



AJK president orders government to 'immediately' revoke ordinance

Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sultan Mehmoob Chaudhry has directed the AJK government to "immediately" withdraw the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Ordinance and to release all individuals detained under it.



Mohammed Siraj broke Shoaib Akhtar's fastest-ball record?

India's Mohammed Siraj hitting 181 km/h against Australia on the first day of the second Test at the Adelaide Oval. As Australia's Mitchell Starc dominated the action on the first day with 6/48, Mohammed Siraj's speeding error by the official announcers toward the close of the day's play also took center stage. Fans were immediately drawn to the error, which sparked a social media meme frenzy.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Martyrs

Pak Army martyrs in intelligence-based operation in KPK.



File photo by ISPR

Six personnel martyred, 22 Khwarij killed in three KP IBOs

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Six personnel of Pakistan security forces were martyred and 22 khwarij were killed in three different intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Saturday. "On 6-7 December 2024, twenty two Khwarij were sent to hell in three separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province," a statement issued by the ISPR read. An intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces in the general area Gul Imam, Tank District on the reported presence of khwarij.

"During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and resultantly, nine khwarij were sent to hell, while six got injured." The statement added that in another operation, conducted by the security forces in North Waziristan District, 10 Khwarij were successfully neutralized. "In a third encounter, security forces thwarted Khwarij attempt to attack a security forces' post in Thall District and killed three khwarij, however, during the intense fire exchange, six brave sons of soil, having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat," the ISPR added.

The statement read that sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Khwarij found in the areas as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Similarly, eight khwarij were killed in two separate operations conducted in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Province from 29 November to 1 December 2024. An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Baka Khel, Bannu District on reported presence of khwarij. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and resultantly killed five khwarij, while nine khwarij got injured. However, during the operation, Sepoy Iftikhar Hussain (Age: 29 years, resident of: District Jhang), having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat.

In another operation conducted in general area Shagai, Khyber District, three Khwarij were shot dead, while two were apprehended by the security forces. During intense fire exchange, Captain Muhammad Zohaib Ud Din (Age: 25 years, resident of: District Lahore), who was leading his troops from the front, fought bravely, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat. These khwarij were involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as innocent civilians.

personnel during the operation and prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in Jannah and patience for their families to bear the loss with equanimity. "The entire nation, including myself, pays tribute to the security personnel who sacrificed their lives for the motherland," the prime minister added. The president and the prime minister resolved to continue the fight against the scourge of terrorism until complete eradication. "The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the security forces in this war against terrorism," they affirmed.

PM felicitates nation on weekly inflation rate drop to 3.75pc



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday congratulated the nation on the further fall of the weekly inflation rate (Sensitive Price Index-SPD) to 3.57 percent and reiterated the government's commitment to measures aimed at the economic turnaround. With the grace of Allah Almighty and the efforts of the economic team, the prime minister said, inflation had dropped to its lowest level in the last six years. Since October 4, 2018, the price index has been recorded at its lowest level today, PM Office Media Wing, in a press release,

quoted the prime minister as saying. Compared to the same corresponding period last year, inflation had decreased by a significant 39.11% this week, which was a result of the hard work of the economic team, adding that he remained committed to every promise he made to the people. "I had vowed to work day and night to alleviate the hardships of the people. As the servant of Pakistan, I remain steadfast to all the promises I have made," he further maintained. The prime minister said that they were taking steps to provide employment, promote industrial growth, and increase foreign investment.

President, PM laud security forces for successful operations against terrorists

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday lauded the officers and personnel of security forces for the successful operations against Khwarij terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In separate statements, the president and the prime minister commended the professional capabilities of the security forces for killing 9 terrorists in Gul Imam, Tank; 10 in North Waziristan; and three others in Thal District, besides capturing 6 injured militants. The president said eliminating 22 terrorists in various operations was a great achievement of the security forces. President Zardari and PM Shehbaz expressed grief over the martyrdom of 6 security



Naqvi hails security forces for successful operation against Fitna al-Khawarij



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi lauded Pakistan's security forces for conducting three successful operations against the extremist group Fitna al-Khawarij in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In the operations, 22 terrorists were neutralized, effectively thwarting their plans to wreak havoc. "Pakistan's brave security forces have eliminated these enemies of peace," Naqvi remarked, commending their swift and decisive action. Tragically, six security personnel embraced martyrdom during the mission. The interior minister paid glowing tribute to the fallen heroes, stating, "The nation salutes these martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty." Naqvi expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, pledging unwavering support. "We stand with the families of the martyrs and will always remain by their side," he assured. Reaffirming the government's commitment to national security, Naqvi vowed to continue efforts until the complete eradication of terrorist threats. "With the nation's support, we will ensure the complete elimination of these extremists," he declared.

Peaceful, stable Afghanistan in Pakistan's interest: Muqam

Correspondent

HARIPUR: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam on Saturday said that peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan was in the best interest of Pakistan. He was addressing the Afghans refugees at Malik Abdul Samad Panyan refugee camp where he inaugurated a clean drinking water project for them. Commissioner Afghans Refugees, Shakeel Safi, representatives of the Afghan Community and UNICEF officials were also present. In his address, Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam said that the Government of Pakistan was taking all possible measures for the assistance and welfare of afghans refugees, and the provision of clean drinking water to Afghan refugees was proof of it. He said that Pakistan was the only country in the world where over three million Afghan refugees including about 1.4 million POR Card holders were still living mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan. He said that the people and Government of Pakistan have extended all-out support to millions of Afghan refugees during their longest 45 years stay in Pakistan.



Govt declared war against religious seminaries, says Fazl



Bureau Report

NOWSHERA: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that he only wanted protection for the religious seminaries in the country. Addressing an event at a seminary in Nowshera, JUI-F chief said that government has announced a war against religious seminaries. "Both the establishment and bureaucracy don't want to bring the religious seminaries in mainstream," said JUI-F chief. According to JUI-F chief, they don't want to have a fight with the state over this issue. "We only want protection for our seminaries," Fazl said. Maulana Fazlur Rehman was of the view that the government wanted to link terrorism with the seminaries. "We'll remain committed in this cause and will protect our seminaries," he said. The JUI-F chief said that the government was willing to do the registration of seminaries according to our wishes when the PDM took reins of the country. The PPP was also agreed on the proposed draft, he said. Both the houses of parliament passed the bill but President Asif Ali Zardari didn't sign it, said Maulana.

'We won't run away,' says SC judge Justice Shah amid resignation speculation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has clarified that he is not stepping down from his position amid rumours following the 26th Constitutional Amendment. "All speculation; we will not run away. I will continue the work I can do," he said while responding to questions about his potential resignation after addressing an event in Islamabad on Saturday. In October, the government narrowly passed constitutional amendments giving lawmakers more power to appoint top



judges. The 26th Amendment introduced several reforms focused primarily on the judiciary. Key changes include the removal of the Supreme Court's suo motu powers, the establishment of a three-year term for the chief justice of Pakistan, and the authority granted to the prime minister to appoint the next CJP from the three most senior judges of the Supreme Court.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Revolutionary Economic Vision

Bureau Report

LAHORE: "We will increase employment opportunities by promoting trade and industry in Punjab," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while directing the authorities concerned to take measures for the grant of interest-free small and medium loans to promote commercial activities in the province. She directed them to introduce 'Business Card' and 'Chief Minister Easy Business Financing' schemes for the purpose. Under 'Business Card' scheme, medium business loans ranging from Rs 01-01 Million will be given, whereas relatively bigger loans of up to Rs 03 Crore (30 Million) will be provided under "Chief Minister Easy Business Financing Scheme." She sought a comprehensive plan for



the award of small and medium loans under these schemes.

Madam Chief Minister directed the relevant authorities to allocate separate zones for small and medium industries in big cities. She said, "Loans will have to be repaid in 05 years under the 'Chief Minister Easy Business Financing Scheme.' She added, "A grace period of 03 months will also be given to the borrower after receiving the first loan instalment." She also reviewed a proposal to provide loans on preferential basis to selected commercial sectors.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif clarified, "Business Card will not be used for payment in 10 areas including restaurants." She added, "IT startups in Nawaz Sharif IT City will be able to get preferential loans."

Cantonment Executive Officer says steps needed to be taken for development of Multan Cantt



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Cantonment Executive Officer Sardar Atif Sultan has said that steps should be taken on a priority basis for the construction and development of Multan Cantt and to make it an attractive model area and will work to increase the facilities of citizens and traders. The doors of my office are open 24 hours for the citizens of Multan Cantt. Immediate redressal of the complaints of citizens and traders are my priorities. He expressed these views while talking to Member Cantonment Board and District Peace Committee Member Muhammad Yaqub Shera during a meeting. Additional Cantonment Executive Officer Malik Zahid Sultan was present at the meeting. Muhammad Yaqub Shera presented the appointment of Cantonment Executive Officers to Multan Cantt Board and presented a bouquet and said that he would provide practical cooperation for increasing the resources and revenue of the Cantt Board and for the construction and development of the Cantt. Member Cantonment Board Muhammad Yaqub Shera said that Multan Cantonment Board is planting shade trees and plants within the limits of Multan Cantonment during the tree plantation campaign so that climate change can be combated in a comprehensive manner.

DC Jamshoro paid a surprise visit to the Civil Hospital and schools in Kotri

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi



HYDERABAD: During his visit, the DC reviewed teachers' attendance and the teaching process in schools. He issued directives to enhance educational activities and improve the overall quality of education.

The DC Jamshoro also took notice of poor classroom management in a primary school and directed that a notice be issued to the teacher responsible. Meanwhile, a student from the Government Boys High School was awarded a cash prize of 5,000 rupees for excellent performance.

Later, Deputy Commissioner Gazanfar Ali Qadri inspected various wards, including the operation theater, at the headquarters hospital in Kotri. He sought details from the hospital's MS, Dr. Barkat Laghari, regarding cleanliness and the availability of medicines.

The DC praised Dr. Barkat Laghari's performance and assured full support in upgrading medical facilities. He stated that the higher authorities would be informed about the proposed increase in the budget for medical facilities at the headquarters hospital in Kotri.

Deputy Commissioner Gazanfar Ali Qadri emphasized the importance of public service, stating that enhancing educational standards within schools is crucial for improving the quality of education. He warned that strict action would be taken against negligent employees.

The DC concluded by highlighting the significance of education in transforming society. He also mentioned that a campaign has been launched against encroachments in Kotri and surrounding areas.

Multan Airport Customs Team Seized iPhones

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A customs team seized non-customs paid iPhones, mobile phones, mobile chargers, liquor bottles and cosmetics worth more than Rs 60 million during a successful operation at Multan International Airport. Inspector Muhammad Tahir and staff led by Deputy Collector Airport Maryam Jamila conducted a successful operation and seized 150 iPhones, 5 bottles of liquor (1000 ml per bottle), 8 Samsung mobile phones, expensive watches and cosmetics. Deputy Collector Airport Maryam Jamila says that the Prime Minister of Pakistan is working to crack down on smugglers under the vision of eliminating smuggling and effective steps are being taken to eliminate illegal trade. Deputy Collector Pakistan Customs Multan Airport Ms. Maryam Jamila said that Pakistan Customs staff is closely monitoring the baggage of passengers of flights operating at Multan International Airport day and night and is checking the illegal and non-customs paid baggage of passengers coming from foreign countries and taking action under the Pakistan Customs law. Deputy Collector Customs Ms. Maryam Jamila said that every month at Multan International Airport, customs officials take legal action by taking possession of non-customs paid baggage worth crores of rupees from passengers coming from foreign countries.



Attock police recovered Hashish, ice and Alcohol suspects arrested

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The ongoing campaign by Attock Police against the curse of drug trafficking continues. Around 4 kilograms of hashish, 50 grams of ice, and 50 liters of alcohol seized, multiple suspects arrested. According to details, under the instructions of District Police Officer Attock Dr. Sardar Ghyas Gul Khan, the police's campaign against the curse of drug trafficking is continuing. In this regard, Attock Khurd Police arrested drug dealer Ashfaq Shah, son of Farooq Shah, resident of Mansar, Tehsil Hazro, and seized 1800 grams of hashish from his possession. During a search, Namriz Khan, son of Sattar Khan, resident of Swabi, was found with 50 grams of ice. Meanwhile, Fateh Jang Police seized 1280 grams of hashish from the possession of Aurangzeb, son of Muhammad Rafiq, resident of Fateh Jang, during routine patrol. Similarly, Hassan Abdal Police arrested a notorious drug dealer, Ihsan Mehmood alias Tahir, son of Abdul Rehman, resident of Hassan Abdal, and recovered 700 grams of hashish. In another operation, alcohol supplier Arjumand Bhatti, son of Boota Masih, resident of Taxila, Rawalpindi District, was found in possession of 40 bottles of alcohol. Attock Police registered separate cases at various police stations and locked the suspects behind bars.

Flowers Exhibition

LAHORE: A view of Race Course Park decorated with flowers during Chrysanthemum Flowers Exhibition, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Hyderabad Conference: A Call to Protect Sindh and Balochistan's Resources

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: A conference titled "Sindh Drying, Land Grabbing" was held at Hyderabad Press Club under the banner of National Party Sindh. Central President of the National Party and former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the dire state of Pakistan's society. He highlighted that the major political parties, judiciary, and media have been subdued by the establishment.

He expressed concern over the creation of new canals, which would render fertile lands barren, disproportionately impacting Sindh and Balochistan. Dr. Malik also criticized the lack of genuine representation



for Balochistan in federal decisions, accusing the establishment and certain ruling parties of being complicit in detrimental projects.

He warned that the proposed six new canals on the Indus River would be more disastrous than the controversial Kalabagh Dam and called for a

stronger movement to oppose these plans.

Senior nationalist leader Hussain Bux Thaebo stated that Sindh faces environmental devastation due to the diversion of Indus waters. He lamented the loss of Sindh's coastal forests and the encroachment of the Arabian Sea, which has already submerged millions of acres of land.

Speakers criticized the allocation of thousands of acres of Sindh's land for corporate farming under the guise of initiatives like the Green Pakistan Initiative. Activist Shaheena Ramzan warned that inviting foreign investors to exploit these lands would disenfranchise local communities, exacerbating urban and rural inequalities.

Disabled Women's are an important part of society

Shahzad Anwar Amrohi

MULTAN: Mainstream Association of Persons with Disabilities and Hands Mainstream ILIC organized a ceremony on gender-based violence against women with disabilities and organized cooking competitions among them on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with Chanan Development Association, Young Among, Inner Wheel Club and Mix Institute.

The chief guest of the event was Fayyaz Karim Durani, who while addressing the gathering said that disabled women are an important part of society. We all have to raise our voices together against the violence against them and also take steps towards their facilities in society. The cooking competitions were inaugurated by Madam Rizwana Malik, Chairman Inner



wheel. She was accompanied by Rizwana Tabassum Durani, former District Chairman Innerwell, Saleha Pasha, Board Member Mainstream, Sameer Qayyum, Board Member

Mainstream, and Sadia Nawaz, Executive Manager Hands Pakistan. Regarding the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the participants expressed their determination

that it is the duty of all of us to make the inclusion of disabled women in society possible in every way and also demand from the government to take the best steps for them. The ceremony was addressed by Ramiz Ahmed, Aziz Rafique, Iqbal Sahu Ahmed Bhatti, Mrs. Sameer Qayyum, Intiaz Durrani, Mrs. Imtiaz, Mrs. Fayyaz Durrani, Dr. Hamza, Abdul Hameed, Umaira, Amir Hamza, Saira, Neelam Tehreem, Rukhsana Kausar and Chief Executive Stream Association Nader Khan. Finally, cooking competitions were held among dozens of disabled women and prizes were given to the women who took the positions and commemorative shields were given to the special guests. A large number of disabled people, members of civil society organizations, government representatives, social media activists attended the ceremony in large numbers.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:31 am
Zohr	11:59 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 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
& Rescue Services	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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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
Cant 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 Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Speaker AJK assembly demands world summit to address Kashmir, Palestine bloodshed

Bureau Report

KARACHI/MUZAFFARABAD: Speaker Legislative Assembly Senior Parliamentarian Chaudhry Latif Akbar has said that the Indian and Israeli bloodshed in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and in Palestine, the cruelty and barbarity, the height of terrorism and the Geneva Convention have trampled underfoot international laws, including the Geneva Convention.

The disrespect for humanity and violations of human rights have reached their peak.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif should organize a world summit like the Leader of the People Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to unite the Islamic nation on one platform through mutual consultation and trust-building.

He expressed these views while talking

to the media before attending the parliamentary party meeting at Bilawal House Karachi yesterday. He said that Pakistan is a strong fortress of the Islamic world. The people of Kashmir stand with Pakistan like the Himalayas for the ideology of stability.

The notorious Indian intelligence agency RAW agent Kulbhushan Yadav, who was caught in the killing of innocent people and has also confessed to the crime, has not yet been punished. Similarly, when the pilot of the Indian plane Abhinandan violated the airspace, the brave Pakistani forces.

Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that the PPP is a symbol of a strong federation and a guarantee of public rights.

In response to a question, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that we, the people of Kashmir, are grateful to the State of Pakistan, which provided a huge sum of twenty-three billion rupees in one lump sum for subsidy on electricity and flour at the cost of production.



A strong, prosperous, democratic Pakistan is the guarantor of the struggle

for freedom of Kashmir. Our forces have fought three wars for freedom. Chairperson of Political Affairs, Faryal Talpur, made decisions keeping in mind the honor and dignity of the Kashmiri

people. She said that the people's struggle is the right of every citizen, but national dignity and respect for the constitution and law are also mandatory for every citizen.

The PPP is the voice of the people and Islam is our religion, democracy is our politics, socialism is our economy and the source of power. The party's founder Chairman, Shaheed Leader of the People Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, laid the foundation of the party on the four guiding principles of the people.

He gave a practical concept of the people of God who are both you and I. He resolved to fight for Kashmir for a thousand years and the PPP and its leadership have boldly advocated on the Kashmir issue and protected the rights of the people all over the world. Chaudhry Latif Akbar appealed to the people of Azad Kashmir to remain peaceful and advised them to avoid harsh measures.

27th Convocation

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf in a group photo during 27th Convocation ceremony at Bahria University Islamabad on Saturday.



Photo: Online

District Attock to ensure that all vehicles undergo inspection to combat smog

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: According to an official circular issued by the office of Secretary Regional Transport Authority, Zabeer Ahmad Khan, and in line with the directives of the Government of Punjab to combat smog, Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, has directed all government departments in District Attock to ensure that their official vehicles undergo inspection through the Vehicle Inspection and Certification Service (VICS) to obtain a fitness certificate. The fitness certificate will be valid for a period of one year and must be submitted to the concerned office at the earliest. Non-compliance will result in strict legal action as per the law.

Citizens laud Clean and Green Islamabad vision

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Clean and Green Islamabad Movement has created a new wave of cleanliness in the federal capital, and citizens have praised the CGIs' efforts in cleaning the parks, calling it an exemplary model of public service. Under the leadership of Chairman Ahsen Zafar Bakhtawari, the Clean and Green Islamabad Movement team not only cleaned the parks in sectors F-8/1, 2, 3, and 4 but also installed in citizens the importance of cleanliness and the commitment to protect their environment. Ahsen Zafar Bakhtawari personally loaded waste-filled bags into his vehicle and took them to the disposal site, demonstrating his dedication and active participation.

This effort was appreciated by the participants. During the waste-picking activity held yesterday, people from various walks of life, including



students, local residents, and volunteer organizations, actively participated. The participants cleaned the parks, cleared the areas around trees, and distributed pamphlets to raise awareness. Citizens were also informed about the use of

biodegradable waste bags and proper waste disposal methods. Ahsen Zafar Bakhtawari stated that keeping the environment clean is a guarantee of a safe and healthy future for our generations. The goal of the Clean and Green Islamabad

Movement is not only to clean but also to involve every citizen in this movement to make Islamabad a model city. Participants of the campaign expressed their admiration for Ahsen Bakhtawari and his team's efforts.

IBA Karachi awards 1353 degrees at Convocation 2024

City Desk

DECEMBER: IBA Karachi held its Convocation for the Class of 2024 at the Main Campus. It marked a Momentous Occasion as 1353 Graduates were conferred degrees in several disciplines. The Graduating Batch included 990 Graduates from 6 Undergraduate programs, 362 Graduates from 11 Postgraduate programs, and 1 PhD graduate.

The Chief Guest of the ceremony was the Honorable Chief Minister of Sindh and Patron IBA, Syed Murad Ali Shah. Ms. Sultana Siddiqui, President of Hum Network & Founder of Moomal Productions attended as a Guest of Honor.

Patron IBA, Mr. Shah, praised IBA for building a Legacy of Leadership, Excellence & Impact, supported by World Class Faculty, 67% of whom



hold PhD degrees from Leading Global Institutions, serving as an inspiration to all. He stated, "This Convocation holds special significance as IBA

prepares to celebrate its 70th Anniversary next year — a Legacy of Leadership, Excellence & Impact".

The Executive Director, IBA

Karachi, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, applauded the graduating students on achieving this remarkable milestone which is a testament to their dedication and perseverance. Dr. Zaidi stated, "Today is particularly special as we celebrate the largest graduating class in IBA's history". He added, "This day also marks the beginning of a momentous year as we look forward to celebrating IBA's 70th Anniversary—a testament to our legacy of excellence and transformation."

Ms. Siddiqui applauded the graduates and recognized IBA for its academic excellence & societal impact and the remarkable achievements of its graduates who continue to make their alma mater proud. She stated, "IBA graduates should believe in their abilities, dream big, and hold firmly to the values of integrity and honesty as true success goes beyond personal

"Robotics Take Center Stage at Allied School's Science Fair"



City Desk

PESHAWAR: The Allied School Gulberg Peshawar Campus today hosted a thrilling Science Fair, where students from Pre-school to Grade 10 showcased their innovative projects and experiments. This year's theme, Robotics, sparked immense creativity and enthusiasm among the young participants.

The exhibition was a testament to the students' remarkable understanding of science and technology. From robotic arms to artificial intelligence, the projects on display demonstrated an impressive grasp of complex concepts.

The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Inam Mateen, Managing Director of Allied School, as the Chief Guest. Renowned experts, Mr. Asghar Khattak and Mr. Ayaz Mehmood, served as judges, evaluating the projects and providing valuable feedback to the students.

The Science Fair was a resounding success, providing a platform for students to showcase their talents, learn from each other, and develop a deeper appreciation for the wonders of science and technology.

NACTA holds a two-day Peace Poster Exhibition at PAC



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi in collaboration with National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) held a two-day peace poster exhibition in its Art Gallery. People from all walks of life witnessed the exhibition and lauded the creative work of young artists. The posters/paintings displayed at the gallery were received in NACTA's 5th Poster Competition, 2024. Participants in three different categories sent their entries in the contest. The exhibition was inaugurated by Director General Communications and Outreach NACTA Ms. Saleha Zakir Shah. Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain Senior Analyst Adnan Khalid Bhatti, Deputy Director Anum Ayaz, Analyst Haider Abbas, Junior Analyst Mohammed Idrees Khan and Assistant Director Sulman were also present on the occasion. On the occasion, judges reviewed the entries and finalists in all three categories were also decided. In first category with age bracket of 10 to 15 years, Zahra Kashif got first position, Momin Haroon stood at second whereas Anaya Tariq clinched the third position. In second category, 16 to 20 years, the first position was awarded to Safa Javaid, Aleena Qayum secured second position and Maria Affaq grabbed the third position. In third category, 21 to 30 years, Sana Batool secured first, Humna Haider stood at second and Anum got third position. Winners in all categories will receive prize money of Rs. 50,000, 30,000 and 20,000 for 1st, 2nd and third positions respectively. Speaking on the occasion, the Director General appreciated all winners for their creative work and acknowledged their efforts in making Pakistan a peaceful country. Director Punjab Council of the Arts Rawalpindi Division, Sajjad Hussain in his remarks acknowledged efforts of NACTA in promotion of peace. He said such initiatives provide an opportunity to the youth to showcase their talent positively.

IESCO notifies power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Saturday issued a power suspension programme for Monday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to IESCO Spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, Karpa, Shams, Kand Rajgan, Burma, T&T, Wahidabad, Khanna East, New GHQ, G-9/2, I-8/3, I-10/1, G-14/4, Dargah, NIH, Mohra Noor, Kaldana, Baren, Upper Topa, Bari Imam Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, F Block, Faizabad, Shakrial, Al Noor Colony, Muslim Town, Sector: 4, Dhok Hakmdad, Arya Mohalla, Major Masood, Ali Market, Gowalmandi, Industrial, Jamia Masjid, Bani, Kiani Road, Askari XI, Ameer Hamza Colony, Nust Road, I-16/4, I-16, Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, E Block, Commercial Center, Holi Family, Katarian, Bani Chowk Feeders, Road, from 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM, Down Town, W.T.C feeders and surrounding areas.

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A Nation Between the Mountain and the Sands

During our youth in Quetta, we were a vibrant group of energetic souls who found solace and adventure in the embrace of the rugged mountains that surround the city. Every weekend, we set out to conquer a new peak, guided by our trainer, Ibrar Hussain Shah—a Hazara boxer of international acclaim. Before every climb, Ibrar would share invaluable lessons, instilling in us the wisdom necessary for survival and success in the unforgiving terrain.

I still remember one of his most profound teachings. He would say, "Never fight the mountain—it will kill you. Do not sprint on its slopes; it will drain your energy. Do not test your endurance against the mountain, for it will always outlast you. Respect the mountain's mood. If it is angry, stay away. It will crush you by shifting the earth beneath your feet, unleash avalanches upon you, drown you in relentless rains, or disorient your mind to lead you to certain death."

In this scenario, PTI is the mountain—steadfast, enduring, and rooted in public support, shaped by years of resilience and determination. In contrast, the opposing entities—political parties, the government, and the bureaucracy—are like shifting sands, transient and unstable. Their attempts to challenge the mountain may create temporary disruptions, but they lack the solidity to displace it. Like a passing sandstorm, their efforts may obscure the view for a moment, but the mountain remains unshaken, defining the landscape long after the winds die down.

At the start of my professional life, I developed a deep love for reading about some of the most phenomenal personalities in human history. Among them, none impacted mankind more profoundly than our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), who transformed the course of human history in a way unparalleled by anyone else. His entire life offers lessons for humanity, but one episode particularly resonates with Paki-

stan's current scenario: the forced exile of the Prophet (PBUH) and his followers to Sha'ib Abi Talib. The demand was simple: cease preaching the message of one Allah and stop rejecting the idols. Despite the promise of luxurious lives, the Prophet and his followers stood firm in their faith, enduring untold hardships. Ultimately, the Meccans, exhausted and unable to break their resolve, lifted the embargo.

During this period, I also fell in love with reading autobiographies of individuals who significantly shaped human history. Among them, Nelson Mandela deeply inspired me. Mandela spent 27 years in prison, enduring immense suffering, yet he stood resolutely against the apartheid regime in South Africa. His steadfastness ultimately led to the collapse of the powerful white ruling elite, who crumbled before his courage like dry bread.

In Pakistan's history, the example of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman stands out. Mujib championed the principles and rights dear to the people of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Despite facing military dictatorships armed with tanks, cannons, and an entire army of over 100,000 soldiers, Mujib and the unarmed civilians of East Pakistan demonstrated unmatched determination. Their courage ultimately led to one of the most humiliating defeats in military history for Pakistan during the 1971 war. The Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report on the East Pakistan debacle candidly stated that it would have been more honorable for the Pakistan Army to embrace martyrdom while fighting bravely rather than surrendering in cowardice to the "worshippers of idols."

History offers various examples of heroic conduct even under incarceration. One notable example is Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who was executed by the

regime of a ruthless military dictator, General Zia-ul-Haq, following a controversial and widely criticized judicial trial. Despite facing immense pressure and the looming threat of death, Bhutto did not plead for mercy, maintaining his dignity until the end.

On the other hand, we have examples of political figures like Nawaz Sharif, Shabbaz Sharif, Ishaq Dar, and Maryam Nawaz, who, while branding themselves as Pakistan's ruling elite, have demonstrated a different kind of resilience. These business-people-turned-politicians, often styled themselves as a "ruling family," have perfected the art of avoiding prolonged incarceration by abandoning their followers, compromising their positions, or seeking refuge in foreign lands when the political tides turn against them. They have transferred vast amounts of wealth—accumulated through both fair and questionable means—to foreign accounts and constructed luxurious sanctuaries abroad. From these comfortable abodes, they wait patiently for a favorable political climate, orchestrating deals, hatching conspiracies, and ensuring their return to power. Once the stage is set, they return, repeat the cycle of rule and accumulation, and retreat again when ousted.

Today, however, Pakistan finds itself witnessing an unprecedented scenario. For the first time in its history, the entirety of the political spectrum, civil and military bureaucracy, and state apparatus has united against a single individual, Prisoner 804. Despite the deployment of the state's brutal machinery, funded by the hard-earned tax money of Pakistan's people, this man remains unbroken. Instead, his resolve strengthens with every passing day, while the forces aligned against him appear to weaken, their unity unraveling as they struggle to maintain control.

This time is different, as though a political government exists, it has been reduced to a mere showpiece, with real authority lying elsewhere. Much like the situation in East Pakistan in 1971, the army has directly pitted itself against Prisoner 804 and his followers across the country. For the first time since that tragic chapter in Pakistan's history, the army faces widespread resentment, not just from one province or group, but across the entire nation. From the Baloch to the Pashtuns, Punjabis, Swatis, Kashmiris, and even the residents of Islamabad, there is a growing sentiment of alienation and anger against the military establishment.

This situation is profoundly alarming for all patriotic Pakistanis. The defenders of the nation—who were nurtured and sustained by the sacrifices of citizens, who diverted their hard-earned incomes to support a military they believed would protect them from external threats—now view their own people as adversaries. The guns that were meant to guard against external enemies are now turned inward, threatening the very fabric of the nation.

This perilous path should prompt introspection. When the constitution is disregarded, lawmakers are treated as puppets, genuine representatives of the people are jailed, and the defenders of the nation turn their might against their own citizens, the result is the transformation of a once-formidable institution into shifting sand. Like the tragedy of East Pakistan, where the people's will was ignored, and their demands for autonomy were suppressed with force, history risks repeating itself. Such actions create the illusion of strength, but as history has shown, a mountain cannot be toppled by shifting sand. Unless the lessons of the past are heeded, the nation may once again face a devastating outcome.

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

AI: A Strategic Edge To Isreal In Modern Warfare

Arooj Zafar

One of the many recent fields that have seen the widespread incorporation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the military. Militaries around the world are using these revolutionary AI-based technologies to secure a strategic edge in the ongoing military dominance wars of the future but, no other country has adopted these possibilities as effectively as Israel. A global leader in the realm of artificial intelligence or AI-driven innovation, Israel has strategically infused the utilization of AI in most of its defense and military facilities to establish a technological formidability over its adversaries. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) extensively organize artificial intelligence for offense, defense, command, and control functions, as well as intelligence processing that improves military organizational responses to today's complex battlefield effectively, accurately, and proactively. The computing field known as artificial intelligence has elicited substantial interest among various nation-states, including Israel, which has incorporated information technology military approaches to design efficient systems that provide better situational awareness and operation effectiveness. This experiment of integration of AI and defense has built an advanced and effective defense infrastructure. It enables IDF to be more efficient, faster, and effective in a world where wars are waged across multiple arenas with various challenges and threats. An example of such is Iron Dome a missile defense system that operates through AI to launch, identify, track, and intercept short-range rockets and artillery. During the ongoing Israel-Hamas war since October 2024, this system has shot down thousands of projectiles launched from Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen resulting

in a low number of casualties and damage to infrastructure. Another innovative system – from the fusion of AI with cybersecurity and automatic systems that give Israel a strategic advantage – is the Lavender system. Lavender is another AI tool, created by unit 8200, which combines signals, intelligence, imagery, human intelligence, and spatial intelligence to create an AI database that gives real-time actionable insights, greatly improving the IDF response time. Reportedly, it was used during the early stages of the Israel-Hamas 2024 war making it easier for the Israeli forces to counter threats this system helped to neutralize. Another such system called GOSPEL has been employed to analyze large streams of surveillance to select targets for airstrikes; the censorship of this system has been seen in the Operation Guardians of Wall in the conflict with Hamas in the year 2021. Furthermore, Israel has developed AI-enhanced weaponry, such as Golden Eagle UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) of Israel's own AI technology to mark the static and moving objectives and be able to follow the target line by line in real time ensuring the target is hit both on the ground and in the air. Constructions such as the SMASH fire control system an AI-based control system that increases accuracy for soldiers in live combat by using machine vision to enhance shooting accuracy. Fire weaver system helps enhance control in the battlefield by recommending optimal weapons and shooters in the real battlefield. While platforms such as Fire Factory rely on historical data gathered over previous operations to improve value delivery and effectiveness. Technology in the military in general and AI, in particular, has become a key strategic component of change and progress in the warfare situation in Israel through changes in the procedures of defensive weapon systems and methods, cyber capability, and unmanned vehicle systems. The defense industry is one of the most innovative

in Israel and using its technologies the country supplies the highest demanded products for the international market from UAVS to cyber security solutions. This technological advantage not only protects the borders of Israel but also boosts its strategic alliances as many countries look for Israeli defense technologies for their protection. This commitment of Israel to innovate in this particular field proves the firm determination to sustain strategic advantage. Starting from the Iron Dome system to AI intelligence platforms such as Lavender these technologies strengthen Israel's defense and shape the future of warfare. The operational capabilities of the IDF are optimized by the adoption of drones, unmanned systems, and precision-guided munitions assisted with AI, making appropriate responses to new threats that appear in the changing battlefields. As we know in the 21st century to be ahead in technologies is not only a plus but a must but as Israel and other nations seek to define and develop AI in warfare, they should also consider the ethical and legal questions that come with these creations. Technological innovations in weapon systems and other related affairs that are not restricted by laws governing the conduct at the international level pose vast legal and moral issues aggravating the multifaceted character of modern warfare. War is not a simple matter of arms and armies anymore; it's more about information, algorithms, and machines. For IDF, the strategy will lie principally in leveraging AI to extract big data quickly and generate accurate, timely intelligence. Here, AI is presented as a capacity builder, force amplifier, and decision aid to the commanders and operators. When the face of defense strategies is altered by AI, the International community needs to collectively address the challenges it presents.

Writer is a student of BS International Relations at the National Defense University, Islamabad.

Can COP29 Deliver on Climate Promises?

Waleed Abdullah

As the world gears up for the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference in Baku, the 29th Conference of Parties (COP29), critical questions linger about its potential impact. The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a clarion call to end reliance on fossil fuels, urging global leaders to make bold commitments. A new proposal aims to triple current climate financing, raising \$300 billion annually by 2035. However, this is a far cry from the \$1.3 trillion demanded by poorer nations, highlighting a growing divide between the haves and the have nots.

The cracks in climate negotiations are glaring. Wealthy nations have consistently fallen short of meeting previous financial commitments, eroding trust in the UN climate process. Representatives from India, Nigeria, and Malawi have spoken on behalf of developing countries, emphasizing the unfair burden they bear. These nations are paying the price for a crisis they did not cause a bitter pill to swallow. They demand reparations, not charity, for the damage inflicted by industrialized nation's historical emissions.

Despite their moral high ground, developing nations reluctantly accepted a watered down deal of \$300 billion, instead of their proposed \$1.3 trillion. This compromise reflects the harsh reality of power dynamics at such summits. Countries like China and India, though technically categorized as developing nations and eligible for aid, are often exempt from formal obligations, leaving the truly vulnerable for African nations, poor Asian states, and small island countries without sufficient support.

The evidence of climate change is everywhere toxic air choking cities in India and Pakistan, devastating typhoons in the Philippines, record-breaking rains in Dubai, blistering heatwaves

across Europe, and unprecedented floods in Brazil, Kenya, and China. Even the Sahara Desert is witnessing rainfall, and entire island nations are sinking beneath rising seas. These events underscore the need for trillions, not billions, to combat the crisis effectively.

Adding fuel to the fire, fossil fuel lobbyists nearly 2,000 delegates strong are expected to attend COP29. Their agenda? To derail any meaningful deal by pushing to remove references to fossil fuels from the final agreements. The host country, Azerbaijan, which generates two-thirds of its revenue from oil and gas, is another thorn in the side of progress. Politics and profit seem to trump human lives and livelihoods once again.

The impact of climate change on children is particularly heart wrenching. A staggering 2.4 billion children face climate-related hardships, from schools destroyed by storms to lungs damaged by wildfire smoke. Every year, 300,000 lives are lost almost all in poorer nations with negligible greenhouse gas contributions. Despite 28 COPs held thus far, tangible progress remains elusive. The rich nations overpromise, and the poor are left to pick up the pieces.

Will COP29 follow the same script as its predecessors? Or will it break the mold? To make these conferences more than just talk shops, developing nations must stand united. They need to hold industrialized countries accountable for their historical emissions and demand financial compensation for the escalating damage. Additionally, preparations for COP30 in Brazil must begin now, with a focus on practical, actionable solutions.

It's high time global leaders stopped paying lip service and started delivering real change. The stakes couldn't be higher, and the world can no longer afford to let politics overshadow the planet's future.

Writer is a Business Economics student at the University of the Punjab, Lahore.

South Korea president survives martial law impeachment move after his party boycotts vote

Reuters

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol survived an impeachment vote in the opposition-led parliament on Saturday that was prompted by his short-lived attempt to impose martial law this week, after members of his party boycotted the session.

Only 195 votes were cast, below the 200 needed for the vote to count, and the motion was scrapped.

"The entire nation is watching the decision being made here at the National Assembly today. The world is watching," said Speaker Woo Won-shik, adding that it was unfortunate that not enough lawmakers participated for the vote to be tallied.

The main opposition Democratic Party vowed to try again, while Yoon's party said it would find a "more orderly, responsible" way to resolve the crisis.

Yoon shocked the nation late on Tuesday when he gave the military sweeping emergency powers to root out what he called "anti-state forces" and overcome obstructionist political opponents.

He rescinded the order six hours

later after parliament defied military and police cordons to vote unanimously against his decree. But the move plunged Asia's fourth-largest economy and key U.S. military ally into its greatest political crisis in decades, threatening to shatter South Korea's reputation as a democratic success story.

The opposition needed at least eight votes from Yoon's conservative People Power Party to reach the two-thirds majority needed to impeach. As PPP lawmakers departed after casting votes on a separate motion, some people shouted and cursed them. Only three from Yoon's party voted.

The president apologised to the nation on Saturday morning but resisted calls to resign ahead of the vote.

The South Korean President, Yoon, party said it could not allow a repeat of the 2016 impeachment of then-President Park Geun-hye, who left office after months of candle-lit protests over an influence-peddling scandal. Her downfall triggered the implosion of the party and a victory by liberals in presidential and general elections.

"We cannot repeat the tragedy of

paralysis of state affairs and suspension of constitutional government through the impeachment of the president," PPP spokesperson Shin Dong-uk said after the failed vote, noting that Yoon had apologised and vowed to leave his future up to the party.

In scenes reminiscent of the protests against Park, thousands of demonstrators holding candles flooded the streets outside parliament on Friday and Saturday nights, demanding Yoon's impeachment.

Protester Choi Yong-Ho, 60, said he was furious at the prospect that the impeachment bill would not succeed, but vowed to keep coming to future protests.

"We have to make our voices heard," he said.

YOON 'VERY SORRY'

Saturday's televised speech was the embattled Yoon's first public appearance since he rescinded the martial law order.

"I leave it up to my party to take steps to stabilise the political situation in the future, including the issue of my term in office," he said in the address to the nation, promising there would be no



second attempt to impose martial law. Standing in front of the South Korean flag, Yoon bowed after finishing his brief remarks, staring solemnly into the camera for a moment.

Han Dong-hoon, leader of Yoon's party, said after the address that the president was no longer in a position to carry out his public duties and his resignation was now unavoidable.

On Friday Han said Yoon was a danger to the country and needed to

be removed from power, increasing the pressure on Yoon to quit.

In the end, however, most PPP members closed ranks and boycotted the vote. One member who participated said he had voted against impeachment, though he said he did not believe Yoon was suitable for the office.

If Yoon leaves office before his single five-year term ends in May 2027, the constitution requires a presiden-

tial election within 60 days upon his departure.

Martial law has been declared more than a dozen times since South Korea was established as a republic in 1948, the last time in 1980.

In Tuesday's declaration, Yoon gave the military sweeping emergency powers to combat unspecified threats from "North Korean communist forces" and "to eradicate the shameful pro-North anti-state forces".

He went on to accuse the National Assembly of launching an unprecedented number of impeachment efforts against members of his administration, effectively paralyzing key operations, and of handling the budget in a way that undermined the fundamental functions of the government, including public safety.

The martial law declaration sent shockwaves around the world and drew rare criticism from senior American officials who had previously praised Yoon as a champion of democracy in Asia. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin scrapped plans to travel to South Korea, two U.S. officials told Reuters on Thursday.

Int'l media delegation explores high quality development in Qianhai District, Shenzhen

Spokesman Report

BELJING: An international media delegation visited to explore high quality development of Qianhai District in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province of China.

More than 15 foreign journalists from Pakistan, Indonesia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Qatar and other countries participated in "Belt and Road News Network Media Tour: Innovation Development in Qianhai" organized by People's Daily Online.

During the event, the delegation visited the Qianhai International Business e-Station (QIBeS), which opened on July 25, 2024. By collaborating with Qianhai's financial, supply chain, legal, tax, and professional service institutions, it helps enterprises expand their business around the world in a systematic way.

The journalists visited a community health station in Qianhai District. The Qianhai International Talent Port Community Health Station is jointly built by the Qianhai Office and the Nanshan District Government and managed by the Qianhai Zhaokou Free Trade Zone Hospital.

This community health station is the first non-profit public primary health service organization in the Qianhai, Shenzhen-Hong Kong Cooperation Zone that adopts Hong



Kong and international management models. Business health management with affordable services

During this event, the journalists also visited the leading private companies in Shenzhen, each of which has its unique characteristics.

At B. Duck, the chairman and executive director briefed the delegation that the company operates its business with a commitment to make people around the world happy.

In addition, the journalists visited a local company that is currently a world leader in the field of 360-degree cameras. The average age of employees in this company Insta360 is 28.5 years

old, and the company also holds more than 67 percent of the global market share.

The journalists visited Good Family Group, a leading digital sports health service provider in China, by transforming indoor exercise into open and natural places such as courtyards in parks and communities.

Currently, the company's outdoor smart gym has been installed and used in more than 150 cities across the country, with a total of more than 12 million users and more than 100 million uses. The data can be used to analyze the improvement of physical fitness in the long term.

The delegation visited OCT wetland Park, a place to learn about the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

It is located in the northern part of Overseas Chinese Town (OCT) and covers an area of about 685,000 square meters. It consists of 40,000 square meters of mangrove forest area. It is home to more than 100 rare bird species and is home to 100 bird species.

The park consists of many places to experience and learn about the natural environment, such as the egret island zone in the heart lake area. It is the most valuable ecological area in OCT and an important breeding ground for rare birds.

Mangrove forests covering an area of nearly 4 million square meters play an important role in helping to protect the ecological diversity of wetlands and are important resting spots for migratory birds. The 3 bird houses, the Ecological Learning Base and the Wetland Ecology Learning Museum help people learn and understand the importance of protecting and conserving wetlands and realize the relationship between humans and wetlands.

Visitors must make a reservation in advance through the application due to the limited number of visitors per day.

Bangladeshi diplomat in Islamabad receives threatening letter



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A senior Bangladeshi diplomat has filed a complaint with the Kohsar Police Station after receiving a threatening letter and reporting harassment by unidentified individuals, ARY News reported.

According to reports, the First Information Report (FIR) was registered under Section 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Pakistan Penal Code. As per the complaint, the Bangladeshi diplomat alleged that unknown persons have been following him, monitoring his movements, and even taking his photographs without consent.

A few days ago, a threatening letter was delivered to the Bangladeshi Embassy, causing fear and concern among the diplomatic staff.

The police have initiated an investigation to identify and apprehend the individuals involved in harassing and threatening the Bangladeshi diplomat.

Since the ouster of pro-Indian Bangladesh Prime Minister Hasina Wajid, the interim government of Bangladesh led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus is actively seeking to strengthen ties with Pakistan.

In this regard, the interim government of Bangladesh eased visa policy restrictions for Pakistani citizens on December 5.

The Bangladesh government removed the requirement to obtain security clearance for Pakistani citizens, paving the way for easier travel between the two countries.

Read More: Bangladesh eases visa policy for Pakistani nationals
The Security Services Division (SSD) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh issued orders to facilitate the visa process for Pakistan nationals.

In a related development, the foreign ministry also instructed all missions abroad to simplify the visa application process for Pakistani citizens.

This move is seen as a breakthrough in bilateral relations following a visit by Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Syed Ahmed Maroof to former prime minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia, conveying greetings of President Asif Zardari and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to her.

The easing of visa restrictions is a significant shift from the Hasina Wajid-led previous government's policy, which had made it mandatory for Pakistani citizens to obtain security clearance for visas.

The development is also seen as a boost to bilateral trade, following the arrival of a Pakistani cargo ship last month at a Bangladeshi port for the first time since 1971, marking the start of sea trade between the two countries.

BRICS have no interest in weakening US Dollar: Indian MEA

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: BRICS countries have no interest in weakening the US Dollar (USD) at all, India's foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said at an event in Qatar's capital Doha on Saturday.

His remarks came a week after U.S. President-elect Donald Trump had demanded that BRICS member countries, which include major emerging economies like India, Russia and China, commit to not creating a new currency or supporting another currency that would replace the dollar or face 100% tariffs.

Earlier this month, US President-elect Donald Trump threatened 100% tariffs



against BRICS countries if they develop a common currency to undermine the US dollar. His threat was directed at countries in the BRIC alliance, which

consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

Trump, in a Truth Social post, said:

"We require a commitment from these countries that they will neither create a new BRICS currency, nor back any other currency to replace the US Dollar or, they will face 100% tariffs, and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the US economy."

The US dollar is the most-used currency in global business, members of the BRICS alliance and other developing nations saying they are fed up with the US dominance of the global financial system.

The dollar represents roughly 58% of the world's foreign exchange reserves, according to the IMF and major commodities like oil are still primarily bought and sold using dollars.

Celebrating Academic Achievements of Pearson Edexcel Learners

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pearson and British Council Pakistan hosted the Outstanding Pearson Learners Award Ceremony (OPLA) in Karachi to reward learners for their outstanding results. OPLAs are awarded to learners worldwide, and in Pakistan were awarded to those who took Pearson Edexcel iPrimary, iLower Secondary, International GCSE, GCSE, International A level and A level examinations in the May/June 2023, November 2023 and May/June 2024 exam series and achieved outstanding results.

The award categories that recognized over 150 learners for their Pearson qualifications were 10 students in The Highest Mark in the World, 4 students for The Highest Mark in Asia, 52 students for The Highest Mark

in Pakistan, and 94 students achieved Highest Subject Marks for most popular subjects being Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Mathematics and English.

These top performing international Pearson qualifications students are highly sought after by prestigious universities and employers as they have proven to be among the best in millions of peers globally.

As the world's leading learning company and the UK's largest awarding organization, Pearson Edexcel offers what it takes to achieve educational excellence working with International schools in Pakistan.

The Pearson High Achievers award ceremony was attended by Ms. Kathryn Booth, Director, Pearson School Qualifications Middle East, North

Africa, Pakistan, and Turkey, Ms. Ayesha Zaheer, Head Business Development Pakistan, Pearson, Fareed Shaikh, Regional Development Manager Pakistan, Pearson, Abdullah Lateef Khan, Regional Development Manager Pakistan, Pearson and Amanda Ingram, Exams Director, Pakistan, British Council alongside British Council colleagues, Pearson Edexcel partner schools' leadership, principals, teachers, parents and distinguished guests.

Pearson and British Council also recognized the dedication of the Teachers who contributed to the success of these young learners with the Outstanding Teacher Award and exam officers who supported the teachers and students in reaching their goal were awarded the School Exam Officer Award.

Pearson also awarded Centre

Recognition Awards to its school partners to appreciate and support their journey of offering Pearson-Edexcel qualifications in Pakistan.

The contribution of British Council team to effectively support in smooth exam delivery and pre and post examination support was also recognized through Exceptional Support Awards for their team.

Pearson is dedicated to helping Pakistani students make progress in their lives. There are over 150 winners from Pakistan this year with eight of those winners scoring the highest marks in the world.

These results are testament to the hard work of students, teachers and parents, in Pearson schools across Pakistan.

Pearson is the world's leading learning company, serving



customers in nearly 200 countries with digital content, assessments, qualifications, and data.

Pearson Edexcel qualifications are modern, progressive qualifications recognized worldwide

for academic excellence and rated grade-for-grade equivalent to Pakistani marks by IBCC.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
109,053.95	108,238.96
Day's High	Day's Low
109,478.08	108,550.86
Index Value	Change
38,919,160,843	+814.99
Percentage	Time
+0.75%	6 Dec, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,308.61	-40.77
Percentage	Time
-0.49%	6 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
44,647.44	-118.27
Percentage	Time
-0.26%	6 Dec, 12:37 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,091.17	-304.43
Percentage	Time
-0.77%	6 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	179.00	181.25
Bahrain Dinar	733.95	741.95
Canadian Dollar	198.10	200.50
China Yuan	37.99	38.39
Danish Krone	39.15	39.55
Euro	291.55	294.30
Hong Kong Dollar	35.45	35.8
Indian Rupee	3.18	3.27
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.92
Kuwaiti Dinar	895.50	905.00
Malaysian Ringgit	61.75	62.35
New Zealand \$	162.4	164.4
Norwegians Krone	24.93	25.23
Omani Riyal	718.35	726.85
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	312.72	315.52
Thai Bhat	7.95	8.10
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.00
UK Pound Sterling	351.50	355
US Dollar	277.60	279.10

Provincial cabinet approves Rs3.44bn for model bazaars

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Provincial Cabinet has approved Rs3.44 billion for the construction of Model Bazaars in 13 districts of Punjab, an initiative aimed at providing economic relief and boosting local livelihoods. This approval, significantly higher than the initial Rs2.5 billion under consideration, is a major leap forward in addressing public needs and empowering communities.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif lauded the performance of Model Bazaars, saying that these bazaars were offering essential commodities at prices lower than DC-notified rates. "These bazaars are a lifeline for millions, lowering the cost of living and creating jobs for the people of Punjab," the chief minister remarked. She said that the initiative would provide small business owners with affordable monthly rents starting as low as Rs10,000, fostering entrepreneurship and economic inclusivity.

The funds will be utilised to expand the network of Model Bazaars at 13 new loca-



tions across the province. Currently, 36 Model Bazaars operate in 24 districts, including ten in Lahore, offering a clean and organized shopping environment with daily essentials often priced below notified rates. The 13 new

Model Bazaar spots are: Mandi Bahauddin, Okara, Narowal, Chinot, Sharaqpur, Jhelum, Wazirabad, Khanewal, Muzaffargarh, Bhalwal, Pattoki, Jaranwala and Chunian.

The chief minister also praised MNA Afzal

Khokhar, who is also chairman of the Punjab Model Bazaars Management Company (PMBMC), for his steadfast commitment to expanding this public welfare initiative. Mr Khokhar, however, said PMBMC Chief Executive Officer Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad and his team made exceptional efforts to secure the enhanced funding.

Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad said he had briefed the Planning and Development (P&D) Board about the project's profile and ensuring the cabinet's approval. He said his approach included the acquisition of state land at no cost, significantly reducing project expenses and enhancing the feasibility of constructing 13 new bazaars. With an annual footfall exceeding 60 million customers, the PMBMC has become a benchmark for excellence in public service. The expansion of Model Bazaars is expected to further enhance access to affordable goods, create thousands of jobs, and uplift local economies. Beyond providing public relief, this initiative will open doors for small entrepreneurs, supporting their growth in a structured and economically viable environment.

Meeting

LAHORE: The Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain presided over a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board on Saturday.



Photo: PID

SECP concludes stakeholder consultation on insolvency and debt enforcement

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) concluded its stakeholder consultation on insolvency and debt enforcement reforms, marking a significant step towards strengthening the country's legal and regulatory frameworks. The event was closed by Mr. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, whose presence underscored the importance of collaboration between the judiciary and regulatory bodies. In his remarks, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah highlighted the pivotal role that mediation can play in resolving disputes related to debt and insolvency. His statement emphasized the importance of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in fostering quicker, fairer, and more effective reso-

lutions to corporate conflicts.

The second day of the consultation was attended by Justice Mehmood A. Khan and Justice Adnan Iqbal Chaudhary of the High Court of Sindh, Justice Jawad Hassan of the Lahore High Court, Justice Arshad Ali of the Peshawar High Court, and Justice Aamir Nawaz Rana of the High Court of Balochistan. The hon'ble judges provided valuable suggestions for much-needed reforms in the insolvency and debt enforcement regimes.

This event marks a milestone in SECP's efforts to foster a collaborative approach to addressing critical economic challenges. By bringing together judiciary leaders, regulators, global financial institutions, and business stakeholders, SECP aims to pave the way for a more resilient and efficient insolvency system in Pakistan.

14th Annual Fire Safety & Security Convention and Awards to be held in December

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH), in collaboration with the Fire Protection Industry of Pakistan (FPIP), is all set to host the 14th Annual Fire, Safety & Security Convention on December 12th, 2024 at the Movenpick Hotel, Karachi. The highly anticipated event aims to raise awareness about fire safety practices, celebrate excellence in the industry, and provide a collaborative platform for key stakeholders to discuss innovative fire safety solutions.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Minister of Energy, Sindh, and Mr. Javed Bilwani, President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will grace the event as Guest of Honor. Their presence underscores the importance of



this convention in addressing fire safety concerns and promoting safer practices across industries.

The convention will feature an impressive lineup of industry leaders and experts, including Dr. Imran Taj, President of FPIP; Mr. Shahid Masroor, Former Additional Controller, Civil Defence Karachi; Dr. Abid Jalaluddin Shaikh, Co-Founder and Director of Sindh Emergency Service Rescue 1122; Mr. Muhammad Ahmed

Noorani, General Manager HSE-Fire Safety at Gul Ahmed; and Mr. Wahaj ur Rehman, Manager Risk Assessment at EFU General Insurance. A panel discussion will bring together distinguished professionals such as Mr. Ahmed Azeem Alvi, President of SITE; Mr. Junaid Naqi, President of KATI; Mr. Naem Yousif, Former Commandant of NDMA; Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmed, Fire Chief KMC; and Mr. Nadeem Shaikh, Advocate and Fire Laws Expert, to discuss critical fire safety issues and strategies.

Mr. M. Naeem Qureshi, President of NFEH, stated, "The convention is a vital platform for fostering collaboration between industries, government bodies, and safety professionals to implement innovative fire safety measures that can protect lives and property."

FRIA Chairman calls for achieving long-term financial stability

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Ferozepur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) has stressed the need for undertaking economic reforms and improving the regulatory environment so that financial stability can be achieved in the long-run.

The newly-elected chairman of FRIA Shehbaz Aslam, in a statement issued here on Saturday, stressed the need for reducing cost of doing business, besides evolving a new price control mechanism, as huge taxation, rising oil prices and constant jump in electricity and gas tariffs have lifted the cost of production to a new high. He warned that bailout packages from the



IMF were unlikely to speed up economic growth, as the political instability and lack of reforms would further deteriorate the financial situation in the country.

The FRIA Chairman observed that amidst continuous hike in cost of production in the country, what the Pakistan's economy really needs is persistent and sound economic management.

UNESCO Holds National Consultation to create Internet for Trust in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: UNESCO and Institute for Research Advocacy and Development (IRADA) organised today a multi-stakeholder national consultation to formalise a constructive dialogue on UNESCO Guidelines to create a conducive environment for public discourse on freedom of expression, access to online information and governance reforms in digital media platforms of Pakistan.

The national consultation was inaugurated by Mr. Antony Kar Hung Tam, Officer-in-Charge, UNESCO Office in Pakistan, he mentioned, "There is an urgent need to tackle disinformation and harmful content online while safeguarding fundamental rights, particularly freedom of expression and access to information. Achieving this balance requires a shared responsibility and collaborative efforts from all stakeholders". During the inaugural session, Mr. Muhammad Shahzad,

Director General, Centre of Digital Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Pakistan, that balancing hate speech and disinformation with legitimate discourse should be an utmost priority for stakeholders. While Mr. Ahmed Shamim Pirzada, Director General of the Web Analysis Division at Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in his remarks stressed concerns around digital governance are a global issue and not just limited to Pakistan, which is why they must work together to find solutions.

The UNESCO Guidelines for Governance of Digital Platforms emphasise the need for an enabling environment to safeguard freedom of expression, access to information, and other human rights while ensuring a safe and open digital space. They outline the roles of various stakeholders: states must respect and protect human rights, digital platforms should uphold human rights,



and intergovernmental organisations, civil society, media, academia, and the technical community also play crucial roles. They propose a multistakeholder, human rights-based approach to platform governance, incorporating self-regulatory, co-regulatory, and statutory mechanisms. They also highlight media and information literacy and respect for cultural diversity as shared responsibilities, and recommend that platforms have processes for content moderation, risk assessment, and

accountability. Participants were divided into three categories; academia, civil society and digital media and journalists, after which each group presented recommendations for a national level regulatory framework that aligns with the UNESCO Guidelines. These recommendations included increased cooperation between stakeholders, promotion of enhancing media and information literacy, call for better content moderation and curation by digital media plat-

forms. The presentations were followed by a panel discussion that explored these recommendations in detail.

The national consultation aimed at forging a multistakeholder advocacy forum to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations collected through the provincial consultations, along with developing an evidence-based approach to carve out a path for global dialogues complemented by regional-specific concerns on the governance of digital platforms.

APBF for broadening of tax base through appropriate legislation



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: As the tax shortfall may further widen to around Rs400 billion by the end of Dec 2024, the All Pakistan Business Forum on Saturday recommended the broadening of tax base through appropriate legislation to ensure that all income earners pay taxes equitably, including agriculture income.

The Forum President Syed Maaz Mahmood observed that against the target of Rs4.64 trillion, the FBR collected Rs4.29 trillion in five months, achieving a growth of 23%. It needs a 40% growth to reach the annual goal of nearly Rs13 trillion. He said that the IMF will assess December's tax collection before deciding on bringing a new tax-loaded budget. So, the condition of IMF to rope in agriculture income in the tax net appeared promising in enhancing the tax collection. Otherwise the whole burden will again be shifted to the industry.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi expressed dissatisfaction with provinces' delay in passing new agriculture income tax laws. This new legislation is one of the conditions agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund as part of the 37-month \$7 Extended Fund Facility.

Naqvi hopes for 'positive outcome' as ICC yet to decide on Champions Trophy

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday expressed hope for positive developments as negotiations are underway with the International Cricket Council (ICC) over Champions Trophy amid hurdles being created by India.

Naqvi, however, avoided giving the details about the conditions being discussed to resolve the issue regarding the tournament, which is set to be held next year in Pakistan.

The PCB chief, who also holds the portfolio of minister of interior, assured that as soon as something is finalised, the public would be informed. He added that he would not make any statement



that could harm the ongoing discussions. "I will not discuss anything about it as talks are underway," he said, adding that whatever may be the decision of ICC, it

will be good for Pakistan and international cricket.

He further said the ICC had postponed Saturday's meeting as a decision is yet to be made on the Champions Trophy.

The PCB chairman also expressed resolve to improve domestic cricket in order to find talented players.

He said existing playgrounds would be upgraded and new grounds would be constructed by procuring land if there is no such facility in any city.

Meanwhile, sources said, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had not submitted a response to the demands made by Pakistan during the talks.

The delay in submitting the response from India forced the ICC to postpone the meeting for the third time.

Melbourne Stars reintroduce Pakistan fan zone for BBL 14

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Melbourne Stars have announced that the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) will once again feature a dedicated Pakistan fan zone during the upcoming Big Bash League (BBL) 14.

This initiative coincides with the return of talented Pakistan spinner Usama Mir to the Stars' lineup, creating an even more vibrant atmosphere for his dedicated fans.

Mir played for the Melbourne Stars in the previous season too, taking five wickets over the course of five matches.

The dedicated fan zone, aptly named "Pakistan Bay," will serve as a vibrant gathering spot for fans to come together, celebrate, and cheer on the Melbourne Stars during their home games.

Memberships for these



exclusive fan zones are now available for the first four home matches, scheduled for December 18, January 4, January 9, and January 19.

These exciting new initiatives are in alignment with Cricket Australia's (CA) Multicultural Action Plan,

which aims to foster inclusivity and provide brilliant experiences for cricket fans from diverse backgrounds.

For the unversed, CA set up similar fan zones during Pakistan's recent tour of Australia for the six-match white-ball series

in November.

The Melbourne Stars will kick off their BBL 14 campaign on December 15 against the Perth Scorchers in the season opener. Meanwhile, the grand finale of BBL 14 will be played on January 27, 2025.

Sarfraz Ahmed hints at retirement ahead of Champions T20 Cup

Former Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed has recently hinted at his potential retirement ahead of the upcoming Champions T20 Cup.

The veteran wicket-keeper, who is set to mentor the Dolphins in the Champions T20 Cup, was questioned about his future in the national team during a media interaction at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Sarfraz Ahmed responded in a sarcastic tone, acknowledging the speculation surrounding his potential retirement. He stated that there was little left for him to say and that he might be hanging up his boots soon.

"Look, as far as my career is concerned. I think I don't need to say anything. Nothing is left. I know what you are waiting for and it will happen soon," he said.

Sarfraz made his international debut for Pakistan in 2007 and has since become a significant figure in the team's history.

He has worn the national jersey in 54 Test matches, 117 ODIs, and 61 T20 Internationals, amassing a total of 6,164 runs which includes six centuries and 32 half-centuries to his name.

KHA Winter Hockey Coaching Camp 2024 begins

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Karachi Hockey Association (KHA), in collaboration with the Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sindh, launched the Winter Hockey Coaching Camp 2024 at the KHA Sports Complex, Gulshan-e-Iqbal.

The camp, which is free of cost, aims to provide young hockey enthusiasts with an opportunity to learn and develop their skills. Over 100 kids (boys and girls) participated since the first day, with half being beginners from different schools and colleges.

The coaching panel consists of experienced coaches, including former Olympians and international players, such as:

Olympian Waseem Feroz
Khalid Paracha
Arif Bhoopali
Sarfraz
Zahid Maqbool
Riffat Iqbal
Faisal Waheed
Laiq Lashari
Tanseem Usmani
Naeem Ahmed
M Khalid
Mehmood Ali Khan
Rizwan Khan
Ali Azlan Khan



Athar Hussain
Imtiaz Ul Hassan
Salaman Sheikh
Shakir Ali
Majid Rafiq
Saghir Hussain
Moin Alam
Munhil Niazi
Sameera Naseem
Kashmala Batool
Momal Suqena
Shazam Naseem
Iqra Iqbal
Hufsa Zaffar
Huma Amani

Helper coaches:

Aranish Naqvi

Kanza,

Camp Commandant Olympian

Waseem Feroz, along with coordinators Gulfaraz Ahmed Khan, Aijaz Uddin, Imtiaz ul Hasan, Dr. S. A. Majid, and Javed Iqbal, ensured the smooth execution of the camp. Women's coordinators Batool Kazim, Samira Naseem, Kashmala Batool, and Tehmina Batool also played a key role in organizing the camp.

The training sessions will continue till 10th December at the same venue. Session 2 will begin from 20th December to 30th.



This camp is expected to provide a platform for young hockey players to showcase their talent and develop their skills under the guidance of experienced coaches.

Players from all over the city are participating, most of them being beginners who have never played hockey before. The Karachi Hockey Association aims to introduce hockey to everyone and bring out the best talent, which may add to the national team.

Players of all ages are participating in this camp. Parents are also enjoying and encouraging their kids, and many more players are in queue for the next session.

Farooq Alvi upfront in 41st Millat Tractors Governors Cup Golf

Tahir Amin Malik.

At a most refreshing par 72 Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course in Lahore the competitive golfing activity in the 41st Millat Tractors Governors Cup Golf Championship was flawless and the resolute ones who stood out were mostly amateur golfers whose handicap range falls in the middle category. The more consistent one on the second day on Saturday turned out to be Farooq Alvi of Skyview Golf Club. This aspirant excelled and unnerved and subdued his strong adversaries through classy hitting and impressive all round control over the challenges of the golf course. With a second round score of net 69 he has taken over the leaderboard top slot from the first days leader Mohymin Maneka who has fallen two strokes behind the leader

as his second round score of net 73 carries the modest touch when compared to his first rounds net 67. As the leaderboard position stands Farooq Alvi has a two rounds aggregate of net 138 as against



Maneka's aggregate of net 140 and these two top ones are in for a battle of nerves and skills on the final day on Sunday.

Another one in the run for honors in

this championship is Faraed Maneka who is placed at a two days aggregate score of 140 and this position he shares with Mohymin Maneka. Over the past year Faraed Maneka has emerged as a champion of nerves and is recognised as a golfer who can prove his ability in critical situations.

As for a few other hot contenders Ahmed Jibran moved up the leaderboard with an impressive card of net 70 and looks

well placed at a two rounds score of net 141. A pleasant surprise came from Saadullah Chaudry as he played a spirited round and his net score of 67 uplifts

him as a serious contender. His aggregate for two rounds is 142 and with his experience he just might come up with a big surprise on the final day.

Some more contenders placed well are Bilawal Khan of Nowshera at a score of 143, alongwith his city mate Ghulam Qadir, while Muhammed Shoaib the defending champion is at net 145. Also at net 145 are quite a few merited players like Mohsin Zafar, WG Cdr Atif, Shah Nawaz Durrani, Hamza Kardar and the most capable and experienced one Amer Mehmood.

The 41st Millat Tractors Governors Cup Golf Championship will conclude on Sunday at Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course. At the conclusion of the Championship the prize distribution will be held at 3:30 PM at Lahore Gymkhana Golf Club..

Defence training program held at Khayabane Amin Fitness Studio



Tahir Amin Malik.

A defence training program was held at Khayabane Amin Fitness Studio Company hall and this event was organized by Fitness Studio Ceo Ayesha Muzamil who is first certified Para-Taekwondo instructor with a black belt from Kukkiwon. There were 17 boys and 16 girls took part in Self Defence program where different techniques and skill were used on participants. On this occasion Ayesha said every month we will work and hold such kinds of programs. She said its techniques are networking opportunities to connect with media influences and showcase your business or personal brand. At last certificates were distributed among the participants. At last, she said the participants took keen interest during this program and soon we will hold another program.

Punjab well prepared to defend Quaid Games title

Tahir Amin Malik

The Punjab contingent is well prepared to defend its title in the upcoming Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games scheduled to take place at Islamabad from December 13.

DG Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said this while talking during his visit to Punjab's different training camps being organised for the preparation of Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games on Saturday.

He said top players of the province are participating in the kabaddi training camp. "Expert trainers are imparting best training including modern playing techniques to kabaddi camp probables".

He said that players from all divisions of the province are participating in the training camps. "We are pretty determined that the Punjab contingent will be on top of the medals table in the Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games".

He said that he is personally inspecting the training camps, mess and hostel of the athletes daily. He directed the officers concerned to provide the best facilities to all athletes in the training camps.

Khizar Afzaal inspected the training camps of different games and issued necessary directions to coaches and officers concerned.

Sports Board Punjab's training camps for 15 games including badminton, table tennis, football, hockey, kabaddi etc are in progress in the morning and evening sessions daily at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC).

Joe Root goes past Rahul Dravid's record in Test cricket



England batter Joe Root on Saturday etched his name in the history books as he surpassed Indian legend Rahul Dravid to become the fourth batter in history to register 100 scores of 50+ runs in Test cricket.

Root achieved the historic landmark during the ongoing second Test of the Crowe-Thorpe Trophy against New Zealand in Wellington.

The star batter played a stellar knock of 73* on the second day to help England end the day's play at 378-5, with a massive of 533 runs.

Joe Root, while playing his 151st Test, struck his 65th half-century in the format. He has also scored 85 centuries, which took his overall tally of 50+ scores to 100, surpassing Rahul Dravid who recorded 99 such scores during his career.

Legendary Sachin Tendulkar tops the list with an astonishing 119 scores of 50 or more in his career, including a remarkable 51 centuries.

Following closely are South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis and Australia's legendary captain Ricky Ponting, both of whom are tied for the second position with an impressive tally of 103 scores.

Most 50+ Scores in Test Cricket

Sachin Tendulkar (India) - 119

Jacques Kallis (South Africa) - 103

Ricky Ponting (Australia) - 103

Joe Root (England) - 100

Rahul Dravid (India) - 99

Gus Atkinson joins elusive list with Test hat-trick against New Zealand

WELLINGTON: England pace bowler Gus Atkinson claimed his Test career's first hat-trick during the second Test against New Zealand here on Saturday to join an exclusive club of bowlers.

New Zealand were struggling on 125-7 with Glenn Phillips and Nathan Smith on the crease when Atkinson wrapped up their innings with a historic hat-trick.

Atkinson claimed the wickets of Smith, Matt Henry, and Tim Southee with three consecutive deliveries, marking the 15th instance of a bowler from England recording a hat-trick in Test cricket. He uprooted Smith's middle stump with a brilliant delivery, while Henry tried to evade a sharply rising short ball, but only managed to glove it into the hands of Ben Duckett.

Atkinson then bowled a full and straight delivery that crashed into Southee's front pad, dead in front of the middle stump. Southee opted for the review, but to no avail, as umpire Rod Tucker raised his finger decisively for a second time, confirming the dismissal.

It's worth noting that Atkinson's hat-trick was the 50th Test hat-trick in global cricket—47 in men's matches and three in women's.

Humanitarian Assistance

ISLAMABAD: The departure ceremony of humanitarian assistance consignment for flood affectees of Malaysia held today at Islamabad International Airport. Chartered plane will likely to take off tomorrow from Islamabad to Kuala Lumpur Malaysia



Photo: PID

Existing investment is fantastic, economy moving in right direction: Finance Minister

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Saturday said that the investment was coming into the country and existing investment was fantastic.

He said that the economy of the country was moving in the right direction.

While briefing the media persons after a meeting with Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), the Finance Minister said that they talked about structural reforms, taxation, energy, SOEs, privatization



agenda and had to move with them in cooperation with existing investors.

Aurangzeb said that the government would only provide policy framework

and policy continuity, which was important. He said that these companies would help the government in terms of joint ventures, privatization of SOEs.

He advised the private sector to include a component of export in their investments. The minister said that the country had import-led economy owing to that they got into the balance of payment problem.

He was of the view, 'If We have to end the boom and bust cycle and put forward the economy towards 4, 5 or 6th percent growth. It has to be export-led growth.'

He said that every single entity of this country should contribute to exports. He said that markets were available for 'Made in Pakistan' products.

Replying to a question on inflation, he said that a Standard Item Agenda had been introduced by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) to control prices of pulses, petroleum, transportation, in view of the decline in rates in international markets to provide relief to the people. He said that Price Control Committees had to be active to control the increase in prices.

Salik emphasizes importance of madrassahs registration

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Saturday highlighted the longstanding necessity of registering madrassahs (religious seminaries) in the country.

He, in a statement, said the government has consistently engaged with madrassah administrations, eminent religious scholars, and political leaders to ensure broad consultation on the issue.

The minister mentioned that the government fulfilled its commitment by approving a bill in Parliament in line with the demands of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (Fazl) Chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman. However, due to certain legal complexities,



it will take additional time to finalize the legal framework for madrassah registration, he

added. He clarified that these delays should not be misconstrued as an attempt to reverse the entire process. "Madrassahs are educational institutions and fall exclusively under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education," he emphasized.

Chaudhry Salik further explained that madrassah administrations had previously faced lengthy legal procedures during the registration process. To address these challenges, the Directorate General of Religious Education, operating under the Ministry of Education, established a streamlined one-window system after years of dedicated effort. Currently, he said 18,000 madrassahs are registered through this directorate.

Funeral prayers for 6 martyred personnel of Armed Forces offered

RAWALPINDI: Funeral prayers for six personnel of armed forces who embraced martyrdom in an operation against khawarij terrorists offered on Saturday at Thall. Corps commander Peshawar, senior serving military, civil Officials and large number of people from the area attended the funeral, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

Those who embraced martyrdom are included Naib Subedar Muhammad Khaliq, (age 39 resident of Kohat), Haveldar Jaid Ali (Age 35 Resident of Orakzai), Lance Naik Walayat Hussain (Age 28, R/O Kurram), Lance Naik Sifatullah (Age 30 R/O Khyber), Lance Naik Shaheedur Rehman (Age 27 R/O Kurram) and Sepoy Nizamuddin (Age 27 R/O South Waziristan). The supreme sacrifices of the martyrs for the defence of motherland will not go in vain.

It would be like merger of 'lion and goat' if PTI, JUI-F unite for protest: Saifullah

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: It would be like the merger of "a lion and a goat" if the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and the Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam unite for Islamabad march, former senator Saifullah Khan has said.

"It would be like fire and water. They are two different ideologies," he said while appearing on Rubaroo which was aired on Aaj News on Saturday.

He was asked about the possibility of any alliance between jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's PTI and Maulana Fazlur Rehman's JUI-F for a march to the federal capital in favour of the seminary bill.

Saifullah did not explain whom he referred to as "lion" and "goat".

The religio-political party has given December 8 deadline to the govern-



ment for enacting the Societies Registration (Amendment) Bill, a legislation intended to register madrassahs. The Societies Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is legislation stemming from an agreement between the Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl and the government in support of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. It extends the provisions of the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and introduces regulations for the registration of 'Deeni Madaris' through the relevant deputy commissioner's office.

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Naval Chief confers degrees to over 1,300 graduates at 27th convocation of Bahria University



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Pro-Chancellor Bahria University, conferred degrees to the graduating students of Bahria University Islamabad as chief guest at its 27th Convocation Ceremony held here on Saturday. During the convocation over 1300

graduates were awarded degrees across various disciplines. A total of 103 graduates received gold and silver medals in recognition of their exceptional achievements, a Pakistan Navy news release said. Pakistan's cuisine

While addressing the ceremony, Chief of the Naval Staff congratulated the graduates and their families on their well-deserved success. He urged the graduates to uphold values of discipline, ethics and service by contributing positively to society.

He reaffirmed Bahria University's commitment to achieve the pinnacle in academic excellence with proactive response to the competitive higher education landscape.

Earlier in welcome address, Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral (R) Asif Khaliq highlighted the academic achievements of the students and the importance of their future professional contributions.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah calls for establishing child courts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah said that there is a need to establish child courts in the country.

He was addressing a ceremony in Islamabad on Saturday.

The senior judge said that child labour and child trafficking are major issues in Pakistan.

"The child justice holds great importance. These children are our present and future," said Justice Shah, while addressing the ceremony.

He added that the cases of children

should be expedited in the child courts.

The senior jurist said that we should consult our children before making any decision related to them.

He added that we all should pay attention to our children.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah was of the view that it is not a difficult task to establish the child courts.

"International laws were made for the protection of children worldwide," he said, while adding that we should also focus on the health and education of our children. The senior judge said that special children should also be paid much attention in the country.

PTA permits VPN registration linked to mobile numbers

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has allowed the registration of virtual private networks (VPNs) linked to mobile numbers, facilitating the freelancers.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the PTA said: "The step is aimed to further simplify the VPN registration process for facilitation of the IT industry".

The regulatory body revealed that over 31,000 VPNs have been registered to date and advised users to register their VPNs using mobile numbers through its website.

This announcement follows the PTA's initiative to crack down on unregistered VPNs due to security concerns raised by the government.

Initially, the PTA set a deadline



of November 30 for VPN registration but later decided not to block any VPNs after the deadline expired.

The Ministry of Interior had previously announced plans to shut down all unregistered VPNs by mid-November but subsequently provided a two-week "grace period" for compliance with the registration requirements.

Chairman Maj Gen (Retd) Hafeez Ur Rehman confirmed to the media that the authority would not block any VPNs, as the government opted to extend the registration deadline.

Non-bailable warrants issued for top PTI figures in GHQ attack case



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) has issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (CM KP) Ali Amin Gandapur and several top leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in connection with the GHQ attack case.

According to reports, the 25 accused named in the GHQ attack case include prominent PTI figures such as Ali Amin Gandapur, Shibli Faraz, Shehryar Afridi, Zain Qureshi, Kanwal Shauzab, Tahir Sadiq, and

Malik Taimoor Masood.

Judge Amjad Ali Shah of ATC Rawalpindi signed the warrants, directing the Rawalpindi Police (CPO) to arrest these individuals and present them in court by December 10.

The court's decision underscores efforts to hold the accused accountable for their alleged involvement in the GHQ attack case.

On December 5, 2024, PTI founder Imran Khan along with 60 other PTI leaders were indicted in the GHQ attack case. Judge Amjad Ali Shah indicted Imran Khan and 60 other PTI leaders in the GHQ attack case.