Central Asia.

For its part, Uzbekistan has been taking proactive measures in recent years to strengthen the transport connectivity of Central Asian countries.

Since 2016, Tashkent has unblocked and established transport and communication links with neighboring republics. At the same time, the Turkmenabad-Farab railway and road bridges across the Amu Darya, the Galaba-Amuzang-Khoshadi railway line connecting



the Surkhandarya and Khatlon regions were opened, a high-speed train Tashkent-Almaty and high-speed passenger service along this route were established. Thus, Uzbekistan has made its feasible contribution to ensuring the interconnectedness of the region, eliminating various barriers to international transportation across the border.

At the same time, measures are being taken in Uzbekistan to improve the transport infrastructure. In recent years, thanks to an active investment policy in the transport sector:

- 1) new electrified railway lines Guzar – Boysun – Kumkurgan, Bukhara – Miskin, Yangiyer – Jizzakh, Yangiyer – Farhad, Shavat – Karauzak, a railway and road bridge across the Amu Darya, as well as 11 international airports have been built;
- 2) high-speed passenger train service Tash-



kent – Samarkand – Navoi – Bukhara and Tashkent – Samarkand – Karshi has been organized; it is planned to launch such routes in the directions Tashkent – Bukhara – Khiva and Tashkent – Chirchik – Khodjikit;

3) the economic activity of the river port "Termez", which carries out cargo transportation along the Amu Darya River to Afghanistan, has been improved;

4) the Tashkent-South railway station has been reconstructed and the Tashkent passenger bus station has been modernized.

A historic event was the creation of the Angren-Pap electrified railway line, with a total length of 123 km, including a 19.2 km tunnel on high-mountainous sections reaching 1,400 km above sea level. The new line will be part of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan transport corridor.

Role and significance of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway in achieving common economic prosperity of Central Asian countries

The existing transport corridors in the region undoubtedly have great potential for the development of Central Asia.

However, the existing difficulties in carrying out transportation through major world ports and the exhaustion of the Suez Canal's capacity as a whole indicate an urgent need to develop qualitatively new land transport communication systems between global markets.

Today, the countries of Central Asia have an exceptional chance and strategic opportunities to become not only a link between the huge markets of the East, West and Southeast Asia, but also to rethink their place in the world transport systems.

In this context, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project, proposed by China back in 1997 at the TRACECA meeting in Paris, is very beneficial for the development of the economies of both Central Asia and Eurasia as a whole.

It should be noted that at the initial stage there were controversial issues regarding the choice of routes; the parties could not reach an agreement on the width of the railway track for 20 years.

Thanks to the strong political will of the heads of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, negotiations on the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project have significantly intensified since 2016, and the basis for its implementation was China's "One Belt – One Road" initiative, first announced in Kazakhstan in 2013.

On June 6 of this year, in Beijing, Uzbeki-

stan, Kyrgyzstan and China solemnly signed an intergovernmental agreement on the implementation of the railway construction project.

The new route, which runs along the historic Great Silk Road, will become the shortest land link connecting China with the Central Asian region.

The corridor will run along the route Kashgar – Torugart – Makmal – Jalalabad – Andijan, with a total length of about 454 km. At the Makmal transshipment station, it is planned to change the gauge from 1435 mm to 1520 mm.

To date, China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan already have experience of mutually acceptable cooperation in the field of transport.

Since 2018, the parties have been successfully using the Tashkent-Andijan-Osh-Irkesh-tam-Kashgar highway (920 km), which allowed road carriers from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

attract additional cargo flow to the Trans-Afghan route. This will be one of the first practical steps aimed at improving the socio-economic situation in this country in the new realities and integrating Afghanistan into the Central Asian transport system.

In September 2022, in Tashkent, a protocol was signed between logistics companies and the railway administrations of China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan on the formation of a multimodal route "China – Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan – Afghanistan" with discounts for the transportation of container trains through the territory of Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan up to 50%, Uzbekistan – up to 70%.

The Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway will open a completely new and shortest route to promising markets of South Asia and sea ports

to directly access China. In 2023, the volume of cargo via the highway reached about 750 thousand tons, an increase of 7.5 times compared to 2018. The launch of this route reduced the delivery time of goods from Uzbekistan to China by 4 times from 8–10 days to 2 days. If necessary, urgent cargo can be delivered in 24 hours.

Taking this into account, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project is in high demand, reliable and promising.

Firstly, currently the bulk of cargo to Europe from eastern China is sent by sea, which takes six weeks. At the same time, it is cheaper for Chinese manufacturers to deliver goods to the West by land routes than by air, and faster than by sea. In this regard, the highway will shorten the route from East Asia to Europe by about 900 km, and the time frame will be reduced by 7–8 days. According to the ADB, reducing travel time by one day along this corridor could increase the volume of trade between the countries by 5.7%;

Secondly, the corridor will ensure the development of the transport infrastructure of the Central Asian countries and provide them with convenient access to the ports of the Persian Gulf and the Pacific Ocean. It is expected that about 15 million tons of cargo and about 300 thousand passengers will be transported by rail annually.

Direct access to Chinese markets and tourist attractions will be opened for citizens of the Central Asian states.

Thirdly, the implementation of the project has undeniable advantages for the development of the multimodal route "China – Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan – Turkmenistan – Iran – Turkiye – Europe". The corresponding protocol on the formation of this corridor was signed by the ministries of transport of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Turkiye in November 2023 in Tashkent.

The new corridor can become the shortest monomodal railway line, up to 5.5 thousand km long, connecting China and Europe.

Fourthly, the implementation of the China – Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan railway project gives impetus to all Central Asian countries to create a single transport hub between Europe, China and the countries of Southeast Asia. Thus, the region is turning into a kind of international driver for the development of the economy, science, culture, technology and industry, and this is more than 10 thousand jobs.

Fifthly, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway line is of particular importance in the development of the Afghan economy, as it can

First, the new route will unite the entire Eurasian railway network into a single whole for the first time.

When implementing the railway construction project, it will be possible to connect: 1) the countries with the largest populations in the world – India and China along the route "India – Pakistan – Afghanistan – Uzbekistan – Kyrgyzstan – Western China" and 2) India with Belarus along the new multimodal route "Belarus – Russia – Kazakhstan – Uzbekistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan – Indian Ocean ports", on the formation of which a memorandum was signed between Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Russia in Tashkent in November 2023. In April of this year, Belarus joined the memorandum, and in September Pakistan.

Secondly, the construction of the trans-Afghan corridor will diversify transport flows in Central Asia. In particular, the countries of the region will have two routes to the southern seas. On the one hand, the existing corridors to the ports of Chabahar and Bandar Abbas, on the other – "Termez – Naibadat – Logar – Harlachi" with subsequent access to the ports of Karachi and Gwadar by the shortest route.

Thirdly, after the launch of the railway line, the logistics of transporting export-import cargo from Afghanistan will be improved, which will significantly reduce the delivery time of goods to Central Asia, China, the CIS and Europe. For example, with the full implementation of the project, it will take only 3–5 days to transport goods from Pakistan to Uzbekistan instead of 35.

The new railway will also reduce the cost of transporting goods to and from the Indian Ocean ports by 30–40%. The estimated volumes of annual transportation along the new railway could reach 22 million tons by 2030, and 34 million tons by 2040. More than 20% of the cargo will go to Afghanistan.

Fourth, with the launch of the railway, new technologies and innovations in various fields will come to Afghanistan. The multiplier socio-economic effect will be expressed in the creation of new jobs, the construction of roadside infrastructure, and dozens of mineral deposits along the railway route may be involved in economic turnover. More than 5 million jobs will also be created, new highly paid professions for the country will be formed, including those related to the operation of railway transport.

In a word, the railway construction project will make a real contribution to the development of the Afghan economy and the improvement of the socio-economic well-being of the Afghan people.

In general, despite the geographical isolation of Uzbekistan and the region, the Central Asian countries skillfully use their logistics potential to strengthen intra-regional and inter-regional connectivity, which increases the transport and transit attractiveness of the region.

The implementation of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan and Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway projects, which are the "projects of the century" for our countries, will undoubtedly allow the region to take an important place in world trade.

In our opinion, with the construction of these corridors, which play a major role in the more rapid economic development of Central Asia and the formation of the transport framework of Eurasia, the formation of full-fledged Transcontinental transport corridors "China – Central Asia – South Asia – Middle East" and "China – Central Asia – South Caucasus – Europe", "South Asia – Central Asia – CIS – Europe" will be completed.

Continuing this logical thought, we can already confidently state that the collaboration of all these corridors is a key condition not only for the withdrawal of the Central Asian countries from transport isolation, but also the revival of the historical transit role of the region in the very center of the Great Silk Road, which connected East Asia with the Middle East and Europe for three millennia.

All this predetermines the need for continuous development and improvement of the transport sector. In this direction, it seems important to continue diversifying the logistics capabilities of the Central Asian countries, which could master part of the transit cargo turnover on land routes between different regions of the Eurasian continent. It is important not to miss the chance to take advantage of these, to intensify the dialogue on them with all interested parties.

In this regard, the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, voiced in June of this year at the informal summit of the Organization of Turkic States on the formation of the Council of Railway Administrations within the Organization and the placement of its directorate in Tashkent, is relevant.

The Council could act as a regulator for the integration of railways of China, the Asia-Pacific region, South and Southeast Asia with the countries of Central Asia, the Caucasus and the European Union.

To summarize, it can be stated that interaction in the transport sector is acquiring a strategic nature for all Central Asian countries.

Uzbekistan, which strictly adheres to the position of integrating the countries of the region into the global transport system as a single whole, will continue proactive transport diplomacy, which will allow synchronizing the national projects of the states of the region with the international transport corridors East-West and North-South.

To do this, it is necessary to pursue a policy of convergence of the transport and communication systems of neighboring countries, which is mentioned in the draft conceptual document entitled "Strategy for the Development of the Transport System of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2035".

Author is Head of the Department, ISRS under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Gaddafi stadium up-gradation work nears completion

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday conducted a thorough visit of the up-gradation work at the Gaddafi stadium, reviewed the progress and expressed satisfaction on the high-quality of work and expedited efforts.

The redevelopment of Gaddafi Stadium has gained significant momentum, with 80 per cent of construction work completed in just 53 days, says a PCB handout.

The main building's grey structure has achieved 100 per cent completion, while the pavilion building stands at 90 per cent completion. Work on enclosures is 75 per cent complete, with structural development for seating and trench work entering its final stages.



During his visit, the Chairman PCB inspected various ongoing activities, including the newly constructed upper-

most seating structures, praising the enhanced view of the ground. He also visited the pavilion floors to observe the

progress and directed the installation of aesthetically pleasing grills on both sides of the trench.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi stated, "The redevelopment of Gaddafi Stadium began on 10 October, and Alhamdulillah, tremendous progress has been made in just 53 days with top-notch quality. The entire team is working tirelessly, day and night, to meet the project deadline. We are confident of completing the stadium well ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025."

He further added, "The new Gaddafi Stadium is being built to state-of-the-art, international standards, with a seating capacity of approximately 34,000 spectators. This iconic facility will reflect our commitment to delivering a world-class venue for cricket fans."

Punjab Sports Department is planning to create new jobs across the province: Secretary Sports

Tahir Amin Malik

In a major development, Punjab Sports Department is planning to create new jobs across the province and in this regard Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial has presided over an important meeting at Punjab Stadium on Wednesday.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry, Additional Secretary Sports Mian Usman Ali, Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum and other officials

attended the key meeting.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry gave a briefing regarding the new posts in the newly constructed sports complex and upcoming Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial has said that Schedule of New Expenditure (SNE) of more than 800 new jobs in 204 newly constructed sports complexes is being sent for

approval. "Besides this, the SNE for appointing 12 officials for monitoring of sports and revenue affairs and curator jobs in all districts of the province are also being sent".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that Punjab is the winner of Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games and we are quite determined that our contingent will defend its title in Islamabad. "The training camps of Punjab players are starting from December 5".

Secretary Sports and Youth



Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial further said that the members of Punjab's different teams have been selected purely on merit. "Though there will be thrilling contest among all the

participating teams but Punjab athletes are well prepared and they will be able to win the title of Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games in the federal capital," he asserted.

Zone-VI W Crowned Champions of Touchme Trophy U-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VI Whites won the Touchme Trophy Under-15 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament After beating Zone-VII Whites by 8 Wickets in the Final held at the KCCA Stadium.

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

Scores in Brief:

Zone-VI Whites beat Zone-VII Whites by 8 Wickets. Zone-VII Whites 110 all

out in 37 overs. Majeed ullah 25, Hassan Ahmed Siddiqui 15. Abdullah Jawed (ob) 3/13, Durrani Khan (rlb) 3/19, yahya Aslam 2/25, Darain Faraz 2/32. In reply Zone-VI Whites 113/2 in 14.3 overs. M. Naveed Babar 47 8x4, Aaish Malik 35.

On this occasion Zahid Hussain Bhatti Executive Director Medicam Group of Companies was the Chief Guest and Distribute the Prizes in simple but impressive Ceremony. Zahid Hussain Bhatti announced to full cooperate to the Regional Cricket Association Karachi for betterment and Promotion of Cricket in

Karachi. Khalid Nafees Chairman Tournament Committee and Muhammad Touseef Siddiqui Tournament Secretary also spoke on the occasion. After the Final the Chief Guest Distribute the Prizes among the Players. Winner Trophy received by Zone-VI Whites Skipper Abdullah Jawed and runner Trophy by Zone-VII Whites Captain Uzair Khan. While best Batsman award received by Ayesha Malik, Best Bowling award by Durrani Khan, Best Fielding award by Areeb Noor and Man of the Match Award received by Abdullah Jawed all

from Zone-VI Whites. Mr Javed Akhtar Kiani Group Media Manager Medicam, Azam Khan Coordinator, Muhammad Ahmed Naqvi Assistant Secretary, Ajmal Naseeb President Zone-I, Jamil Ahmed President Zone-II, M Raees President Zone-III, Musarat Raza President Zone-IV, Zia Ahmed Siddiqui President Zone-VI, Mazhar Ali Awan President Zone-VII, Arif Waheed Secretary Zone-I, Treasurer M Tariq Hafeez, Dr Arif Hafeez and distinguished Guest, Other Zonal officials and large number of Cricketers also attended the Ceremony.

Huzaifa five-fer propels Pakistan U19 to third successive win

Sports Desk

DUBAI: Left-arm wrist spinner Mohammad Huzaifa recorded a remarkable five-wicket haul to help Pakistan U19 cruise to a 180-run victory over Japan U19 in their final Group-A match of the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.

Huzaifa claimed five of the last six wickets to fall, finishing with exceptional bowling figures of 6.3-3-8-5 as Japan were bowled out for 63 in reply to Pakistan's total of 243-6. After securing a third straight win and going unbeaten in the group stage, Pakistan will now take on Bangladesh in the semi-final on Friday at the same venue.

Pakistan made four changes to their team from the previous match against UAE and opted for a rejigged batting order after winning the toss and deciding to bat first. A nervy start saw Pakistan

amass 34 runs in the first PowerPlay for the loss of two wickets before they were reduced to 100-5 at the halfway mark of the innings.

Shahzaib Khan, who scored hundreds in the opening two encounters of the U19 Asia Cup, partnered with Mohammad Riazullah to rescue the team with an 82-run partnership for the sixth wicket.

Shahzaib (45, 69b, 2x4s) was dismissed by Timothy Moore in the 44th over before Riazullah (66 not out) and Ahmed Hussain (30 not out) accelerated towards the end to register an unbroken 61-run partnership of 37 deliveries.

Nihar Parmar took two wickets for Japan while four other bowlers chipped in with a wicket each.

Chasing a competitive target of 244, Japan failed to find a stable partnership and stumbled with regular wickets. The 19 runs added for the first wicket between Hugo Kelly and Parmar turned out to be the highest stand of the innings. Parmar was the only player to enter

double figures with 25 off 60 balls with three fours. Huzaifa was the chief architect of Japan's batting collapse, rattling the stumps of four batters and trapping one leg-before wicket.

In addition to Huzaifa's five-fer, fast bowler Mohammad Ahmed and leg-spinner Ahmed Hussain bagged two wickets each to bundle out Japan for 63 in 28.3 overs.

Scores in brief:

Pakistan U19 beat Japan U19 by 180 runs, Dubai International Cricket Stadium

Pakistan U19 243-6, 50 overs (Mohammad Riazullah 66 not out, Shahzaib Khan 45, Faham-ul-Haq 34, Ahmed Hussain 30 not out; Nihar Parmar 2-18)

Japan U19 63 all out, 28.3 overs (Nihar Parmar 25; Mohammad Huzaifa 5-8, Mohammad Ahmed 2-9, Ahmed Hussain 2-17)

Player of the match - Mohammad Huzaifa (Pakistan U19)



PSB approves reform package for sport federations

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) on Wednesday approved a comprehensive reform package for national sport federations with an aim to enhance their governance.

The reforms, aligned with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Charter, promise a new era of transparency, accountability, and fairness in Pakistan's sports administration.

The decisions were finalized during the PSB's 31st Board meeting, chaired by Rana Sanaullah Khan, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Inter-Provincial Coordination and President of the PSB.

Among the key measures is the introduction of the Pakistan Code of Ethics and Governance in Sports (PCEGS), which establishes mechanisms to combat corruption, doping, and nepotism, ensuring adherence to both national laws and international standards.

The establishment of an independent Election Commission was approved to oversee elections within national sports federations. The initiative aims to ensure free, fair and transparent electoral processes, a step mandated by the Islamabad High Court and in line with IOC guidelines.

Similarly, in order to address governance-related disputes, complaint and appeals, a specialized tribunal will now provide impartial and timely resolutions. This is expected to minimize conflicts within sport federations and streamline their functioning.

Federations are now also required to adopt a model constitution consistent with the IOC Charter and the governance structures of their respective international bodies. This measure is designed to reinforce transparency and autonomy across the sector.

To incentivize athletes, the PSB has increased cash rewards for international gold medalists to Rs10 million. Additionally, the introduction of Gold Cards will provide medal-winning athletes with privileged access to PSB facilities nationwide, further supporting their training and development.

The introduction of the Pakistan Code of Ethics and Governance in Sports (PCEGS) is a landmark step towards ensuring ethical conduct and fostering trust in sports administration. By adopting principles observed in sports powerhouses such as the UK, Australia, and Switzerland, the PSB aims to set a benchmark for good governance in the region.

Except for Syed Mohammad Abid Qadri Gillani, President of Pakistan Olympic Association (POA), who opposed the promulgation of the Code of Ethics, the Election Commission and the Panel of Judges, all other board members, including representatives from the Ministry of IPC, Higher Education Commission (HEC), and other sports bodies, unanimously approved the reforms.

PCB Inter-Club Tournament final round begins tomorrow

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The final round of the PCB Inter-club Tournament is set to begin on Thursday, 5 December as 16 triumphant club sides from each region will compete in a knockout round at eight venues across the country.

The eight winning teams will advance to the quarter final stage followed by the semi-finals and final, which are scheduled to take place in the second week of December. A total of 15 matches will be played in the final round to determine the winner of the countrywide club tournament.

The 16 club sides began their journey in the PCB Inter-club tournament, which started in May in each of the 101 districts across the 16 regions. In the first round of the tournament a total of 3,388 registered clubs competed in 6,143 40-over matches on league basis.

Winner club from each of the 101 districts advanced to the second round of the tournament which was staged in October with 87 matches played on knockout basis. At the end of the second round, the winning club of each of the 16 regions qualified for the third and final round.

The PCB continues to invest in club cricket across the country in order to provide more opportunities to the budding talent at the grassroots level.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said, "The club cricket tournament which commenced in May earlier this year aims to revive the competitive culture at the grassroots level in Pakistan. We look forward to continue this momentum of arranging club-level competitions across country in the sixteen talent-rich regions."

"Club cricket is heart and soul of every strong cricketing nation and we will continue to invest in and promote the thousands of clubs providing great opportunities to the younger people to play the sport and begin their journey."

Schedule of final round: (All matches to be played on 5 December except the one between FATA and Peshawar's champion club sides, which will take place on 7 December; Winners to advance to quarter finals followed by semi-finals and final) DM Jamali (Diamond CC) v Quetta (Khalil Kashani CC), Abdul Ghaflar Sial Cricket Ground, Naseerabad

FATA (Spark CC) v Peshawar (ICMS CC), Gymkhana Ground, Peshawar

Islamabad (Eleven Star CC) v Abbottabad (Friends CC), Margalla Cricket Ground, G-9 Markaz, Islamabad

Karachi (Pakistan CC) v Hyderabad (Mir Mehmood CC), KCCA Stadium, Karachi, Lahore (City Cricket Centre CC) v Multan (Okara Gymkhana CC), LCCA Ground, Lahore, Larkana (Shah Abdul Latif CC) v Bahawalpur (Jinnah Sports CC), Dring Stadium, Bahawalpur, Rawalpindi (Al-Faisal CC) v AJK (Challenger CC), Mirpur Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Sialkot (Muridke Gymkhana CC) v Faisalabad (Combined CC), Saeed Ajmal Cricket Academy, Faisalabad.

CCoSOEs meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) at the Finance Division.



Photo: PID

CCoSOEs gives nod to reconstitution of PCP, PR, OPF Boards

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) which approved different summaries including reconstitution of the Board of Directors for Printing Corporation of Pakistan (PCP), Pakistan Railways (PR) and Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF).

The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Khan

Cheema, Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Science and Technology Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Executive Director Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Federal Secretaries, and senior officers from the Finance Division, a news release said.

The committee reviewed a summary from the Cabinet Division regarding the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the Printing Corporation of Pakistan (PCP).

Besides, it reviewed the summary of the Ministry of Railways regarding the reconstitution of Boards of Directors (BoDs) of four Railway

SOEs, and okayed recommendations of the Board Nomination Committee (BNC) for the reconstitution of BoDs of Pakistan Railways Advisory and Consultancy Services (PRACS), Pakistan Railways Freight Transportation Company (PRFTC), Railways Estate Development and Marketing Company (REDAMCO), and Railways Construction Pakistan Limited (RAILCOP) were approved.

The CCoSOEs approved a summary from the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development regarding the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Pakistanis' Foundation (OPF) that

recommended addition of two independent members on the Board.

A summary from the Ministry of National Food Security and Research was presented regarding the appointment of independent directors on the Board of Directors of the Fisheries Development Board (FDB), which okayed the nomination of six independent directors.

It also approved the appointment of nine independent directors as recommended by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research in a summary for the approval of the Board of Directors of the Pakistan Cotton Standards Institute (PCSI). In addition, the committee

reviewed a summary from the Ministry of Finance regarding the State-Owned Enterprises' (SOEs) financial performance for the first six months of the Financial Year 2024.

Discussions focused on financial performance, business plan analysis, risk analysis, corporate governance and compliance, following a detailed presentation by the Finance Secretary.

The committee concluded the meeting by reviewing the implementation of previous decisions made by the CCoSOEs to ensure compliance.

The presentation was given by Director General Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) of the Finance Division.

Former Naval Chief Admiral Yastur ul Haq Malik laid to rest in Lahore

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Yastur-ul-Haq Malik, was laid to rest in Lahore. A large number of retired and serving armed services officials, as well as civilians, attended the late Admiral's funeral prayers. The Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, expressed his condolences to the deceased's family and prayed for the departed soul.

Admiral Yastur-ul-Haq Malik had a distinguished naval career spanning over four decades. He had the honor of participating in the 1965 and 1971 Pakistan-India wars. He served as the Chief of the Naval Staff from 1988 to 1991. Throughout his career, the Admiral displayed dynamic leadership, impeccable moral character, exceptional professional competence, and the highest sense of responsibility.

He joined the Pakistan Navy in September 1951 and completed his initial training at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, UK. He was a graduate of the PAF Staff College and the National Defence University. Admiral Yastur-ul-Haq Malik held an illustrious record in command and staff assignments,



both afloat and ashore. Notably, he commanded Pakistan Navy Fleet and served as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff. Additionally, he served as Chairman of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation.

In recognition of his meritorious services and outstanding performance, the Admiral was awarded Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) and Sitara-e-Basalat.

Floral wreaths, on behalf of the President of Pakistan, the Prime Minister, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chief of the Naval Staff, other services chiefs, senior naval officers, and notable civilians, were laid on the Admiral's grave.

President, PM grieved over death of ex-Naval chief Admiral Yasturul Haq

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed their deep grief over the death of former Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Yasturul Haq.

In their separately issued statements, the president and prime minister expressed their condolences over the passing of former Naval chief.

They lauded the late Yasturul Haq's



unforgettable services for the defence and security of the country.

President Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz prayed for departed soul's peace and strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

Palestinian foreign ministry hails U. N. resolutions on Nakba

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes the General Assembly's adoption of two resolutions, one to commemorate the Nakba annually, and the other to hold an international conference to peacefully settle the Palestinian issue and implement the two-state solution.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine welcomed the General Assembly's adoption of the resolution on the peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue by an overwhelming majority of 157 countries in favor of the resolution, 7 countries abstaining, and 8 countries against. As well as a resolution on the Division of the Rights of the Pales-



tinian People at the United Nations, with 101 countries voting in favor of the resolution, 42 countries abstaining,

and 27 against.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out the importance of these resolutions in

emphasizing the need to end the Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories, and to achieve the legiti-

mate rights of the Palestinian people, considering them, along with international law, the basis for any solution to the Palestinian issue.

The Foreign Ministry also stressed that the peaceful settlement resolution adopted the mechanism for holding the international peace conference, provided that this conference be under the auspices of the General Assembly during the seventy-ninth session, in order to implement the United Nations resolutions related to the Palestinian issue and implement the two-state solution in order to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and that sisterly Saudi Arabia and France will chair this conference in June of next year 2025.

Terrorist admits planning and execution of Karachi Airport suicide bombing

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

Karachi's Anti-Terrorism Court has registered another case regarding the suicide bombing near the convoy of Chinese nationals close to Jinnah International Airport. The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has submitted an initial report to the court in connection with this case, highlighting financial support and planning activities.

According to the report, the arrested terrorist, Javed, confessed

to the planning and execution of the suicide bombing. The report reveals that the airport bombing was executed with the help of funding. The masterminds, identified as Bashir Baloch and Abdul Rahman of a banned organization, were responsible for financing and planning the attack.

The case was registered by SHO Airport Police Station Inspector Musa Kaleem. Charges include terrorism, funding, use of explosive materials, murder, and other related offenses.

Protecting lives and properties of citizens, government's foremost responsibility PM AJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that protecting lives and properties of citizens was the government's foremost responsibility.

The PM Haq said this while addressing at a reception ceremony here today. Speaking on the occasion, he said, development and progress in the state was inescapably linked to peace and stability in the liberated territory.

"There is a dire need to reject this protest politics that not only undermine economy and development but also affect the citizens' lives and their livelihoods", he said, adding that the politics of adventurism and confrontation has to be stopped for the greater good of the people.

He said that protests and sit-ins were not only detrimental to law and order but they also adversely affect the livelihood of the common masses. "Peaceful protest is the right of every citizen, however, the people of Muzaffarabad must rethink and decide whether they should become a part of the indefinite protest or adopt a judicious course that leads to progress



and prosperity," the AJK premier.

"The consultation process aimed at seeking opinion from different sections of the society regarding the ordinance is still going on", he said. "We must create facilities for each other instead of spreading chaos and anarchy by blocking roads and closing down shops and markets", the PM said, adding it was the responsibility of the government to open shops and defend those who reject this policy of confrontation.

On this occasion, the Most Senior Minister Colonel (retd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, government ministers Mian Abdul Waheed, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Abdul Majid Khan and Nisar Ansar Abdali were also present.

Tech Webinar unlocks frontiers for Pakistan-Australia IT collaboration

The High Commission for Pakistan, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Pakistan in Sydney and Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), organized a webinar titled "Exploring Opportunities in the Australian Tech Industry". The event drew significant participation from IT professionals, industry experts, and entrepreneurs from both Pakistan and Australia, emphasizing the mutual potential for collaboration in the thriving tech sectors of both the countries.

In his remarks, High Commissioner, H. E. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, underscored the significance of strengthening trade relations between the two countries. "The tech sector is a critical area where Pakistan and Australia can foster robust partnerships. By leveraging Pakistan's immense IT talent and Australia's dynamic market, we can create win-win opportunities," he added.

Mr. Abu Bakar, CEO of PSEB, outlined Pakistan's burgeoning tech potential, showcasing the country's thriving IT export capabilities, skilled



workforce, and government initiatives supporting the tech ecosystem. "Pakistan is on the path to becoming a global IT hub, and Australian markets present a promising avenue for expansion and collaboration," he remarked. Mr. Farooq Fasih Ghauri, Regional Director Asia at NETSOL Technologies, shed light on specific oppor-

tunities in the Australian market. "Australia offers a highly receptive environment for cutting-edge tech solutions, from financial technologies to AI-driven innovations. Pakistani IT firms can establish a strong foothold here," he remarked.

Addressing the key challenges of operating in Australia, Mr. Rafay Kazi,

Country Director for Australia & New Zealand, provided practical advice on understanding and navigating the Australian corporate culture. He identified key challenges for Pakistani IT professionals and businesses entering the market and shared actionable strategies to overcome them.

Mr. Qamar Zaman, Consul General of Pakistan in Sydney, commended the active participation of stakeholders and the invaluable insights shared during the session. "This webinar is a testament to the collaborative potential between Pakistan and Australia in the tech domain. We look forward to facilitating more such initiatives," he said.

This event reaffirmed the commitment of the High Commission, PSEB, and the Consulate General to facilitating dialogue, fostering partnerships, and creating opportunities for Pakistan's IT sector in the Australian tech sector.

The event was broadcasted live on the Facebook account of the High Commission and Consulate General.