

Senate Chairman said that obtaining justice in our society is particularly challenging

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani stated that artificial intelligence (AI) is proving effective in facilitating every sector of life and in developing integrated systems. Speaking at the inaugural session of an international conference on "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Ensuring Justice, Peace, and Equality" at Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, the Senate Chairman said that obtaining justice in our society is particularly challenging, with court cases often delayed for years. The use of AI in the field of law and justice can be a game changer.

He acknowledged that while there are challenges associated with the use of artificial intelligence, its global promotion has helped solve issues across various sectors. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani emphasized that training is essential before inte-



grating AI into the legal system.

The use of this initiative will enable the residents of remote areas to access prompt justice. He stated that institutions can be strengthened through the use of technology. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani further remarked

that the Pakistan People's Party has always worked on developmental projects in South Punjab. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is set to establish a one-billion-rupee IT park in Multan. Under CPEC, the provision of a special economic zone for the

region is also a fundamental part of the party's manifesto.

Earlier, during the conference, the Principal of Gilani Law College, Dr. Simza Fatima, the Director of the Directorate of Legal Education Punjab, Barrister Osama Malik, Professor Dr. Hermann Rubau, and Vice-Chancellor of Bahauddin Zakariya University, Professor Dr. Zubair Iqbal, highlighted the importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in ensuring justice. They emphasized that by mastering AI, injustices and inequalities in society can be eradicated.

The event was attended by Member of the National Assembly Syed Ali Musa Gilani, Member of the Provincial Assembly Rana Iqbal Siraj, former MPA Chaudhry Abdul Waheed Arain, along with political and social figures, legal experts, teachers, and a large number of students.

Conduct operations continue against electricity thieves

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to details, Exen (Faisalabad Electric Supply Company) Fesco WAPDA Kamalia Syed Fazal Abbas Shah Talking to Our Correspondent said that our task force is continuously conducting operations against electricity thieves. In which 371 electricity thieves caught and FIR registered against them. He further said that 59 person were arrested along with the FIR and we fined them 4,56,82,307 and all was collected and deposited in the treasury of Pakistan. He said that our task force is identifying the electricity thieves and taking actions against them and these actions will continue. In the end, Syed Fazal Abbas Shah said that I give messages to the electricity thieves not to damage the treasury of Pakistan by stealing electricity. If the electricity thieves do not stop their actions, I will have to take further action against them



Dr. Kanwal Ameen emphasized fostering harmony and respect among all communities

FAISALABAD: "Let us promote equality and respect, stand against injustice and oppression, and create a world where everyone thrives without leaving anyone behind. Together, we can ensure a fair, resilient, and inclusive future for all," remarked Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T. I), Vice Chancellor of Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF), during a seminar organized to mark Human Rights Day and Anti-Corruption Day. The event also included a ceremony to distribute Christmas gifts among Christian employees.



In her address, Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen emphasized fostering harmony and respect among all communities. "We share a bond with the People of the Book, and honoring prophets and their followers is incumbent upon us all. Reflect on your words, actions, and deeds. Treat everyone with dignity and carry out your duties alongside your rights. Expand your hearts and truly demonstrate unity under one flag. The respect we desire for ourselves must also be extended to others," she said.

She highlighted the university's inclusive environment, stating, "GCWUF ensures the welfare of all employees, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or background. This ceremony symbolizes love and unity, and we will continue to celebrate the happiness of our staff on every occasion." Speaking about women's rights, she urged them not to endure oppression, encouraging them to reach out to government-established centers for assistance and protection.

Central President Cloth Board Ittehad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra, also addressed the audience, stating, "Christmas teaches us the values of love, peace, and brotherhood. We should respect all religions and join in the celebrations of others with joy and compassion."

The seminar concluded with the distribution of gifts and clothing among Christian employees, followed by the cutting of a Christmas cake. Earlier, an awareness walk was conducted as part of the Anti-Corruption Day activities. Certificates were awarded to students who participated in declamation contests held to mark the occasion.

Christian community members expressed gratitude for the thoughtful gesture, noting that the event brought them immense joy and pride.

The ceremony was attended by Prof. Dr. Aysha Sameen, Coordinator of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Director of Student Affairs, Director of Media, and the Heads of the Departments of Education, Urdu, and English. The events were organized by the Directorate of Student Affairs in collaboration with various university departments.

This celebration exemplifies GCWUF's commitment to fostering unity, inclusivity, and respect for all its stakeholders.

All Pakistan Car Dealers and Importers Association concerns raised by the regarding additional charges on new registration

Chairman of the Standing Committee on Interior Raja Khurram Nawaz said that the concerns raised by the All Pakistan Car Dealers and Importers Association regarding additional charges in the form of late fees on new registration will be addressed. He stopped the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad from increasing the late fee charges. The Chairman of the Standing Committee assured that the matter will be resolved in the next meeting, keeping in mind all the concerns of the All Pakistan Car Dealers and Importers Association.

Chairman of the All Pakistan Car Dealers and Importers Association Sardar Irfan, President Punjab Haji Tariq Mahmood, Vice Chairman Raja Amir Karim and General Secretary Punjab Malik Qaiser Mahmood met with Chairman of the Standing Committee on Interior Raja Khurram Nawaz, Member National Assembly Hanif Abbasi, Member Zartaj Gul, Member Dr. Fazal Chaudhry, Sardar Nabil Ahmed Gabol, Khawaja Izharul Hassan and DC Islamabad. In which the representatives of the All Pakistan Car Dealers and Importers Association expressed their serious concerns over the sharp increase in late fees on new registration of vehicles. On this, the Chairman of the Standing Committee directed the DC Islamabad that the move to impose additional charges on late fees should be stopped immediately. The Chairman of the Standing Committee assured that this matter would be resolved in the next meeting, keeping in mind all the concerns of the All Pakistan Car Dealers and Importers Association. Chairman APDA Sardar Irfan and other representatives expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Chairman of the Standing Committee and members. On the other hand, after the meeting, all the dealers were informed that the registration process of the Applied for vehicle from Islamabad should be stopped immediately, until a final decision is taken on the late fee charges in the next meeting.

Protest

KARACHI: Relatives of Balouch missing persons hold placards during protest in favor of their demands outside press club, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Alumni group celebrates golden jubilee ceremony in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: The golden jubilee ceremony of the alumni group People's Colony, Jeevan Singh was held at the residence of the central chief organizer of Pakistan Railways Prem Union, Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry.

The ceremony was presided over by the chief patron, former national athlete, former principal of Government College Narang Mandi, Professor Rana Ehsan Ahmed. The ceremony was attended by former UC Nazim/Chairman Mian Mujeer-ul-Sharif Advocate, Aamir Cheema USA, Fayyaz Butt Canada, Chaudhry Alauddin Tang,



Chaudhry Ziauddin Tang, Salimullah Khan, Rana Awqar Ahmad, Abdul Hameed Gul, Chaudhry Abid Hussain, Haji Muhammad Ashfaq, Mahmood Bhatti, Intisar

Man, Muhammad Farooq Butt, Chaudhry Mazhar Gujar, Muhammad Usman Ranjha, Muhammad Zahid Gul, Chaudhry Muhammad Babar Gujar, while Rana

Muhammad Altaf participated through video link from France.

The participants of the ceremony refreshed their childhood and school, college

memories and exchanged greetings with each other. Get information about the family, on this occasion, prayers were offered for the parents, relatives and deceased members of the group of all the participants. The grudge between two members of the group was resolved by hugging them. Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry and Professor Rana Ehsan Ahmed, while talking, said that for fifty years, brotherhood and friendship have been established between the group members, which is a unique example, God willing, this relationship will continue in the future.

Sardar Attique meet Azad Kashmir ministers to discussed on Kohala incident

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan met with Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore and Minister for Education Dewan Ali Khan Chughtai of the Azad Kashmir government at Mujahid Manzil Rawalpindi. Explaining the position of the Azad Kashmir government on the Kohala incident in the meeting, he said that the Azad Kashmir government strongly condemns the desecration of the Pakistani flag, pictures of Quaid-e-Azam and Mujahid e Awwal and the word Pakistan at Kohala. On this occasion, the ministers also presented a copy of the FIR registered against

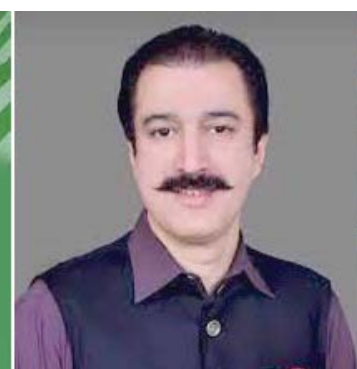
the accused to the President Muslim Conference and assured the government that the accused would be arrested as soon as possible and punished severely.

The ministers also requested the President Muslim Conference to postpone the wheelbarrow strike called by the Muslim Conference in Muzaffarabad division. On which the President Muslim Conference said that the final decision regarding the wheelbarrow strike can be taken only after consulting the concerned workers.

Meanwhile: Former Prime Minister and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan was met by Minister of the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Dewan Ali Khan Chughtai and Raja Faisal Rathore and



a detailed exchange was held regarding the latest political situation in Azad Kashmir and the desecration of the Pakistani flag and pictures of Quaid-e-Azam Mujahid e Awwal by miscreants in Kohala during the protest of Joint

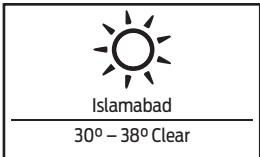


Awami Action Committee. The ministers presented copies of the FIR registered against the accused by the government to the President of the Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan and appealed



that the accused be arrested soon and brought to justice, so the call for roadblocks and protests given by the Muslim Conference in Azad Jammu and Kashmir should be withdrawn. Earlier: Former Prime Minister

Raja Farooq Haider Khan also appealed to the President of the Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan over the telephone to postpone the said protest call and exercise patience and also released a video message on social media asking the workers of the Muslim Conference in particular and the people of Azad Kashmir to exercise patience. Similarly, other political leaders also called Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan and appealed for patience. On which, Muslim Conference President Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan announced to postpone the proposed road jam call for ten days from tomorrow, December 11. In his video message, the Muslim President said that the action plan will be announced after ten days.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:33 am
Zohr	12:01 pm
Asr	3:22 pm
Maghrib	5:00 pm
Isha	6:29 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

Grand Opening of the Silk Road Culture Centre

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Silk Road Culture Centre (SRCC) proudly launched today, an event that brought together diplomats, ambassadors, and cultural enthusiasts from around the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to witness the launch of this landmark initiative.

The Chairman of the Silk Road Culture Centre (SRCC) Jamal Shah expressed heartfelt gratitude to the ambassadors, diplomats, and participating countries

for their invaluable support in making the grand launch of the SRCC a resounding success.

In his remarks, the Chairman acknowledged the full cooperation extended by the countries who contributed artworks, cultural artifacts, and other items for display at the SRCC. These contributions not only enriched the event but also beautifully showcased the diverse cultural heritage of the Silk Road nations.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairman of SRCC highlighted the

center's mission as a "beacon of unity, diversity, and mutual respect," dedicated to fostering cultural understanding and collaboration among nations. The SRCC aims to celebrate the rich heritage of the countries connected by the historical Silk Road through exhibitions, workshops, performances, and educational programs, inspiring future generations to appreciate cultural diversity and shared values.

The Chairman expressed heartfelt gratitude to the ambassadors and diplomats for their presence and to the sponsors

and partners whose contributions were instrumental in bringing this vision to life. Special acknowledgement was given to Zong Pakistan, Serena Hotel Islamabad, Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Hunerkada Islamabad, and the Sir Syed Memorial Society (SSMS) for their unwavering support.

In a significant announcement, the Chairman praised the SSMS Governing Body's visionary decision to bring the SRCC under its umbrella, ensuring a robust foundation for its initiatives.

Furthermore, the SRCC will house a Sir Syed Research Centre, dedicated to academic excellence, cultural studies, and innovation, inspired by the legacy of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

The event served as a testament to the power of cultural exchange in fostering global harmony. As the SRCC opens its doors, it aspires to become a cornerstone of cultural and academic brilliance, uniting nations and individuals in the spirit of mutual respect and understanding.

Launching ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Children performing National Anthem during launching ceremony of Silk Road Culture Center, at Sir Syed Memorial Society, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pakistan and Qatar's Bilateral Relations are Stable and Strong: Governor Sindh

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has stated that the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Qatar are exceptionally stable and strong. He emphasized that Qatar has always stood by Pakistan during challenging times.

He expressed these sentiments during the National Day celebration of the State of Qatar held in Islamabad. Upon his arrival at the event, the Governor was warmly welcomed by Qatar's Ambassador, Ali Bin Mubarak Al-Khater, along with other diplomatic staff. The Governor presented a bouquet to the Qatari Ambassador and extended his congratulations.

Governor Tessori congratulated the people of Qatar on their National Day, saying, "I extend heartfelt greetings to the people of the State of Qatar on this significant occasion." He also invited Qatari investors to invest in Sindh, highlighting the province's attractive sectors and a highly educated, experienced young workforce as key advantages for potential investments.

He further added, "We are keen on expanding trade relations with Qatar." During the event, Governor Tessori also conducted a lucky draw for Qatar Airways tickets.



LRA chief hosts breakfast in honour of Lake City residents



The President LRA Core Committee Lake City Shahid Mughal hosted the breakfast in honour of Lake City Lahore new residential members. In this occasion Shahid Mughal President, LRA Core Committee Shahid Mughal, Asif Rasheed Bhatti, Faisal Aziz, Dr Sanjeed Khan, Mian Imran, Ch. Munir, and Dr Khurram were present. Shahid Mughal said on this occasion the aim of getting together new members to solve the problems of the residential community of Lake City and to cooperate with them in other issues.

NA Speaker pays tribute to Sawar Muhammad Hussain Shaheed on 53rd martyrdom anniversary

ISLAMABAD:

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday paid tribute to Sawar Muhammad Hussain Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider) on his 53rd martyrdom anniversary.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the supreme sacrifice made by Sawar Muhammad Hussain Shaheed in the defense of the country, recalling his unmatched courage and valor during the 1971 war.

"The whole nation honors his unparalleled sacrifice and patriotic spirit," Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stated. "Sawar Muhammad Hussain Shaheed fought for the honor and security of the nation, and his contributions will forever be remembered."

The speaker also prayed for the elevation of Sawar Muhammad Hussain Shaheed's ranks in the Jannah, and for the continued security and progress of the country, emphasizing the importance of honoring the sacrifices of Pakistan's martyrs.

The nation, as a whole, remains united in remembering and saluting the bravery and sacrifices of its fallen heroes.



Danyal Chaudhry reviews Punjab's Free Medicine Project at RIC

RAWALPINDI, DEC 10 (APP): Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting visited the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology on Tuesday to review the progress of Punjab's "Free Medicine Project," a flagship initiative under the government's health reforms.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative on Human Rights Day, he reiterated that access to complete treatment, including medicines, is a fundamental right of every patient.

His visit underscored the government's dedication to safeguarding these rights through concrete steps.

Barrister Danyal inspected wards, received briefings from hospital management, and addressed patients' concerns about the reported medicine shortage during his visit to Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology (RIC).

The parliamentary secretary pledged to resolve challenges faced by heart patients and ensure that the Free Medicine Project benefits those in need as intended.

The Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology (RIC) is a vital healthcare center, offering treatment to patients from Rawalpindi and across Pakistan, including areas from Kyber Pakhtunkhwa to Potohar.

He emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring that all resources allocated for public welfare are utilized efficiently and transparently.

A seminar on business plan competition held at COMSATS Abbottabad Campus

City Desk

ABBOTTABAD: A seminar on business plan competition was held at COMSATS University Islamabad, Abbottabad Campus, in collaboration with the Student Startup Business Center and the Department of Management Sciences. The university students presented ideas to promote businesses using products from various Pakistani brands.

The seminar was attended by Professor Dr. Imtiaz Ali Khan, Director COMSATS Abbottabad, faculty members, and students from different universities Hazara University, Abbottabad University of Science and Technology. Dr. Mohammad Saeed Lodhi, Head of the Department of Management Sciences, and Syed Ghais-ud-Din Shah, In-charge of the Student Startup Center, briefed the attendees about the activities related to student business plans.

Dr. Mohammad Saeed Lodhi emphasized that the goal was to not only achieve profit but also build honesty and self-confidence among the students, inspiring them to empower others to succeed.

Professor Dr. Imtiaz Ali Khan, Director COMSATS University Abbottabad, said that if businesses are conducted according to the principles of Islam, success is possible. He stressed that Pakistan has always relied on the IMF, Europe, the USA, and China, importing almost everything from these countries.

At the end of the seminar, shields and certificates of appreciation were distributed to the participants.

Mushaal raises alarm over escalating HR abuses in IIOJK

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of unlawfully incarcerated Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik, grave concerns about the worsening human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), as the region became a hub of violence, with Indian forces given free rein to kill, abduct, torture and abuse Kashmiri men and women.

In her address to the Islamabad Bar Council on International Human Rights Day, which was observed in both sides of Kashmir and elsewhere in the world on Tuesday, she emphasized that the people of IIOJK continued to face severe oppression at the hands of Indian troops.



The Hurriyat leader lamented that India was acting like a terrorist state under the fascist regime of

notorious Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She pointed out that all Hurriyat leaders including her husband Yasin

Malik were illegally detained in politically-motivated, fabricated and concocted cases. She highlighted that extrajudicial killings, fake encounters, arbitrary detention of human rights activists and the relentless campaign of killings became a routine matter in the region but the world community and human rights organisations did not utter a word against the Indian war crimes in the valley.

Mushaal urged the UN and international human rights organizations to send teams to assess the dire human rights situation in the territory. She called for urgent international intervention to end Indian state terrorism and resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN-agreed formula and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

President of D. Watson Lions club, Ahsan Bakhatawari, Donates 20 Wheelchairs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of World Human Rights Day, the President of D. Watson Lions club, Ahsan Zafar Bakhatawari, donated 20 wheelchairs to Alkhidmat Foundation for persons with disabilities. A dignified ceremony was held in Islamabad, attended by former ICCI President Zafar Bakhatawari, ICCI Executive Member Mohsin Khalid, Ruheel Anwar Butt, former ICCI Executive Member Imtiaz Abbasi, Nisar Mirza, President of Alkhidmat Foundation Islamabad Hamid Athar Malik, General Secretary Altaf Shabbir, Senior Manager Azhar Ali Shah, and others.

Speaking at the event, Ahsan Zafar Bakhatawari said that persons with disabilities are an integral part of society, and addressing their needs is a collective responsibility. "Providing facilities to persons with disabilities and integrating them into mainstream society is the foundation of human rights. I am pleased to see organizations like Alkhidmat Foundation



working tirelessly for this cause, and I commend their efforts," he said.

He also urged traders and philanthropists to actively participate in such welfare initiatives.

The President of Alkhidmat Foundation Islamabad praised Ahsan Zafar Bakhatawari's

spirit of generosity, stating that the provision of wheelchairs would bring ease and joy to individuals facing mobility challenges. The Foundation's General Secretary added that this initiative is a significant step toward restoring the dignity of persons with disabilities and enabling them to

lead more independent lives.

The persons with disabilities and their families present at the ceremony appreciated the contributions of Ahsan Bakhatawari and Alkhidmat Foundation. They expressed hope that this example would inspire others to engage in charitable acts.

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Anti-Assad Militias Turn Their Guns on Israel

The USA, in recent history, has committed grave strategic blunders and, interestingly, managed to make others pay for these mistakes while cleverly insulating itself from the consequences. In the wars against Iraq and Libya, the USA, often with its allies coerced into joining under false pretenses, fabricated reasons, and manufactured evidence of weapons of mass destruction, invaded Iraq. This invasion destroyed the country, killed hundreds of thousands of people, and reduced what was once one of the richest and fastest-developing nations in the Middle East to rubble.

Not satisfied with the devastation in Iraq, the USA turned its attention to Libya, orchestrating the overthrow and eventual killing of Muammar Gaddafi. Gaddafi had kept Libya's society, composed of many warring and independent tribes, united and stable. Under his leadership, Libya prospered, and its people enjoyed a relatively high standard of living. Moreover, the country provided employment to thousands of workers from other nations to support its rapid development. The removal of Gaddafi plunged Libya into chaos, destabilizing the region and unleashing a wave of violence and tribal conflicts that persist to this day.

While the USA and its allies in Europe and the Middle East were gleefully celebrating the success of Anti Assad Militias their own creation, they perhaps did not anticipate that the leaders of the militias, after conquering Syria, would announce their next target: the liberation of Al-Quds (Jerusalem), avenging the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians in Gaza

and elsewhere, and pledging not to rest until Israel is reduced to a position where it has no ability to impose its hegemony in the region.

These statements are likely giving sleepless nights to Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Turkey. They must also be deeply concerning to Israeli leadership and to leaders in the USA, who likely never imagined that the very forces they helped raise—with their sweat, blood, and hard-earned money—to insulate Israel from the Syrian threat under Assad, would turn their guns with lightning speed toward Israel. This turn of events is the very outcome the USA and its allies sought to avoid when they intervened to remove Assad, who was supported by Russia and Iran.

While building the anti-Assad militias, the USA and its allies, in their haste, empowered various groups with money and weapons, overlooking their deeply entrenched and divergent ideologies and objectives. The militias were led by figures with different goals: Riad al-Asaad and Salim Idris of the Free Syrian Army (FSA) advocated for a secular, democratic Syria; Abu Mohammad al-Julani of Jabhat al-Nusra, aligned with al-Qaeda, aimed to establish an Islamic state; Zahran Alloush of Jaish al-Islam sought a Sunni Islamic government; and Hassan Aboud of Ahrar al-Sham pursued an Islamic state under Sharia law. Leaders like Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi of ISIS aimed for a global caliphate.

Although their common goal was to overthrow Bashar al-Assad's Alawite-dominated regime, their ideological divides—ranging from secular democracy to hard-line Islamism—led to fragmentation and competition, complicating their ability to present a united front.

The anti-Assad militias, after conquering Syria, have redirected their focus toward attacking Israel to avenge Palestinian casualties in Gaza and "liberate" Jerusalem (Al-Quds). This would, like Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, would create a significant security and geopolitical crisis. Israel would face an unprecedented threat from a coalition of Islamist forces operating close to its borders, particularly in the Golan Heights. Such attacks would likely escalate into a broader regional conflict, potentially drawing in actors like Hezbollah from Lebanon and Iran, further destabilizing the region. For Israel, this would necessitate a robust military response, including preemptive strikes and heightened defense measures, leading to a protracted and destructive confrontation.

For the United States, the scenario would highlight the blowback of supporting anti-Assad factions during the Syrian Civil War. Having indirectly empowered groups now attacking its closest ally, U.S. credibility and regional strategy would come under severe scrutiny. The U.S. would face pressure to provide military and diplomatic support to Israel, entangling itself further in Middle Eastern

conflicts. This could strain relations with Arab allies, many of whom might face domestic unrest as public sentiment in their countries sympathizes with actions against Israel, challenging their governments' ties with the U.S. and Israel.

Regionally, the conflict could destabilize Arab states that have normalized relations with Israel, such as the UAE, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, putting agreements like the Abraham Accords at risk. Iran, already an opponent of Israel, might exploit the situation to bolster its influence by aligning with militias or intensifying its rhetoric of resistance. The ensuing instability could disrupt global oil supplies, escalate terrorist recruitment worldwide, and embolden extremist movements. Ultimately, this scenario would deepen divisions between pro- and anti-Western factions, jeopardizing regional and global peace.

The history of mankind, which we meticulously document for various purposes, serves as a tool for learning and avoiding the strategic, tactical, and ideological errors that have led to the destruction of societies and civilizations. Yet, our own recent history suggests that even nations at the apex of civilization fail to learn from their past mistakes. Despite the lessons of history, these uncalculated blunders continue to wreak havoc on societies and communities worldwide, leaving a trail of chaos and suffering that may persist for generations to come.

Writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC. Currently he is living in Macomb, Detroit, Michigan



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

China will continue to be 'biggest engine' of world economic growth

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday China has full confidence to achieve this year's economic growth target and will continue to play its role as the biggest engine of world economic growth.

Xi made the remarks as he met with heads of major international economic organizations in Beijing, CGTN reported.

Noting the world nowadays has entered a new period of turbulence and change, once again at a critical crossroads, Xi said China is ready to work with major international economic organizations to practice multilateralism, promote international cooperation, support the development of countries in the global South, promote an equal and orderly multi-polar world, economic globalization that benefits all and builds a just world of common development.

The leaders of the New Development Bank, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund all spoke highly of China's economic development achievements. They were also optimistic about China's development prospects and thanked China for its long-term support for the work of international economic organizations.

Noting unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise, the leaders of major international economic organizations said they are willing to work closely with China, adhere to multilateralism, uphold free trade and economic globalization, make greater contributions to the common development and prosperity of the world, and create a shared future for mankind.

Xi said economies of all countries face their own difficulties. All countries should work together to build an open world economy, be innovation-driven, seize important opportunities such as the digital economy, artificial intelligence and low-carbon technologies, create new sources of economic growth and support cross-border flows of knowledge, technology and human resources, Xi added.

Xi said after more than 40 years of sustained and rapid development, China's economy has entered a stage of high-quality development and contributed about 30 percent to world economic growth.

Noting China's development is open and inclusive, Xi said China will continue to open wider to the outside world, actively align with high-standard international economic and trade rules, build a market-oriented, law-based and world-class business environment, and build a new system of open economy at a higher level, so as to provide more new opportunities and share more development dividends with other countries.

The Chinese president welcomed international economic organizations to continue to actively participate in China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and promote the modernization of all countries in the world with peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation and common prosperity.

Xi also said China hopes the United States will work with China to push bilateral relations toward a steady, healthy and sustainable direction.

Tariff wars, trade wars and sci-tech wars go against the trend of history and the laws of economics, and there will be no winners, Xi said, adding that China is willing to maintain dialogue, expand cooperation and manage differences with the U.S. government.



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

Education: The Key to Unlocking Pakistan's Economic Potential

Imagine walking into a classroom in rural Pakistan, where the walls are bare, and the only light comes from a single flickering bulb. This scene paints a vivid picture of the challenges facing Pakistan's education system. Education is the cornerstone of any nation's development, and in Pakistan, the relationship between education and economic growth is particularly significant.

Despite various reforms and initiatives over the years, significant challenges persist in the education sector, directly impacting the country's economic prosperity.

Currently, the literacy rate in Pakistan stands at 62.8 percent, with stark contrasts between urban and rural areas. In bustling cities, about 77.3 percent of people can read and write, while in the countryside, only 54 percent can. This urban-rural divide highlights the need for targeted reforms and calls for immediate action to ensure that no child is left behind. Gender disparities are also glaring, with men generally more literate than women across all provinces. This uneven access to education emphasizes a pressing need for interventions that address these disparities head-on.

The economic benefits of education are like a ripple effect. Education enhances human capital, leading to higher productivity and innovation. It also bridges the gap between poverty and prosperity by providing individuals with better job opportunities and higher incomes. Moreover, educated individuals are more likely to engage in civic activities and contribute to social stability. Despite these clear benefits, Pakistan faces several

challenges in maximizing the potential of its education sector. The quality of education remains a major concern. The Pakistan Economic Survey underscores the need for improving the quality of education through better teacher training, updated curricula, and enhanced learning environments. Additionally, the education system must align more closely with market demands to ensure that graduates possess relevant skills.

Public investment in education is another critical issue. Pakistan currently spends about 2.5 percent of its GDP on education, which is lower than many other developing countries. To improve educational outcomes, increased investment is needed to enhance infrastructure, hire qualified teachers, and provide necessary learning materials. However, there are significant opportunities for improvement. The government's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4, which focuses on quality education, provides a framework for addressing these challenges. Various initiatives, such as establishing new schools, digitizing educational institutions, and promoting distance learning, are steps in the right direction.

To unlock the full potential of education for economic growth, Pakistan needs to implement strategic initiatives focused on both access and quality. Enhancing teacher training programs to improve the quality of education is crucial. Increased public investment in education is imperative. Allocating more resources to the education sector and increasing the education budget to at least 4 percent of GDP, as recommended by various

international organizations, can significantly improve educational outcomes. Improving infrastructure to ensure that all schools have basic facilities such as electricity, clean drinking water, and sanitation is particularly important in rural areas where infrastructure is often lacking. Leveraging technology to enhance learning by digitizing educational content, promoting online learning platforms, and providing students with access to digital devices can also play a crucial role.

Furthermore, encouraging universities to collaborate with industries can ensure that the education provided is relevant to market needs. This can be achieved through internships, research collaborations, and industry-sponsored projects. By aligning educational outcomes with market demands, graduates will be better equipped for the workforce, reducing unemployment and driving economic growth.

Education and the economy are deeply intertwined in Pakistan. While significant challenges remain, numerous opportunities exist for improvement. By investing in education and implementing strategic initiatives, Pakistan can harness the full potential of its human capital, driving economic growth and social development. The path forward requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including the government, private sector, and civil society, to ensure that every child in Pakistan has access to quality education and the opportunity to contribute to the country's economic prosperity. Every child in Pakistan deserves the chance to succeed. If we delay, we risk missing the opportunity to shape Pakistan's future. The potential benefits for Pakistan's future are immense, and the time to act is now.

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

Religious Education is Paving the Path to Peace in Pakistan

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

Religious education plays a crucial role in promoting peace and harmony in societies around the world. In Pakistan where religious diversity is prevalent but sometimes leads to tensions. Religious education has the potential to unite hearts and minds paving the path to peace. The religious education in Pakistan is contributing to peace building efforts and promoting interfaith harmony. Pakistan is a country known for its rich religious diversity with the majority of the population as Muslim.

A land of rich religious heritage is also significant minority communities, including Christian, Hindu, Sikh and others. This diversity enriching the tapestry of the nation, has also been a source of hope and peace in different religions. Religious education has emerged as a powerful tool for promoting tolerance and understanding of peace among different religious groups in Pakistan. Religious education in Pakistan takes place in a variety of settings including schools, colleges, universities and religious institutions.

One of the impactful role of religious education in Pakistan is the promotion of values such as compassion, empathy and respect for others. Religious teachers in madrassas equipping students with the tools needed to foster mutual respect and understanding of their own religion. In different religious institutions education have a positive impact on attitudes towards people from different religious backgrounds. Moreover, some researches on religious education found that students who received religious education were likely to exhibit tolerance and acceptance towards individuals of other faiths.

First and foremost, comprehensive religious education can serve as a counter-narrative to extremist ideologies that exploit narrow interpretations of faith. By equipping students with knowledge about different religions and encouraging interfaith dialogue, such educational initiatives can dismantle prejudices that fuel hatred.

Schools that incorporate teachings from multiple faiths can foster empathy and respect among students from different backgrounds. When young individuals learn to appreciate the values inherent in other traditions, they are

less likely to engage in or support violent actions motivated by sectarian differences.

Moreover, investment in religious education aligns with broader educational reforms aimed at improving critical thinking skills among youth. A curriculum that encourages inquiry and debate fosters not only intellectual development but also emotional intelligence qualities essential for peaceful coexistence. In this light, policymakers must prioritize comprehensive religious education within national curricula to cultivate a generation capable of navigating complex social dynamics without resorting to violence.

Comprehensive religious education promotes critical thinking and dialogue, allowing students to explore the tenets of various religions beyond mere surface-level knowledge. Such an approach encourages empathy and tolerance, countering extremist ideologies that often stem from ignorance or misinformation. For example, when students learn about the fundamental values shared across religions such as compassion, justice, and community they are more likely to engage in positive conversations rather than disruptive rhetoric. As a religious country prioritizing comprehensive religious education is imperative for Pakistan's journey toward lasting peace. Cultivation an environment of understanding and respect through informed discourse on spirituality, we can mitigate conflict and foster unity in diversity an essential step toward a peaceful future.

Religious educational initiatives can empower youth to challenge extremist ideologies that often exploit religious sentiments for violent ends. Equipping students with critical thinking skills alongside robust knowledge of their own faith as well as others, they are less likely to fall prey to radical narratives. This approach not only strengthens individual character but also fosters community resilience against divisive forces.

Emphasizing understanding over division will not only enhance social cohesion but also build a foundation where future generations can thrive in an environment marked by respect and unity amidst diversity. The time has come for Pakistani policymakers to recognize the transformative potential of such an educational framework in creating a more pleasant society.

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CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif meets Vice Chairman National People's Congress Standing Committee Li Hongzong

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee Li Hongzong in Beijing. Li Hongzong is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. During the meeting, it was resolved to further strengthen Pak-China strategic partnership. Li Hongzong appreciated family commitment of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the promotion of Pak-China relations. She described her recent visit to China as a candle of friendship for the young generation of political leaders.

The CM said, "We want to bring improvement in the governance of Punjab province by benefiting from the experiences and observations of



China. China's visit is my maiden official visit and is a manifestation of

practical efforts to further strengthen brotherly relations with China."

Li Hongzong accorded a warm reception to CM Punjab and her delegation. Li Hongzong said, "The Chinese leadership wants to further improve Pak-China Corridor project in order to take mutual relations to the peak. The Chief Minister's insight on China's governance system, geopolitical affairs, development and cultural issues is highly commendable. I deem it a great honour to meet a dynamic visionary personality like CM Punjab. The Chief Minister's vision to serve the people of Punjab is admirable. Mr. Li Hongzong also appreciated the efforts of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the promotion of Pakistan-China relations. During the meeting, it was agreed to undertake measures so as to promote and stabilize mutual relations between the two countries."

Sophiya Warraich honored with prestigious British award for humanitarian work

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Mrs. Sophiya Warraich, an internationally renowned philanthropist and humanitarian, was honored with a prestigious award presented by Member of the House of Lords, Rt. Hon. Lord Kuldeep Sahota, and the Labour Asians Society UK. The award ceremony took place in the historic committee room of the House of Parliament, recognizing Mrs. Warraich's extraordinary contributions to humanity and her dedication to transforming the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children.

The event was inaugurated by Maria Saroya, Secretary of the Labour Asians Society, who warmly welcomed attendees. In her address, she praised Mrs. Warraich, stating, "We are here to celebrate the remarkable contributions of Mrs. Sophiya Warraich, a beacon of hope and humanity. Her tireless work for orphaned and vulnerable children has not only transformed lives but has also set a benchmark for humanitarian service. She has provided these children with not



just food, shelter, and education, but also the love and care of a devoted mother."

Mrs. Warraich serves as the Chairperson of the Al Mararah Foundation, a leading organization dedicated to supporting orphaned and special-needs children. Under her leadership, the foundation operates 12 state-of-the-art homes that provide a nurturing environment for over 230 children, including those from minority communities. Her innovative programs cater to children with special needs, offering therapeutic care, inclusive education, and holistic development

opportunities.

In addition to these efforts, Mrs. Warraich is spearheading the development of a modern Children's Complex, equipped with cutting-edge facilities to support the physical, emotional, and intellectual growth of children. Her vision also includes expanding healthcare access and providing IT-related training to empower children with skills for the future.

Her exceptional work has been recognized globally, with honors such as the FPCCI Award and the United Nations

Excellence Award in 2023. These accolades underscore her unwavering commitment to creating a better world for the most vulnerable.

During the ceremony, Lord Kuldeep Sahota remarked, "Mrs. Sophiya Warraich is a role model and an inspiration. Her humanitarian work is nothing short of extraordinary. It is an honor to host her in the House of Lords and to acknowledge her tireless efforts for orphaned children."

The event featured additional remarks from esteemed attendees, including former Member of Parliament and Patron of the Labour Asians Society Virendra Sharma, Mehboob Aslam Lilla, Fatima Kamara, Kirat Raj, Atta Haq, and Hanif Khan. Each speaker expressed their admiration for Mrs. Warraich's transformative impact on the lives of countless children.

The ceremony concluded with a heartfelt presentation of the Special Recognition Award, celebrating Mrs. Warraich's exceptional dedication to humanitarian service.

7th Agricultural Census to be conducted in Attock district

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: 7th Agricultural Census was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Finance and Planning) Attock, Ms. Nosheen Israr. The event was attended by Chief Statistical Officer of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (Rawalpindi Division) Waseem Akhtar, District Census Officer Khalid Mehmood Butt, Deputy Director PBS Mudassar Akhtar, District Coordinator Attock Muhammad Asim Saeed, and other notable figures. In her address, the Additional Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of accurate data for effective planning, which is crucial for the development and prosperity of any country. She stated that the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics is conducting the 7th Agricultural Census 2024 to further strengthen the country's agricultural economy. She urged the supervisors and enumerators involved in the digital agricultural census to perform their duties responsibly, ensuring accurate data collection regarding agriculture, livestock, and agricultural equipment in the district. This, she said, would facilitate better planning for the district's development. On December 9, 2024, a three-day training program commenced for the selected supervisors and enumerators for the agricultural census in Attock district. These individuals will be responsible for counting agricultural assets, crops, and livestock in the selected blocks of the district. The training includes guidance on using modern tablets for data collection. The digital agricultural census is expected to be completed by February 10, 2025. On this occasion, Deputy Director PBS Mudassar Akhtar and District Coordinator Muhammad Asim Saeed provided training to the selected supervisors and enumerators for the 2024 digital agricultural census. The event was also attended by Chief Statistical Officer Waseem Akhtar, District Census Officer Khalid Mehmood Butt, Deputy Director PBS Mudassar Akhtar, District Coordinator Attock Muhammad Asim Saeed, and other key officials.

IBA Karachi organized the 4th Annual International Conference on "Rethinking Economics"



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: IBA proudly hosted the 4th Annual International Conference on "Rethinking Economics", which was organized in collaboration with IBA's School of Economics and Social Sciences (IBA-SESS) and the Center for Business & Economic Research (IBA-CBER).

In his opening remarks, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA Karachi, expressed gratitude and welcomed the participants to the conference. Dr. Zaidi emphasized the need for interdisciplinary and innovative approaches to economic challenges, inspiring academics, and policymaking, and for students to envision sustainable & inclusive solutions for the future. Kiyoshi Taniguchi, Regional Lead Economist & Marcel Schröder, Country Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB), shared insights from the Asian Development Outlook, forecasting 5% growth for developing Asia in 2024. The priorities for Strategy 2030, focusing on climate action, private sector growth, and digital transformation were highlighted as the country's pressing challenges.

Dr. Lubna Naz, Director, IBA-CBER, delivered the welcome address. She presented the vision of the conference and emphasized the significance of expanding on traditional economic thinking. She highlighted that IBA-CBER received a huge response to the call for papers and received 300 research papers while only 40 were selected after a rigorous review. The 25% of the panelists and presenters this year comprised women, reflecting on IBA's commitment to promoting gender equality in economic research and thinking. Participants from 11 countries participated in the conference and 50 presenters and panelists from within the country, including highly marginalized areas of Pakistan.

The panel discussion "Rethinking International Trade in a Digitalized World" emphasized digitalization in trade, export competitiveness, reduced costs, and seamless operations. Key challenges included weak digital infrastructure, limited cross-border interoperability, and governance gaps. Economic experts in the parallel sessions emphasized innovation and reforms for Pakistan's sustainable growth, spotlighting initiatives like Pakistan Single Window to modernize trade. Dr. Zaidi and Dr. Ali Cheema, Vice Chancellor, LUMS, discussed higher education challenges in Pakistan, highlighting issues like funding, talent retention, and quality control. They emphasized the role of economists as university leaders, institutional reforms, and nurturing critical thinking and innovation. The session explored globalization's impact and fostering community engagement.

Day 2 featured a panel discussion "Institutions, Laws, and Development". The panelists included Adeel Malik, Associate Professor, Oxford Department of International Development; Asad Khan, Partner, Ashtar Ali LLP; Sultan Mehmood, Professor, New Economic School, and Laila Farooq, Assistant Professor, IBA-SESS. The experts discussed the perspectives of the laws and institutional development in Pakistan & other countries and the role of laws in building societies. Technical sessions on inflation, growth, digitalization, and innovation, and a roundtable on global academic partnerships with foreign faculty, and HEC Sindh Chairman were held.

NUML Entrepreneurship Gala 2024: Fostering Innovation and Empowering Youth

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Faculty of Management Sciences at the National University of Modern Languages successfully organized the Entrepreneurship Gala 2024 on Tuesday, showcasing the creative talent and entrepreneurial spirit of its students. The event, aimed at promoting innovation and exploring alternative employment avenues, featured an array of stalls that highlighted Pakistan's rich cultural diversity and students' entrepreneurial potential.

The gala featured a wide range of products, including traditional dresses, shawls, stuffed toys, paintings, calligraphy, perfumes, handicrafts, jewellery, shoes, mobile accessories, garments, arts, food items, sweets, and soups. Each stall reflected the creativity and business acumen of NUML students, offering them a platform to blend theoretical knowledge with practical skills



in marketing, management, and entrepreneurship.

Rector NUML, Major Gen (r) Shahid Mehmood Kayani HI(M), along with the Chief Guest, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, DG NUML, Brig Shahzad Munir, visited different stalls and interacted with students. Rector NUML commended the students' efforts, highlighting their role as the future of the nation. "Our youth, which constitutes

64% of the population, has immense potential to drive economic prosperity and national development. Events like this not only encourage students but also prepare them for professional challenges," he remarked. The Rector also thanked Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan for his support and called for continued collaboration to empower NUML's students. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, CEO of

Centaurus Mall and the event's chief guest lauded the confidence and ingenuity of the students. "These young individuals are the future of Pakistan," he said while visiting the stalls. He praised NUML's initiative for providing students with opportunities to showcase their entrepreneurial talent and emphasized the need to overcome marketing challenges in Pakistan. He also expressed his willingness to collaborate with NUML to create an environment that fosters innovation and supports young entrepreneurs.

The Entrepreneurship Gala 2024 offered a unique blend of fun, learning, and skill development. By providing students with hands-on experience in entrepreneurship, NUML aims to equip them with the tools necessary to build successful careers in a competitive world. The university plans to organize similar events in the future to further encourage innovation and contribute to Pakistan's economic growth.

UN Women's Rolling Resistance concludes in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Rolling Resistance: Theatre on Wheels campaign, a cornerstone of UN Women Pakistan's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, reached its powerful conclusion at the Pak-China Friendship Center in Islamabad. This groundbreaking initiative, which has travelled across Pakistan, delivered its poignant message of #KoiJawazNahi (#NoExcuse) to a national audience, sparking dialogue and inspiring collective action against gender-based violence (GBV).

Mohamed Yahya, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, highlighted the United Nations' commitment to supporting gender equality "As we conclude

this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, I want to honor the resilience of survivors of domestic violence. These women and girls have faced unimaginable pain, yet their courage to rebuild their lives inspires us all." He further added, "Our mission is unwavering: to create a world where survivors are not only heard but also empowered. This requires ensuring access to justice, fostering financial independence, and building support systems that enable women to reclaim their lives and thrive."

The event featured a final performance on the iconic Rolling Resistance mobile theatre truck, delivering a compelling narrative on the importance of justice for survivors and accountability

for perpetrators. Students, activists, and policymakers engaged in post-performance discussions, sharing insights and strategies for fostering safer communities.

Jamshed Kazi, Country Representative Designate UN Women Pakistan, opened the event, emphasizing the campaign's transformative journey: "Gender-based violence is not merely a women's issue; it is a profound human rights crisis that impacts every aspect of society. Achieving gender equality and eradicating gender-based violence requires the unwavering dedication of individuals, organizations, and institutions. Campaigns like Rolling Resistance and The Invisible exemplify the power of collaboration and the transformative potential of united efforts."



In parallel with Rolling Resistance, UN Women launched Invisible campaign. This powerful initiative reinterprets traditional bridal henna designs,

using them to trace bruises and injuries that reveal hidden stories of abuse. The campaign's evocative imagery—a black eye, marks of strangulation, and other signs of violence—brings the invisible scars of domestic violence into stark focus, amplifying the voices of survivors and making their silent suffering visible to all.

Through initiatives like Rolling Resistance and The Invisible, UN Women Pakistan continues to amplify advocacy against GBV, fostering awareness, dialogue, and action for a safer, more equitable future.

Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to gender equality. She said, "The govern-

ment of Pakistan is committed to ensuring that Pakistan becomes a country where women and girls can thrive without the shadow of violence. Rolling Resistance is a testament to the power of grassroots advocacy, and we are proud to support this impactful initiative."

The concluding candle lighting ceremony brought together attendees in a solemn moment of reflection and unity, symbolizing the shared resolve to illuminate the path toward a violence-free society.

The Rolling Resistance: Theatre on Wheels campaign has traveled from Karachi to Lahore, Peshawar, Kohat, and Mardan, engaging diverse audiences and amplifying its call to action. Aligned with Beijing+30

advocacy priorities, the campaign focuses on strengthening accountability by delivering justice to survivors and holding perpetrators responsible, securing sustainable funding for women's rights organizations and advancing national strategies and action plans to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

Observed annually from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day), the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence is a global movement demanding urgent action to eradicate GBV. Through the #KoiJawazNahi campaign, UN Women Pakistan seeks to inspire a society built on dignity, equality, and safety for all.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
108,896.65	109,970.38	
Day's High	Day's Low	
111,759.58	107,711.40	
Index Value	Change	
48,589,192,240	-1073.73	
Percentage	Time	
-0.98%	10 Dec, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,280.36	-71.72	
Percentage	Time	
-0.86%	10 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
44,373.85	-28.08	
Percentage	Time	
-0.063%	10 Dec, 12:24 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,367.58	+207.08	
Percentage	Time	
+0.53%	10 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	178.25	180.50
Bahrain Dinar	733.50	741.50
Canadian Dollar	196.60	199.00
China Yuan	37.99	38.39
Danish Krone	39.15	39.55
Euro	291.15	293.90
Hong Kong Dollar	35.45	35.8
Indian Rupee	3.18	3.27
Japanese Yen	1.84	1.90
Kuwaiti Dinar	895.70	905.20
Malaysian Ringgit	61.75	62.35
New Zealand \$	162.4	164.4
Norwegians Krone	24.93	25.23
Omani Riyal	717.90	726.40
Qatari Riyal	75.7	76.4
Saudi Riyal	73.65	74.20
Singapore Dollar	207.75	209.75
Swedish Korona	25.13	25.43
Swiss Franc	312.71	315.46
Thai Bhat	8	8.15
U.A.E Dirham	75.40	76.05
UK Pound Sterling	351.50	355
US Dollar	277.60	279.10

SAARC delegation meets Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan to strengthen regional trade

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI), accompanied by the leadership of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), met with Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan today.

The discussions focused on fostering economic integration and revitalizing trade within the South Asian region.

The Minister warmly welcomed the delegation, acknowledging the significance of SAARC as a platform for regional cooperation.

Jam emphasized the need for member countries to strengthen trade ties and pledged Pakistan's commitment to facilitating businesses to promote regional commerce.

Minister Jam also highlighted the outcomes of the recently concluded Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Conference, showcasing Pakistan's efforts to enhance trade connectivity with Central and South Asia.



Minister Jam underscored the importance of revitalizing SAARC to promote regional trade. He called for direct flights between Pakistan and Bangladesh to facilitate trade and people-to-people connectivity.

The Bangladeshi delegation expressed interest in Pakistani fashion, particularly clothing and jewelry. The Minister invited them to visit the Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD) in Lahore, which they

graciously accepted.

Bangladesh also highlighted their demand for Pakistani food products, including onions and potatoes, and expressed willingness to import construction materials such as stones.

The Nepalese delegation showed keen interest in importing vegetables and other agricultural products from Pakistan.

The Minister echoed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision of prioritizing private sector-led initiatives. He proposed arranging business-to-business matchmaking meetings, similar to those recently held in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Malaysia.

The SAARC CCI delegation, led by its President, Mr. Md. Jashim Uddin, expressed a keen interest in re-energizing SAARC and announced plans to host a SAARC Summit in Dhaka in the coming months.

The meeting highlighted mutual interests and shared goals, setting the stage for stronger regional cooperation. The delegations reaffirmed their commitment to advancing trade, cultural exchange, and connectivity among SAARC countries.

Winter special

KARACHI: A street vendor is selling Chicken soup on his pushcart alongside a road during cold weather, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Meeting held to resolve the issue of Advances to Deposit Ratio (ADR) in banking sector

Commerce Desk

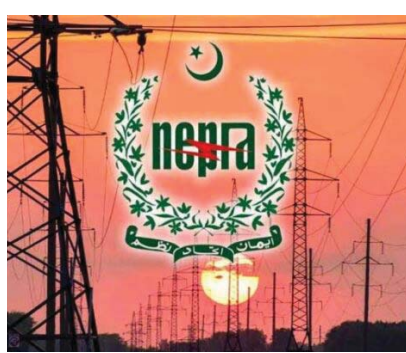
ISLAMABAD: A high-level meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, to address the issue of Advances to Deposit Ratio (ADR) in the banking sector. The meeting was attended by the Minister of State for Finance & Revenue, Governor State Bank, Secretary Finance, Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue, and other senior government officials.

The participants discussed the use of ADR policy on the overall lending to produc-

tive sectors of economy, its impact on tax revenue targets and optimum environment for banking sector.

The government, vide Finance Act 2022, had introduced higher tax rates on investment income for banks with ADR ratio below 50 percent. This tax aims to increase commercial lending and tax passive income at higher rate being an income from non-exertion. In the current quarter of 2024, the banking sector has been attempting to increase the ADR to avoid higher taxation. Alternative options to ADR based tax regime were discussed in the meeting.

NEPRA conducts public hearing on KE's Write-Off Claims



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: NEPRA today concluded its hearing on annual claims between FY17 and FY23 of unrecoverable dues against chronic defaulters filed by K-Electric. Pertinent to note that KE is allowed to claim these costs in the Multi-Year Tariff awarded to the utility, which is independent of the rates of electricity charged to customers in monthly bills under the uniform tariff policy.

The PKR 68 billion amount discussed in the hearing has accumulated over a 7-year period which is critical to the company's continued financial sustainability. These amounts have been unrecoverable despite best efforts against defaulters including multiple disconnections, engagement with specialized recovery agencies, and area specific initiatives etc. The submissions to NEPRA have also undergone strict internal scrutiny as well as external audits by well-credited and renowned audit firm as required by the NEPRA Authority.

Speaking on the occasion, Spokesperson K-Electric stated, "Unlike XWDISCOs, as a private utility KE has no contribution to the national circular debt, a fact that has been recognized by the World Bank and renowned global institutions. Disallowing legitimate claims will therefore directly impact KE's cashflows, affecting our capacity to fulfill plans to drive infrastructural upgrades for enhanced power supply to Karachi."

Increasing trade links between SAARC countries is the need of the hour, President FPCCI

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of member countries headed by President SAARC Chamber Jassimuddin visited the FPCCI Capital Office. President FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh welcomed the delegation to the capital office.

The delegation included representatives of the business community of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. In the meeting, they discussed improving trade, business and business-to-business relations between SAARC countries.

President SAARC Chamber Jassimuddin said at the event that he is very happy to come to Pakistan, it is hoped that this visit will lead to the promotion of mutual cooperation, 35% of the world's population lives in the SAARC region, which is a huge market. The region needs to learn from the European Union, ASEAN and other successful regional organizations.



The top priority of the business community of SAARC member countries is to increase trade. SAARC member countries can benefit from each other's capabilities.

Beauty, Fitness & Consumer Health Asia to be held on Dec 12-15

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The 10th edition of the Beauty, Fitness, Consumer Health Expo and ICPF (Household & Stationery Education Asia) Exhibition will take place from December 12 to 15 at the Karachi Expo Centre. Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inaam Memon will be the chief guest of the event.

More than 2,000 renowned brands and 350 companies from seven countries are participating in the expo, including the USA, China, Korea, Iran, Turkey, and Indonesia. The exhibition is expected to attract 40,000 visitors

and generate \$20 million in revenue through service exports, B2B deals, sponsorships, and tourism-related activities.

The exhibition offers a unique opportunity for local businesses to connect with global investors, buyers, and distributors, facilitating



international partnerships and boosting exports. This event will help elevate Pakistan's market potential and support the country's expanding consumer sector, especially in the rapidly growing beauty and wellness industry.

SECP Appellate Bench handled 314 Appeals till date during the year 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission's (SECP) Appellate Bench, an apex quasi-judicial Appellate forum, has managed 314 cases till date during the year 2024. Out of these, 122 Appeals/Review were disposed of and the remaining cases were adjourned due to the Appellants' absence.

The cases decided by the Appellate Bench during the period, were related to the regulatory and statutory violations. Major violations pertained to areas such as, issue of capital, anti-money laundering, insurance, annual general meeting,

Illegal Deposit Taking, Disqualification of Directors, the appointment of independent directors, statutory filing of accounts and Employees' provident funds, among others.

In comparison, the Appellate Bench Registry fixed 125 Appeals from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. During previous year, 89 Appeals/Review were disposed of whereas, the remaining cases were adjourned on the Appellants' request.

During recent times, there has been a strong focus towards clearing the outstanding appeals. As a result, backlog of Appeals from year 2011 to 2016 has already been cleared. The

next milestone is to dispose of all pending Appeals filed during 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Filing of Appeals before the Appellate Bench is a continuous and



ongoing process and in addition to backlog of Appeals, since January 1, 2023 to date, 192 new Appeals have also been filed with the Appellate Bench. Currently, 426 Appeal/

Review are pending adjudication before the Appellate Bench.

The Chairman SECP has directed the Appellate Bench Registry to issue a hearing roster/cause list for appeals to be fixed before the Appellate Bench in the next two months i.e. January and February 2025. Through this measure, chances of adjournments by the parties on account of non-availability of Counsels/authorized representatives will be reduced. In this exercise around 150 appeals will be heard and disposed of by the Appellate Bench in two months.

Islamabad High Court, Lahore High Court and High Court of Sindh have heard and decided Appeals

under Section 34 of the SECP Act, 1997 filed against the order passed by the Appellate Bench. Since January 1, 2023, the Lahore High Court decided eleven (11) Appeals and all were dismissed, whereas, Islamabad High Court dismissed nine out of ten (10) Appeals. Moreover, the Sindh High Court disposed of three (3) Appeals during the period.

All the orders passed by the Appellate Bench are placed on the SECP's website without any delay. In addition, 29 important and key decisions of the Appellate Bench are also published in Corporate Law Decisions (CLD) published by Pakistan Law Decisions (PLD).

Year in Search 2024: Google announces top search trends of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Google's Year in Search 2024 released a captivating narrative of Pakistan's digital landscape, one where sports, entertainment, food and technology kept the users hooked to Google, showcasing the nation's content preferences.

Cricket, as it usually does, dominated search trends, with the ICC T20 World Cup capturing the nation's attention. Searches for PSL 2024 schedules and matchups, alongside queries for star players like Shoaib Malik and Sajid Khan, further demonstrated Pakistan's love for the game. Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem also attracted significant attention from Pakistani users after he won the first Gold medal for the country in almost three decades.

This enthusiasm for notable figures extended beyond the sports world, with searches for media personalities Sana Javed and Zoya Nasir, Indian business tycoon Mukesh Ambani, and social media figures Hareem Shah and Minahil Malik. Entertainment also



held a prominent place in Pakistan's digital landscape, with the enduring appeal of Pakistani dramas evident in searches for shows like Ishq Murshid and Kabhi Main Kabhi Tum. Bollywood films like Animal, Dunki, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, and Stree 2 also generated buzz, along with reality show Bigg Boss and the eagerly awaited Mirzapur Season 3.

Beyond entertainment, Pakistanis turned to Google for a taste of culinary delights, with searches for recipes ranging from banana bread and creamy pasta to local favorites like malpura and tawa kaleji. The popularity of quick bites like garlic bread and egg noodles,

along with seasonal drinks like peach iced tea, further showcased the nation's diverse palate.

On the tech front, searches for Gemini, and Remaker AI highlighted the growing interest in AI tools, while queries for the latest smartphones, including models from Infinix, Redmi, Vivo, and Apple, demonstrated a desire to stay connected. "How to" searches revealed a practical side, with queries about polling stations reflecting the election year and searches on making flowers last longer showcasing everyday creativity. Parenting tips, particularly on teaching sharing to four-year-olds, highlighted the importance of family values.

"This year's Year in Search reveals a Pakistan that is both deeply rooted in its traditions and eagerly embracing the possibilities of the digital age. From the cricket pitch to the kitchen, from the silver screen to the search bar, Pakistanis are using Google to explore their passions, connect with

their culture, and shape their future. AI has been integral to reimagining what Search can do, and we're looking forward to expanding on our capabilities to help Pakistanis discover more of the web and the world around them," said Farhan Qureshi, Google's Country Director for Pakistan.

Google's Year in Search 2024 offers an interesting outlook of Pakistan's digital preferences, where tradition and modernity blend seamlessly.

Google's annual year-end lists for this year comprise the following six categories:

- a) Cricket:
 - 1) T20 World Cup
 - 2) Pakistan vs England
 - 3) Pakistan vs Bangladesh
 - 4) Pakistan vs Australia
 - 5) Pakistan vs India
 - 6) PSL 2024 Schedule
 - 7) Pakistan vs USA
 - 8) India vs England
 - 9) India vs South Africa
 - 10) India vs England

Nafay guides UMT Markhors win against Engro Dolphins

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Opening batter Khawaja Mohammad Nafay smashed a fiery half century to anchor UMT Markhors' two-wicket win over a fighting Engro Dolphins on the fourth day of the Bahria Town Champions T20 Cup in Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Nafay's 41-ball 68 spiced with four sixes and as many fours guided UMT Markhors to overhaul the modest 129-run target in 18.5 overs to give Markhors their second win in as many games.

The Misbah-ul-Haq mentored team is now second with four points while ABL Stallions are top of the table, also with four points from two matches but have a superior net run-rate.

The 22-year-old Nafay from Karachi lifted his team from the early loss of Fakhar Zaman (nought),

Muhammad Shahzad (11, 9b, 2x4s) and Abdul Samad (1, 3b), adding 29 for the fourth wicket with skipper Iftikhar Ahmed who made five.

Spinner Qasim Akram dismissed Nafay leg-before and then two more wickets fell as Dolphins fought back but Mohammad Nawaz made sure the chase was completed with a cautious 19-ball 18 not out including two fours while Akif Javed hit the winning boundary.

Dolphins, who have now lost both their matches,

were given an ideal start by fast bowler Sameen Gul who took three early wickets but other than him no bowler could detract the rampaging Markhors.

Earlier, sent into bat, Engro Dolphins lost Sahibzada Farhan in the first over, without scoring. Muhammad Akhlaq hit a 33-ball 40 studded with two sixes and three boundaries while Mirza Tahir Baig knocked 28-ball 29 with two sixes and a boundary.

Dolphins were relying on vice-captain Qasim Akram

who scored 14 and experienced batter Umar Amin who managed just 11 as they slumped from 81-2 to 128-9. Nawaz grabbed 3-28 while fast-rising pacer Akif Javed finished with 2-33.

Scores in brief: Match 5 - UMT Markhors beat Engro Dolphins by two wickets, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

Engro Dolphins 128-9 in 20 overs (Muhammad Akhlaq 40, Mirza Tahir Baig 29; Mohammad Nawaz 3-28, Akif Javed 2-33)

UMT Markhors 132-8 in 18.5 overs (Khawaja Mohammad Nafay 68, Mohammad Nawaz 18 not out; Sameen Gul 3-23, Qasim Akram 2-11)

Player of the match - Khawaja Mohammad Nafay (UMT Markhors)

Tomorrow's fixture: Nurrpur Lions vs Lake City Panthers, 12pm at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium



PSL 10 Player Draft schedule revealed in newly-released promo

LAHORE: The management of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) announced on Tuesday that the Player Draft for the upcoming season 10 will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025.

A captivating 26-second promotional video was released on PSL's social media, signalling the countdown to the much-anticipated player draft with the caption, "The countdown begins."

On the other hand, sources have revealed that an important meeting is scheduled for later this week to delve into various matters concerning the upcoming edition of the league.

The sources also revealed that the registration process for both domestic and foreign players will also start in the coming days.

Reports also indicate that the six franchises have proposed the idea of conducting the player draft for the PSL 10 overseas, with potential locations being either England or Dubai.

Furthermore, the franchises are keen on attracting prominent foreign players for the forthcoming edition, particularly those who may have been overlooked in the recent Indian Premier League (IPL) mega auction.

Shaheen Afridi achieves major milestone in first T20I against South Africa

A Sports

DURBAN: Pakistan pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi has achieved a major T20I milestone during the first of the three-match series against South Africa here at Kingsmead on Tuesday.

Shaheen returned with bowling figures of 3-22 to reach the coveted 100-wicket mark in T20I cricket.

He became the third bowler from Pakistan to reach the landmark after Shadab Khan and Haris Rauf.

Overall, he became the 19th bowler globally and the eighth fast bowler to claim 100 wickets in T20Is.

It's worth noting that after the first T20I match in Durban today, the action will shift to Centurion for the second T20I, which is scheduled for December 13. The series will culminate with the final T20I in Johannesburg on December 14.



After wrapping up the T20I series, Pakistan and South Africa will play a three-match ODI series.

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The opening ODI will take place on

December 17 in Paarl, while the second and third ODIs will be played in Cape Town and Johannesburg on December 19 and 22 respectively.

Pakistan and South Africa will then engage in a two-match Test series, which will kick off in Centurion on December 26, meanwhile, the second Test will start from January 3 in Cape Town.

Pakistan Playing XI: Mohammad Rizwan (c)(wk), Saim Ayub, Babar Azam, Usman Khan, Tayyab Tahir, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Abbas Afridi, Shaheen Afridi, Sufyan Muqeem, Haris Rauf, Abrar Ahmed.

South Africa Playing XI: Rassie van der Dussen, Reeza Hendricks, Mathew Breetzke, David Miller, Heinrich Klaasen (c)(wk), Donovan Ferreira, George Linde, Andile Simelane, Nqaba Peter, Kwena Maphaka, Otneil Baartman

WSF World Team Squash C'ship: Unbeaten Pakistan qualify for playoffs



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's squash team continued stellar performance at the WSF World Team Squash Championship, defeating Italy 3-0 in their final pool match to finish unbeaten in Pool H in Hong Kong, China on Tuesday.

The comprehensive win saw Pakistan securing the top spot in their group with 6 points, earning a well-deserved place in the playoffs, according to information made available here by Pakistan Squash Federation.

In the match against Italy, Pakistan players showcased their complete dominance.

David Miller, George Linde power South Africa to 183-9 against Pakistan



A Sports

DURBAN: David Miller and George Linde played blistering knocks to help South Africa post a mammoth 183-9 against Pakistan in the first T20I here at Kingsmead on Tuesday.

South Africa opted to bat first but failed to get the desired start as they soon found themselves struggling at 28-3.

David Miller then stitched a one-sided partnership of 43 runs with skipper Heinrich Klaasen (12) before Abbas Afridi broke the budding stand.

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Jazz tape ball super league launches to celebrate street cricket

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital conglomerate, has launched the eagerly awaited Jazz Tape Ball Super League with an electrifying opening ceremony.

The league aims to nurture grassroots talent and spotlight the vibrant street cricket culture cherished across Pakistan said a news release.

The tournament features eight top-tier tape ball teams from diverse regions of Pakistan, competing in exhilarating six-over matches.

Celebrated tape ball players, including Taimoor Mirza and Zaheer Kaliya, bring star power to the league, enhancing its appeal. Teams will face off in a pool-based format before advancing to the playoffs. The grand finale, along with a closing ceremony, is set for December 14.

Ali Fahd, Vice President of Marketing at Jazz, shared his enthusiasm for the initiative, stating: "Cricket is more than just a sport in Pakistan—it is a unifying force and an integral part of our cultural fabric. At Jazz, we recognize its potential to inspire and engage youth in constructive and healthy pursuits. We are committed to promoting grassroots cricket, supporting the rich tradition of street cricket, and creating platforms for local talent to shine on the national and global stage."

The matches will be streamed live on Tamasha, Pakistan's largest homegrown OTT platform, which has been instrumental in bringing cricket action to fans nationwide. This includes coverage of the Jazz Tape Ball Premier League held in Karachi earlier this year, along with live streaming of ICC events and

Key player dropped as Pakistan unveil Playing XI for first South Africa T20I

A Sports

DURBAN: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced the Playing XI for the first T20I of the three-match series against South Africa, scheduled to be played here today.

Pakistan team management has decided to drop white-ball vice-captain Salman Ali Agha from the Playing XI for the series opener at Kingsmead.

Saim Ayub, Babar Azam and skipper Mohammad Rizwan will form Pakistan's top order, followed by Usman Khan, Tayyab Tahir and Muhammad Irfan Khan in the subsequent positions.

Watch Pakistan vs South Africa Live on ARY ZAP

The Green Shirts have opted to field two specialist spinners - Sufyan Muqeem and Abrar Ahmed, along with pacers Abbas Afridi, Shaheen Afridi, and Haris Rauf.

It's worth noting that after the first T20I match in Durban today, the action will shift to Centurion for the second T20I, which is scheduled for December 13. The series will culminate with the final T20I in Johannesburg on December 14.

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Cabinet Meeting

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



Photo: PID

Cabinet gives nod to eight IPPs settlement agreements to bring down power tariff

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet in its meeting, with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the chair, on Tuesday approved settlement agreements with eight independent power plants (IPPs) running on bagasse.

The meeting granted its approval on the recommendation of the Ministry of Energy and the Power Division.

Cabinet gives nod to eight IPPs settlement agreements to bring down power tariff

These power plants

included DW Unit I, Unit II, RYK Mills, Chiniot Power, Hamza Sugar, Al-Moez Industries, Thal Industries and Chinar Industries.

After the approval of these agreements, the Central Power Purchasing Agency would contact NEPRA regarding a reduction in the power tariffs produced by these power plants.

As a result of these agreements, electricity prices for the general public would decrease and the national exchequer would benefit by Rs238 billion rupees, PM Office Media Wing

said in a press release. Cabinet gives nod to eight IPPs settlement agreements to bring down power tariff

Addressing the meeting, the prime minister said the government was taking all possible steps to reduce electricity prices for the common man.

He emphasized that the national interests should always be prioritized in every decision and action and also mentioned that the promotion of the private sector and industries in the country was a key priority for the government.

The federal cabinet was also briefed on the latest situation in Syria and the evacuation of Pakistanis from there.

The cabinet was informed that out of 250 Pakistani pilgrims in Syria, 79 had reached Beirut, from where they would be brought back to Pakistan.

Additionally, out of 20 teachers and students in Syria, seven teachers had also reached Beirut.

The meeting was further informed that the officials of the Pakistani embassies in Syria and Lebanon were taking

all possible measures to ensure the safe return of Pakistanis from Syria.

The federal cabinet approved the appointment of Brigadier Asim Bashir Warraich as Member of Production Control on the Board of Heavy Industries Taxila, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence Production.

The federal cabinet also sanctioned the establishment of the National Commission for the Status of Women Fund, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Human Rights.

Pakistan strongly condemns Israeli aggression against Syria, illegal seizure of territory

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday condemned in the strongest possible terms, Israeli aggression against Syria and its illegal seizure of Syrian territory.

"This assault on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria is a grave breach of international law. Israel's provocative actions are a dangerous development in an already volatile region. Israel has continued to blatantly defy international law and violate UN Security Council Resolutions," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement.

Pakistan expressed full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria and rejected Israeli acquisition of territory by force.

"We reaffirm our support for the UN Security Council Resolution 497, which declares Israeli annexation of

the Golan Heights 'null and void and without international legal effect,' it was further added

Pakistan urged the international community, including the United Nations Security Council, to take immediate and decisive steps to end Israeli impunity, its repeated violations of international law, and aggression against countries of the region.

Pakistan also reiterated that peace in the Middle East could not be achieved

without complete Israeli withdrawal from Occupied Palestine and other occupied territories, including the Syrian Golan.



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Court extends judicial remand of 54 accused for identification process

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday extended a two-day judicial remand of 54 PTI activists to complete identification parade in a case registered by Khanna Police Station.

ATC Judge Tahir Abbas



Sapra heard the case. However, the accused couldn't be produced before the court and police prayed the court to grant further three-day remand of the accused.

The judge said that the court is granting only two days to complete the procedure and instructed the police to

present the accused at the next hearing. The judge remarked that the high court has stated that the identification process should be completed within three days but the prosecution is demanding three more days. The court extended the remand and adjourned the case.

ECP meeting concludes without decision on reserved seats, KP Senate elections

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday concluded its meeting without deciding on the allocation of reserved seats and Senate elections in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

According to details, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja presided over the meeting that failed to yield any concrete results, the sources said.

The ECP meeting focused on the allocation of reserved seats and the upcoming Senate elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). A briefing was provided to the commission on the preparations for the KP Senate elections.

The meeting also discussed the allocation of reserved seats, with members of the Election Commission, the Secretary, and relevant officials in attendance.

The ECP will reconvene tomorrow to continue discussions on the matter.

They added that the ECP's another meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday under the chairmanship of CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja.



Pak Navy Ship Saif conducts joint exercise with Royal Navy of Oman



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship Saif conducted Joint Patrol and Passage Exercise with Royal Navy of Oman Vessel (RNOV), AL-Seeb and Spanish Navy Ship Santa Maria.

Exercises were aimed to develop synergy and mutual understanding between Navies operating in the region while demonstrating interoperability to undertake Joint Operations.

The exercise between Royal Navy of Oman Ship Al-Seeb, Pakistan Navy Ship Saif and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency Ship Kashmir was conducted during Focused Operation 'Karakoram Resolve' under Pakistan led Combined Task Force (CTF-150), said a news release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pak Navy) on Tuesday.

"Upon culmination of Focused

Operation 'Karakoram Resolve', PNS Saif also conducted exercises with Spanish Navy Ship Santa Maria and rehearsed various maritime operations to enhance interoperability," it said.

Pakistan Navy has always been at the forefront of international efforts towards Maritime Security by maintaining a permanent presence in the vital areas of Indian Ocean Region (IOR), it further said.

In addition, Pakistan Navy and Royal Navy of Oman regularly conduct Bilateral Exercise Thamar Al Tayyib to enhance mutual cooperation and understanding between brotherly navies.

"Pakistan Navy and Royal Navy of Oman share a history of operating together for promoting regional peace and stability; wherein regular visits and interaction are being conducted between both navies," it added.

SC bins plea to shift military trial accused to civilian jails

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) constitutional bench on Tuesday rejected the plea to shift accused under military trial to civilian jails.

On Oct 23, 2023 ruling, the Supreme Court (SC) declared that trying civilians in military courts for their alleged role in attacks on army installations during the riots that followed PTI founder Imran Khan's arrest were ultra vires the Constitution.

A seven-member constitutional bench, headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan took up the plea challenging the trial of civilians in the military court.

At the outset of the hearing, the SC bench was informed about the absence of defence ministry's counsel Khawaja Haris due to illness.

The SC bench on the request of the additional attorney general of Pakistan, adjourned the hearing until Thursday.

During the hearing, Latif Khosa, representing the petitioners, urged the court to transfer detainees to civilian jails to facilitate family meetings.



However, Justice Aminuddin dismissed the plea, noting that the AGP had already assured the court that arrangements for family meetings would be made. He emphasized the need to remain focused on the legal aspects of the case.

In the last hearing, the Supreme Court (SC) rejected a plea by former CJP Justice (retired) Jawad S. Khawaja to halt appeals against trials of civilians in military courts and slapped a fine of Rs20,000 for submitting 'unnecessary' pleas in the court.

In December last year, a larger bench led by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood had suspended the SC judgement and allowed the trial of civilians in military courts without announcement of judgement.

PTA launches cybersecurity awareness week 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has launched the Cybersecurity Awareness Week 2024 from December 9 to 15.

This week-long initiative aims to bolster awareness of digital safety at the individual and consumer levels, a press statement issued here read.

The campaign will focus on online security, data privacy, and the legal aspects of cybercrimes under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act

(PECA) 2016.

According to a news release, the PTA will host expert discussions to equip individuals and organizations with essential knowledge to protect themselves from emerging cyber threats.

The PTA invited citizens, businesses, and educational institutions to participate and strengthen Pakistan's cybersecurity environment by following our social media handles and posting and resharing our content.

Naqvi, US envoy discuss strengthening ties, modernizing law enforcement

Continued from Page 1

equipping civil armed forces with modern tools are top priorities to counter terrorism and manage emergencies," Naqvi stated.

Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker reaffirmed U. S. support in these efforts and commended Pakistan's commitment to improving law enforcement. She also praised the successful organization of a

police officers' passing-out parade, congratulating Minister Naqvi on the achievement.

The meeting underscored the strong and long-standing relations between Pakistan and the U. S., emphasizing mutual goals for security and cooperation. Federal Interior Secretary Khurram Ali Agha and Additional Interior Secretary Riffat Mukhtar Raja were also present at the occasion.