



**DPM Dar, Jane Marriot reaffirm commitment to enhance bilateral cooperation**

The UK High Commissioner, Jane Marriot Wednesday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, both the dignitaries reaffirmed commitment to further enhance bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.



**Electricity prices hiked for consumers across country**

Pakistan's struggling citizens face another blow as electricity prices have been increased nationwide, adding to the burden of already high inflation. NEPRA announced a 20 paise per unit increase in electricity prices, citing quarterly adjustments. The notification specifies that this increase is for the first quarter of the current fiscal year and will be applicable for the month of December 2024.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**PM Meeting with newly hired experts**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the newly hired experts in different sectors of economy, in Prime Minister's Office, on Wednesday.

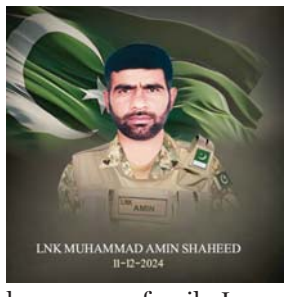


Photo: PID

**Seven Khwarij were sent to hell in North Wazirisatn**

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On 10-11 December 2024, Seven Khwarij were sent to hell in two separate engagements in North Wazirisatn District.



brave son of soil, Lance Naik Muhammad Amin (age: 34 years, resident of District Faisalabad), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

An intelligence based operation was conducted by the Security Forces in general area Miran Shah, North Wazirisatn District on reported presence of Khwarij. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location as a result of which four Khwarij were sent to hell. In another encounter that took place in general area Spinwam, North Waziriran District, own troops successfully neutralized three more khwarij. However, during the intense fire exchange, one Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area as Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

**Peaceful protest right of every political party but usage of state resources not allowed: Dar**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said peaceful protest was the right of every political party but use of public and state resources for protest were not allowed. Responding to various points raised by leader of the opposition in the Senate Syed Shibli Faraz, he said the opposition should

learn lesson from the past and the country could not afford chaos. He said that 100-150 people who were part of the opposition protest on November 26 have weapons and those have been arrested. Out of those arrested people, over three dozen were Afghan citizen and were paid to participate, he added. He said like May 9, the protesters crossed all red lines and six personnel of law enforcing agencies including 4 of Rangers

lost their lives. Some 232 personnel of police including 56 of Islamabad police sustained injuries adding that dozen of them were still in critical condition, he added. He said the protesters have weapons, slingshots, and sticks. "Who were they here to conquer? Was there any enemy here?" he said. He called upon the opposition to provide details of your workers who were killed during the protest and the government would verify

them. Ishaq Dar said that on November 26, the police force were at the front followed by the Rangers. Army was only deployed under article 245 of the constitution for protection of key government buildings including the Parliament in the Red Zone, he added. He said the PTI held march despite ban on rallies by Islamabad High Court in the Capital. The Opposition was offered to hold

rally at Sangjani but they kept on insisting that they would go to D-Chowk, he added. He said false news and propaganda was being spread through social media. "You people have publicized it all over the world, saying that something terrible happened," he added. He said PTI workers were experts at spreading fake news on social media and they always twisted and edited our statements and broadcast them.

**President, PM pay tribute to security forces for killing seven Khawarij in N Waziristan operations**



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tribute to the Security Forces for killing seven Khawarij during two separate operations in North Waziristan district. In separate statements, the president and prime minister praised the bravery of the security forces for eliminating the terrorists. They also paid homage to Lance Naik Muhammad Amin Shaheed for embracing martyrdom while bravely confronting terrorists. The president and prime minister praised the bravery and patriotism of Lance Naik Muhammad Amin Shaheed and expressed their condolences to his heirs. They also prayed for the highest ranks in paradise for Lance Naik Muhammad Amin Shaheed and for the patience and strength of his family to bear the loss. The president and prime minister expressed their determination to continue operations until the complete eradication of Fitnat-ul-Kharji from the country. The said, "The entire nation is with our forces in the war against terrorism. Operations will continue until the complete eradication of the scourge of terrorism."

**JIT implicates Hasaan Niazi's siser in Jinnah House attack**



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Joint Investigation Team (JIT) has cleared eight Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers, including women, of any wrongdoing in the incident. A Lahore anti-terrorism court judge, Manzar Ali Gul, heard the Jinnah House attack and arson case on Wednesday. Lawyers for the acquitted individuals requested the withdrawal of their bail applications, which the court granted. However, the JIT implicated Hajra Niazi, sister of Hassan Niazi, in the attack. Fatima Haider, Beena Zeeshan, and Ruksana Naveed were also declared guilty by the JIT. The court extended the interim bail of Hajra Niazi and the others until January 15th. A case against the accused in the Jinnah House attack has been registered at the Sarwar Road police station. Further proceedings are expected in the case.

**No rift with Bushra Bibi, Raja says**

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Salman Akram Raja, central secretary general of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has accused the state of using lethal force against PTI protesters, claiming that several party members were killed and many more remain missing. In an interview on Aaj TV's program "Spotlight", Raja stated that the party will present witnesses within days to corroborate these claims. Raja asserted that the government's response to the protests was excessive and unjustified. He alleged that not only were protesters subjected

to shelling, but live ammunition was also used, resulting in the deaths of 12 PTI members. He further stated that the party is currently compiling evidence to support these claims and will file a First Information Report (FIR) once all the necessary documentation is gathered. The PTI leader also highlighted the plight of missing party workers, estimating their number to be between 150 and 200. He accused authorities of falsely implicating these individuals in cases related to the May 9 incidents, demanding justice for those unjustly arrested. Raja categorically denied

that PTI workers were armed, stating that they possessed nothing more than slingshots. He conceded that protesters may have retaliated by throwing stones and shells. Regarding PTI Chairman Imran Khan's current situation, Raja stated that Barrister Gohar had reported that Khan had agreed to a plea bargain regarding the Bani Gala residence. He expressed concern over Khan's apparent lack of communication with the outside world, emphasizing the need for Khan's voice to be heard. Raja also denied any rift between the party and Bushra Bibi. He dismissed reports suggesting otherwise as false.

**Jalaluddin Haqqani's brother killed in Kabul blast**



Agencies

KABUL: A suicide bombing at the Ministry of Refugees headquarters in Kabul has killed Khalil ur Rehman Haqqani, Afghanistan's Minister for Refugees, according to two senior Taliban officials. The explosion, which occurred on Wednesday, also claimed the lives of at least two of the minister's colleagues. While the exact number of casualties remains unclear, officials fear the death toll could rise to as high as ten. The Taliban government is currently investigating the attack and the perpetrators' motives. Haqqani was the brother of the late Jalaluddin Haqqani, founder of the Haqqani network, and the uncle of Sirajuddin Haqqani, Afghanistan's current Interior Minister. The bombing represents a significant blow to the Taliban administration. Further details regarding the attack and ongoing investigations are awaited.

**Mohsin Naqvi pays tribute to the security forces for successful IBO**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has paid tribute to the security forces for 2 successful intelligence-based operations against Khawarij terrorists in North Waziristan. He appreciated the security forces for bringing 7 Khawarij terrorists to an exemplary end. He paid homage to Lance Naik Muhammad Amin, who bravely fighting Khawarij terrorists. He has said that Lance Naik Muhammad Amin has attained the high status of martyrdom. He also expressed his heartfelt condolences to the



family of martyr. Interior Minister said that the brave security forces have once again foiled the nefarious intentions of the Khawarij terrorists. Naqvi emphasized that the nation stands with the security forces in the war against terrorism. He highlighted that security forces of Pakistan have achieved significant successes in the war against terrorism

**Ambassador of the UAE called on Deputy PM/ Foreign Minister**



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the UAE, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi, called on Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar. They discussed areas of cooperation between Pakistan and the UAE. DPM/FM and Ambassador Al Zaabi also discussed visa issues for Pakistani nationals. The ambassador briefed the DPM on the steps being taken to streamline the visa processes including augmenting human resource. These steps will cut the delays and expedite the visa processing.

# 'Israel is implementing Greater Israel plan': Siraj ul Haq

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: The Muslim League-Nawaz and the People's Party government have failed to run the country. Former Ameer-e Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Siraj-ul-Haq said

The country's economy is being run on artificial oxygen due to the debt of its neighbors. Siraj-ul-Haq

The weapon that the Ummah needs more than the atomic bomb is unity. The unity of the Ummah and the rejection of falsehood are the important needs of the hour. Siraj-ul-Haq's address to the Unity of the Ummah Conference and the media in Multan.

Former Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Siraj-ul-Haq, while speaking to the media at the Unity of the Ummah Conference organized by the Tehreek-e-Bidaari Ummah at a local hall in Multan, said that Israel is implementing the Greater Israel plan, which also includes Medina, but the rulers of the Ummah have remained a picture of silence. Since Donald Trump's statement that he will burn the Middle East with fire, the Muslim Ummah has been waiting for Imam Hussain. One name in the Holy Quran is Furqan, and in our time, Gaza is Furqan. The participants of



today's gathering have proven that they are with the people of Gaza and the jihad. Today, the Ummah is under siege from all sides. The role that the rulers of the Muslim Ummah played on the occasion of the Karbala incident is still playing the same role today. The Ummah and the rulers are silent today as they were then.

Sirajul Haq said that Israel has

been defeated. Today's miracle is the ongoing tunnel war in Palestine, which was started by the people of Gaza and the Palestinians. If Pakistan had also given a threat, Israel would have been forced to cease fire. Our rulers are slaves of the IMF and our value is 7 billion dollars. Our rulers are afraid of America and Israel. We do not need money, we need jealous rulers.

The PPP and PML-N governments have failed in their promises. The foreign exchange of \$11 billion is a loan given by neighbors. These governments are trying to run Pakistan with artificial oxygen.

Everyone is saddened by the fire in Parachinar. The solution to this problem is the responsibility of the state of Pakistan.

## Sindh government decides to upgrade provincial hospital emergency wards

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

KARACHI: Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Hyder Shah, chaired a significant meeting yesterday to discuss the upgrade of emergency wards in Sindh's public hospitals. Key officials from the health sector participated in the meeting, including Secretary Health Rehan Iqbal Baloch, Executive Director of Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) Professor Shahid Rasool, Executive Director of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Trauma Center Dr. Muhammad Sabir Memon, Medical Superintendent of Civil Hospital Syed Khalid Bukhari, Director of Abbasi Shaheed Hospital Dr. Faisal Sambani, and other senior hospital administrators.

The meeting aimed to improve the quality and efficiency of emergency healthcare services across the province. Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah emphasized that the vision of Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah is to introduce comprehensive reforms in the health sector for public welfare. He stated that these reforms aim to make emergency healthcare services more accessible and effective to meet growing demands efficiently.

During the meeting, detailed data collected from major hospitals in Karachi was presented. The data revealed the high patient volume in emergency departments. For instance, JPMC attends to approximately 2,000 patients daily, amounting to 60,000 monthly. Similarly, Dr. Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital serves 1,800 patients daily, translating to 54,000 patients per month. Other facilities, including Lyari General Hospital and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Trauma Institute, also see substantial patient numbers.

## FCCI calls for mechanized agriculture in Pakistan



**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Pakistan should develop its Foundry and Allied Engineering sectors on modern scientific lines in collaboration with Slovakia to introduce mechanized agriculture with locally manufactured appliances in addition to value addition and exporting the surplus to earn precious foreign exchange, said Dr. Miroslav Matejka, President of the Association of Foundries and Forges of Slovakia. He was attending the first meeting of the newly constituted FCCI Standing Committee on Agriculture, Carbon Footprint/Zero Emissions, and Foundry & Allied Engineering on the special invitation of Engr. Ahmad Hassan convener FCCI standing committee. Dr. Miroslav Matejka was heading a 2-member delegation including Engineer Juraj Kovachik. Dr. Miroslav Matejka is also a member of Slovakia's expert commission on education and environmental protection. He appreciated the proactive approach of President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mr. Rehan Naseem Bharara and Engineer Ahmed Hasan to foster international collaborations in Pakistan's heavy manufacturing sector. Discussions during the meeting revolved around critical issues affecting agriculture, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and the foundry sector in Pakistan.

Engr. Ahmad Hassan emphasized implementing industrial reforms to minimize GHG emissions, with a particular focus on energy-intensive industries such as foundries by adopting sustainable practices. Dr. Matejka and Engr. Kovachik highlighted the significant export potential of Pakistan's foundry industry and assured their support for collaboration in advancing foundry technologies and heavy manufacturing sectors. Later President FCCI Mr. Rehan Naseem Bharara presented FCCI shields to Slovakian guests. The meeting was also attended by Engr. Asim Munir, Mr. Muzammil Sultan, Dr. Muhammad Arif, Dr. Muhammad Asif, and Mr. Muhammad Tayyab.

Later the Slovak delegation visited the Chenab Engineering Works & Foundries Pvt Ltd. They also commended the facility's high standards of workmanship.

## DIG Headquarters reviews recruitment, orders transparency

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Headquarters/Security, Muhammad Jawad Tariq, chaired a meeting with senior police officers on Wednesday at the Central Police Office (CPO) to review the ongoing recruitment process within the Islamabad Police and discuss administrative improvements.

A public relation officer told APP that, the meeting was attended by AIG Establishment Abdul Haq Umrani, AIG Investigation and Complaints Inayat Ali Shah, the Admin Officer, and other senior police officers.

He said during the meeting, DIG Headquarters/Security reviewed the ongoing recruitment process within the Islamabad Police. He instructed the senior officers to complete the recruitment process as soon as possible, ensuring fairness and transparency.

He also directed all police officers to improve their performance, oversee the transfer of officers and staff across divisions, adopt effective strategies to resolve bottlenecks in investigative matters, and address public grievances promptly. Additionally, he issued orders to ensure that all tasks assigned by the IGP Islamabad are completed on time.

## An Open Letter to Syed Sardar Shah on the Deterioration of a Historic School in Hyderabad

Syed Sardar Shah,  
Minister for Education, Sindh  
Dear Sir,

You are seen as a beacon of hope for education in Sindh, but are you aware of how the future of our students is rapidly heading toward destruction?

The GOR Model School in Hyderabad, once a symbol of educational excellence and a beacon of hope, is now in a state of rapid decline due to administrative negligence and criminal carelessness.

This institution, which once enlightened thousands of students with knowledge, now appears more like a flea market than a school, owing to the disinterest of the school administration and the incompetence of the concerned officials. Every other month, the school is shut down for 10 to 15 days for one event or another, disrupting the academic environment and leaving education in ruins.

It is shocking that your subordinate officers—EDO and DO—are fully aware of this situation yet have taken no action. Are you aware that these officials are sabotaging your educational initiatives? They regularly close the school gates for events and examinations, leaving the primary section in a state of utter collapse while the quality of middle and higher sections continues to deteriorate rapidly.

You must reflect, sir—the children's futures secure under your ministry? Do your officials feel any sense of responsibility, or have they reduced this institution to a mere guest house for personal use?

The future of Sindh's children is your responsibility. There is still time for you to awaken your conscience. Hold your officials accountable for their negligence and restore this educational institution to its true purpose. The GOR Model School must once again become a beacon of learning and enlightenment.

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

## Wooden Boat

KARACHI: A worker busy in preparing new wooden boat for fishermen at Fish Harbour, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# Human Rights Commission stresses need for international action on HR of Kashmir, Palestine

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Addressing a discussion organized by Azan Human Rights Commission Pakistan on the occasion of World Human Rights Day, Chief Executive Chaudhry Waseem Raza Jatt, District President Dr Ghazanfar Malik, Central Senior Vice President Pakistan Employee Hussain Khan Kheda, Provincial Secretary Punjab Malik Ashfaq Ahmed Sandila and Legal Advisor Malik Qasur Anas Abbas Gra Advocate, Muhammad Imran Chaudhry Advocate said that the silence of international peace contractors on the massive human rights violations and genocide of Muslims in Palestine and occupied Kashmir is regrettable and condemnable.



The United Nations should immediately stop the worst atrocities in occupied Kashmir and Palestine and restore

the basic human rights of the Muslims of Palestine and occupied Kashmir. Addressing the discussion, central businessman and social leader

Moazzam Waheed Khawaja, renowned lawyer Malik Kashif Mumtaz, Malik Awais Nandla, Rana Muhammad Tanveer and District Secretary Club Abid Khan said that it is our national and national duty to make the society aware of basic human rights and law.

Senior Vice President Azan Human Rights Commission Multan Sajjad Ahmad Bhatti, Vice President Khawaja Dilshad Ahmed, Vice President Punjab Haider Khan Kheda, President Pakistan Business Forum Multan Sheikh Muhammad Irfan, President Jewellers Association Cantt Rana Shahid Ahmed, Senior Vice President South Punjab Hotels and Restaurants Association Ijaz Karim and others were present.

# Lodhran Pilot Project observes 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

**Chaudhry Asad Shakir**

LODHHRAN: The Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP) observes the 16 Days of Activism campaign as part of the USAID Subh-e-Nau Local Works Program in South Punjab.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international civil society led campaign. Series of events under the 16 Days of Activism organized by The Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP), in collaboration with its consortium partners consisted of Signify Consulting, Pelican Development Organization (PDO), Centre for Public Policy & Governance (CPPG), and Chanan Development Association (CDA) were completed with a commitment to form a just society.



Civil society organizations, communities, and the government must work together to build a peaceful society.

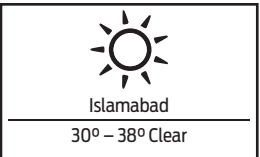
While speaking at the ceremony in Lodhran, Additional Commissioner General (ADCG) Mr. Muhammad Asad Budh commended the initiatives undertaken under the Subh-e-Nau project. He affirmed his commitment to supporting efforts in District

Lodhran to advance social cohesion and local development initiatives. Mr. Budh emphasized that the district government will continue to back programs that promote localization, peacebuilding, and equal

opportunities for all, free from discrimination. On December 9, 2024 Subh-e-Nau hosted a seminar titled Voices of Strength & Change: Honoring Our Champions in Lodhran as part of the global 16 Days of Activism campaign. The event gathered 150 participants (female 70, male 79, Transgender 2), including government officials, students, civil society members, and community leaders, to address gender-based violence (GBV) through education, dialogue, and collaboration. The event concluded with the distribution of souvenirs and shields to gender experts and change agents from South Punjab, recognizing their contributions to the cause.

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**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 &  
& Rescue Services ..... 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

**Dr. Shahab Alam Took Charge as MS in DHQ Hospital T. T. Singh**



**Zafar Chishti**

**TOBA TEK SINGH:** Doctor. Shahab Alam took charge as MS of his post in DHQ Hospital Toba Tek Singh. Dr. Shahab Alam is one of the hardworking, capable and honest officers. Dr. Shahab Alam has also served as MS THQ Gojra, MS DHQ Jhang and Toba Tek Singh. MS DHQ Hospital Toba Tek Singh, Dr. Shahab Alam has said that according to the instructions of the Punjab government, they are trying to provide better and free medical facilities to the people of Toba Tek Singh. He said that the doors of my office are open regarding problems in the provision of facilities.

# Riphah University strengthens global partnerships through academic leadership

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards achieving academic excellence on the global stage, Prof. Dr. Yawar Hayat Khan, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics) Riphah International University, represented the institution as an international keynote speaker and workshop facilitator at the prestigious Saudi International Medical Education Conference (SIMEC 2024) in Jazan, Saudi Arabia.

Hosted by the Saudi Society for Medical Education (SSME) and Jazan University, the conference focused on advancing Interprofessional Education (IPE) in healthcare.

Prof. Dr. Yawar Hayat Khan delivered a thought-provoking keynote address on the integration of Leadership and Quality Improvement in interprofessional health education.

He also led an inaugural pre-conference workshop on Educational Leadership, a pioneering effort in the Kingdom.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity, Prof. Dr. Yawar Hayat Khan acknowledged Dr. Hassan Alzahrani, President of SSME, for the invitation and exceptional hospitality.

He described the experience as a meaningful occasion to reconnect with long-time colleagues and forge new international collaborations. Riphah International University remains committed to cultivating global academic partnerships that provide students with opportunities to excel on an international platform.

The university's participation in SIMEC 2024 underscores its dedication to advancing education, fostering innovation, and empowering students to thrive in a globalized world.



## Travel Expo Briefing

ISLAMABAD: Additional Secretary Africa Hamid Asghar Khan posing for a group photograph along with participants after the briefing about Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation and established travel expert on the Pakistan Travel Expo to be held in Karachi from January 31st to February 2nd 2025, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Foundation University Islamabad (FUI) Holds Convocation 2024

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Convocation 2024 for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Foundation University School of Science and Technology (FUSST), was held at Topi Rakh Galaxy Hall, near Ayub Park, on December 11, 2024. Dr. Ata-ur-Rahman, renowned scientist and recipient of Nishan-e-Imtiaz, Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, and Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Rector, Major General (Retd) Muhammad Kaleem Asif, HI (M), and Pro Rector/Director Brig Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, (Retd) Foundation University School of Science and Technology, were also present.

A total of 520 students were awarded degrees, including 8 gold medals, 8 silver medals, 60 certificates of distinction, and 104 merit certificates.

The Pro Rector/Director of FUSST presented the annual report, highlighting significant milestones achieved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This year, 520 degrees are being awarded across programs in psychology, media,



computer arts, and English, with merit certificates introduced for MS graduates. FUSST's PhD programs have produced 112 scholars, with over 120 currently pursuing advanced research.

Dr. Ata-ur-Rahman, the Chief Guest,

congratulated the graduates, medal winners, and their parents for their hard work and achievements. He emphasized the importance of lifelong learning and urged graduates to transition into responsible professionals and leaders.

## Fetex'24 Opens at IIUI's Electrical and Computer Engineering Department

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (DECE) at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET), International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), inaugurated its annual event, FETEX'24, on Wednesday across both male and female campuses.

The opening ceremony at the male campus was presided over by Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, President of IIUI, while Dr. Amna Mahmood, In-Charge Female Campus, inaugurated the event at the female campus.

Addressing the participants, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja



emphasized the role of such events in developing technical skills and promoting innovation among students. He noted that FETEX'24 serves as a platform

for students to enhance their critical thinking and creativity in a competitive environment. He also lauded the efforts of the Dean of FET, the organizing team, and the In-Charge of FETEX'24 for their work in providing an engaging and dynamic experience for participants.

Dr. Amna Mahmood highlighted the significance of co-curricular activities in fostering well-rounded development among students.

Key attendees included Dean FET Dr. Saeed Badshah, Director ORIC Dr. Muhammad Amir, Chairman DECE Dr. Shahid Ikram, Dr. Arooj Rashid, and senior faculty members from both campuses.

A tradition spanning over a decade, FETEX remains central to the faculty's commitment to academic and extra-curricular development, providing a platform for students to showcase their skills and creativity.

## ICCI hosts 'Academia Linkages Conference'

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Industry-academia-government collaboration is crucial to overcoming the economic challenges facing the country. On Wednesday, this was the consensus at the 'Industry-Academia Linkages Conference' held at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Over thirty-five representatives from regional universities attended the important event.

In his welcome address, Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of ICCI, emphasized the Chamber's commitment to boosting economic growth, innovation, and collaboration between academia and industry.

Notable attendees included Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Vice Chancellor of National Skill University, Brig. (R) Arshad Zia of the International Islamic University, Brig. (R) Salman Zafar from NUTECH, Air Commodore (R) Fawad Waheed of Air University, Huma Akbar from HEC, Dr. Asif Naeem from FAST, Sana Maqbool from NUST, Ahmed Rafi from IST, and Dr. Serish Saba from STMU.

Adnan Mukhtar, Convener of the Higher Education Commission ICCI, highlighted a roadmap for bridging the gap between industry and academia, emphasizing the need for skill-based education to meet industrial requirements.

ICCI Vice President Nasir Mahmood Chaudhry, Executive members Waseem Chaudhry, Zulqurnain Abbasi, Ishaq Sial and former SVP Khalid Chaudhry were also present.

## Eliminate illegal encroachments, ensure smooth traffic: DIGP Tariq Razzaq

**Qayoom Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) Tariq Razzaq Dharejo, Hyderabad Range, stated that traffic police officers in Hyderabad city, in collaboration with relevant institutions, should eliminate illegal encroachments and other factors causing traffic disruptions. The district administration and district police will provide full support to the traffic police in improving the traffic system.

He expressed these views while addressing a meeting held at Abbas Conference Hall on traffic congestion causes, locations, solutions, and ensuring smooth traffic flow. The meeting was attended by SP Traffic Atta Muhammad Nizamani, DSP Traffic City Dawood Rehman, DSP Latifabad Anwar Ali Jathyal, DSP Rural Farooq Bhutto, Honorary Secretary of the District Traffic Management Board Javed Iqbal, and other officers.

The DIGP Hyderabad Range directed traffic officers to immediately ensure sufficient personnel deployment in the busiest traffic sections. Traffic section officers must ensure patrolling in their respective areas. The Quick Response Force should be fully staffed and deployed at locations identified by the Traffic Management Board. He also instructed that the traffic plan should be fully implemented, lifting equipment should be improved, and strict actions should be taken to eliminate one-way violations. The relevant DSP and SHO of the concerned police station will assist in this regard.

## Leader PML-N Mian Zaidur Rehman distributed livestock Cards in Farmer



**Zafar Chishti**

TOBA TEK SINGH: The leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Mian Zaidur Rehman Ramde has said that the Chief Minister of Punjab Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif is bringing a revolutionary program in Punjab. In this context, special measures are being taken for the development of agriculture and livestock sector and direct money is being provided to farmers in a transparent manner to improve the quality of life, Livestock Card is a link of this. He expressed these views yesterday in the event organized regarding the distribution of livestock cards. Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Iqranasir, Deputy Director Livestock Kamalia Dr. Syed Zeeshan Gilani along with Farms participated in the event. Leader PML-N Mian Zaidur Rehman distributed livestock cards in Farmer. Deputy Director Livestock Kamalia Syed Zeeshan Galani said that farmers who have 5 to 10 male calves can purchase feed supplements like, silage, and mineral mixture at Rs 27,000 per animal through the Livestock Card. The government will pay interest to Punjab Bank and the farmers will return the principal without interest in the fifth month.

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# Restoring PTI for Public Mobilization

**M**usharraf self-assumed the title of Chief Executive after successfully ousting the popularly elected government using the strength of tanks and guns, funded by taxpayers' money and executed by soldiers paid by the same electorate who had chosen the dismissed government. Later, realizing that the title of Chief Executive ranked lower in international protocol compared to heads of state or government, he unceremoniously removed President Rafiq Tarar and declared himself President. This marked what can be termed a second coup d'état, consolidating his power further.

Once in power, Musharraf faced the stark reality that, as an army general, he lacked a direct connection with the people—a necessary aspect of governance in a civilian setup. Recognizing this void, he tasked Tariq Aziz to orchestrate the acquisition of a political platform. The PMU-Q willingly aligned itself with Musharraf, becoming a political tool to bridge his administration with the electorate.

Juxtaposing this scenario with the current situation of PTI, we observe parallels post the events of May 9. The army and its operatives systematically targeted PTI, arresting its leadership and subjecting their families to untold hardships. They were presented with a stark ultimatum: renounce PTI and align with Jahangir Tareen's party to secure their freedom, or remain incarcerated, enduring humiliation and torture. Many capitulated under the pressure, some went into hiding, and a few chose to exit politics altogether. This systematic removal of seasoned politicians from PTI created a significant vacuum, depriving the party of essential political

capital and its direct connection to the people.

The vacuum was eventually filled by lawyers and non-political elements spared by the all-powerful army and the dreaded ISI. These lawyers-turned-politicians, while instrumental in keeping the party afloat during its most challenging times, derived their strength from the courts rather than public support. Although skilled in legal matters, they lacked the political acumen and sagacity required to navigate complex and intricate political landscapes. Their lack of constituencies and long-standing connections with electorates made it impossible for them to establish a direct link with the public.

This paradigm places Prisoner No. 804 in a dilemma similar to the one faced by Perviz Musharraf when he transitioned from military dictator to politician, buoyed by sycophants assuring him of unparalleled popularity in Pakistan's history.

In several of my previous articles, drawing from my four decades of experience within the corridors of power and my official roles as Press Secretary to former President Arif Alvi and Director General for former ministers Fawad Hussain and Shibli Faraz, I proposed a concept paper. This document emphasized the necessity of consciously reintegrating defected politicians, who had been forcefully removed from the party, to restore the much-needed political capital and reconnect with the people.

It appears that Prisoner No. 804 has also recognized the indispensability of political elements within the party.

He seems to have realized that for any meaningful and effective resistance movement, relying solely on an army of lawyers-turned-politicians may not suffice. While these individuals have played a commendable role in sustaining the party during its darkest hours, their disconnect from public service and lack of grassroots experience will remain a significant handicap.

In recent weeks, Prisoner No. 804 has reportedly met with several political defectors, including Fawad Hussain, Sheikh Rashid, Usman Dar, and others, while former President Arif Alvi is expected to be given a larger role in crafting an effective resistance strategy. This strategy aims to achieve four primary objectives: secure the release of Imran Khan, free jailed politicians, reclaim the stolen mandate based on Form 45, and oust the illegitimate government.

While these objectives appear legitimate, substantive, and appealing to the public, translating public sentiment into a meaningful movement with a critical mass of people on the streets requires significant political capital. This capital can only be harnessed under the leadership of seasoned politicians. A mass movement of this magnitude would leave the ruling elite with no choice but to yield to these demands or risk plunging the country into total chaos. Such a scenario could even jeopardize the survival of Pakistan's most powerful institution, the military. As a nuclear state, any instability of this nature could provoke international intervention to secure nuclear assets, depriving the country of its most crucial security guar-

antee—an asset gifted by civilian scientists and leaders, in light of the military's dismal performance in past wars.

Ironically, it is deeply painful for patriotic Pakistanis like me to witness the growing hatred and resentment among the public against the armed forces. This sentiment has led to calls for boycotting products and services offered by army-affiliated companies and institutions. With each passing day, this animosity grows stronger, raising concerns globally about the deteriorating confidence of the Pakistani people in their military. It is baffling and disheartening that this glaring reality seems to escape the attention of the army's leadership.

If the government in power, along with the power brokers who hold the real authority in our country, wishes to salvage whatever respect remains and transform the growing public resentment into admiration for the armed forces, they must take concrete and measurable steps to reverse their missteps. This includes undoing the installation of an illegitimate government and rectifying all subsequent actions that have undermined the country's institutions. The parliament, reduced to a mere rubber-stamping body, and the judiciary, rendered a toothless and clawless tiger, must be empowered to function independently and with integrity. Only by restoring institutional credibility and ensuring accountability can the leadership hope to rebuild public trust and foster a sense of unity and respect for the nation's armed forces.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## International Human Rights Day observed by WKAF

The World Kashmir Awareness Forum (WKAF), a prominent advocacy group, Tuesday highlighted the grave human rights violations over the years by Indian occupation forces in Jammu and Kashmir, and called on the United Nations to use its influence in putting an end to those abuses.

Marking International Human Rights Day, the forum drew attention to the 77 year-long rights crises in Kashmir. With over 100,000 civilian deaths and nearly as many missing as well as suppression of civic, political and economic life, the Kashmiri people are facing erasure from history.

To amplify the cause of Kashmir and the rights of the occupied people, the forum rented digital advertising trucks in New York City to remind the United Nations and representatives of major NOG's of the political and human rights situation in Indian occupied Kashmir.

The electronic screens on the digital trucks flashed messages such as: "Indian Atrocities at its Peak: Kashmiris Want World to Speak"; "Election in Kashmir is Ruse: India Committing Human Rights Abuse"; "Indian Forces on Killing Spree: Kashmir Needs to be Set Free"; "Kashmiris Reject Indian Occupation: UN Resolution only Solution"; "Indian Brutality in Kashmir Galore: World Community Cannot Ignore"; "Kashmir Facing Existential Threat: United Nations Needs to Act"; "Hold India accountable for war crimes in Kashmir"; "Land Grab Operation in Kashmir is Economic Terrorism"; "Freedom for all: Freedom for Kashmir," and "India: Stop Demographic Terrorism in Kashmir."

The digital advertising trucks drove around the United Nations headquarters, the Indian Mission; the Freedom Tower; the Times Square; the Indian Consulate and various other Missions to the UN.

Dr. Ghulam N. Mir, President of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum and Chairman of the Kashmir Diaspora Coalition, said that the proclamation of Human Rights Day by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948, was a major achievement, but the world body has failed to protect the basic rights of Kashmiri people.

"The world is drifting inexorably towards total dehumanization of Kashmiri and Palestinian people, and there are no signs of their plight changing for the better," he said, adding that it was time to do something to ameliorate their situation.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman of the World Forum for Peace & Justice underscored the role of the right of self-determination in resolving festering disputes and bringing freedom to the occupied people.

"Let us hope that the stage is set to put the Kashmir conflict on a road to a durable and permanent settlement," Dr Fai said.

"Too often," Dr. Fai said, "the international community closes its eyes to the brutal reality of Kashmir because of India's hegemony in South Asia and its potentially attractive consumer market. It has crowned India with a veto power over outside intervention. A shocking affront to the Security Council itself. Yet, India has the temerity to seek a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council."

In this context, Dr. Fai said, "Kashmiris are facing an existential crisis." Professor (Dr.) Imtiaz Khan, a Kashmiri American scholar said that "On Human Rights Day, the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for justice and the need for accountability in the region, underscoring the importance of respecting the basic human rights of all individuals, including the right to life, liberty, freedom of expression, and protection from arbitrary detention."



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

## Pak Army Chief Clarifies Pakistan's Stance on Global Conflicts

**E**conomically, Pakistan faces numerous challenges, including high debt, inflation, energy shortages, and underdeveloped infrastructure. These challenges have made it difficult to maintain a large and modern military force capable of defending the country. With limited resources, Pakistan must balance defense priorities with the need for economic development, including poverty alleviation, job creation, and infrastructure improvement. Given these economic vulnerabilities, Pakistan cannot afford to engage in global conflicts that would strain its resources. Instead, the focus remains on self-defense and survival, ensuring that the country's position, both militarily and economically, is not undermined by foreign entanglements.

Given the historical context and strategic vulnerabilities outlined above, Pakistan's foreign policy has been driven by a strong preference for self-defense and survival rather than aggression or involvement in global conflicts. Central to this approach is Pakistan's military doctrine, which prioritizes deterrence over proactive aggression, especially in light of the potential risks of nuclear war with India. Pakistan's nuclear arsenal plays a pivotal role in this strategy, serving as a deterrent against possible aggression from India. Pakistan has also been a strong advocate for the elimination of chemical and biological weapons (CBWs). As a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Pakistan is committed to upholding international norms against the development, stockpiling, and use of these weapons, further reflecting its broader approach to promoting peace and security globally.

Beyond its contributions to peacekeeping and disarmament, Pakistan has demonstrated its commitment to global peace through humanitarian and disaster relief efforts. Its response to global crises, including natural disasters, refugee issues, and humanitarian emergencies, underscores Pakistan's dedication to alleviating suffering and promoting stability on the world stage. For decades, Pakistan has hosted one of the largest refugee populations in the world, particularly Afghan refugees fleeing conflict in their home country. Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, Pakistan has provided shelter, food, education, and healthcare to millions of Afghan refugees, despite facing its own economic challenges. The country's efforts in managing refugee camps and ensuring the well-being of displaced populations have garnered international recognition and praise.

In addition to its support for refugees, Pakistan has played a vital role in international relief efforts following natural disasters. It has provided significant humanitarian aid to countries affected by crises such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and the 2011 Horn of Africa famine. Pakistan's own experience with natural disasters, including the 2005 Kashmir earthquake and the devastating floods of 2010, has further strengthened its commitment to offering humanitarian assistance in times of need. Pakistan has consistently collaborated with international organizations such as the UN, the Red Cross, and various NGOs to provide aid, rebuild communities, and offer medical assistance following catastrophic events. In recent years, the country has also advocated for greater regional cooperation in disaster management. Through its involvement in organizations

like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Pakistan has worked to foster collaboration among neighboring countries to address shared challenges, including natural disasters, health crises, and economic development.

Pakistan has also become a vocal advocate for addressing the global challenges posed by climate change. As one of the countries most vulnerable to its impacts, including flooding, droughts, and extreme heat, Pakistan has called for stronger international cooperation to mitigate global warming and adapt to its consequences. Actively participating in international climate negotiations, such as the Paris Agreement, Pakistan has urged developed nations to fulfill their financial commitments to assist developing countries in coping with the effects of climate change. With its emphasis on climate justice—ensuring that those most responsible for emissions contribute to the solutions—Pakistan has become a key player in global environmental diplomacy.

The reality on the ground makes it clear that Pakistan has no interest in being drawn into global conflicts, nor can it afford to engage in international controversies. At the recent Margalla Dialogue 2024 in Islamabad, Army Chief General Asim Munir reiterated this position, stating that while Pakistan will continue to play a role in promoting peace and stability worldwide, it will not participate in any global conflict. He highlighted that 235,000 Pakistanis have contributed to UN peacekeeping missions, with 181 giving their lives in the service of global peace.

Pakistan's commitment to peace is unwavering, and its stance of neutrality in global conflicts is widely supported by the Pakistani people. This position is seen as vital for strengthening national defense and advancing the country's development and prosperity.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## National Food Security of Pakistan & Role of Balance Fertilizer - I

Rao Hassan Raza / Liaqat Ali Wahla

**T**he world's population is growing day by day and crossed the 8 billion mark in the year 2022 and it is around 8.14 billion till the end of November 10, 2024. Unfortunately, now we are adding a billion every 12-15 years. To nourish the ever-growing population is the biggest challenge. According to estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) the number of undernourished people in the world reached a total of 735 million in 2021, which corresponds to 9.2% of the world population.

Pakistan ranked as 102th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger index report of 2023. The Global Food Security index ranked Pakistan at 84th out of 113 countries in 2022 with an overall score of 52.2 which is significantly lower than the world average score of 62.1. This situation compelled us to work out for national food security in Pakistan. Boosting crop yields and closing the gap between actual and achievable yield can be accomplished by the implementation and advancement of improved various practices and technologies, including nutrient management practices & fertilizer technologies. No doubt, inorganic fertilizers play a vital role in national food security of Pakistan, but it must be recognized that highest yields may be obtained by using both organic and inorganic nutrient sources on soil analysis basis. Adoption of the 4R principles—right nutrient source at the right rate, right time, and right place—help ensure appropriate use of nutrient resources and optimized productivity.

Pakistan ranked as 10th in the world in food security concerns with 18.5% of undernourished population in 2023. Interestingly in 2015 we had 12.1% hungry people which has increased by 50% in just 8 years. Pakistan is presently self-sufficient or near to self-sufficiency in all major staple foods. Pakistan ranked 8th in producing wheat (31.4 Million Tons), 9th in rice (9.9 Million Tons), 5th in sugarcane (87.6 million Tons), and 3rd in milk production (65.8 million Tons). Despite that about 37% of the country's households are food-in-secured, as revealed by UNICEF's National Nutritional Survey 2018.

In the presence of current cropping practices, water availability and expected climatic changes, sustainable yield improvement is a big challenge which cannot be tackled without the Balance fertilizer use in all field crops. It is estimated that if population growth rate will remain the same we have to improve average wheat yield from 30 mnds/acre to 42 mnds/acre by 2040, which is a tough task in current Agri scenario of Pakistan.

Pakistan has 22.68 million hectares of cropped area to feed a 250 million population. Wheat is the biggest contributor towards cropped area & fertilizer consumption by occupying about 36.3% of the total cropped area and 50% in fertilizer consumption. The data extracted from the Economic survey of Pakistan reveals that the yields of the major crops are below their agronomic and genetic potential (Rice 27 mnd/acre, Wheat 33.5 mnd/acre, maize 61 mnd/acre, Sugarcane 760 mnd/acre etc.). Hence; The only way to improve production of different crops is vertical yield improvement which can't be achieved without promoting balanced fertilizer use of both organic and inorganic fertilizer.

To be continued

# President Japarov congratulates Kyrgyzstanis on International Mountain Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov on December 11 congratulated the Kyrgyzstanis and partners on International Mountain Day, the press service of the President said "December 11 – International Mountain Day reminds us of the importance and uniqueness of mountain ecosystems, as well as the threats that mountains face due to climate change and environmental degradation around the world".

For the Kyrgyz people, mountains are not only a natural wealth given to us by the Almighty, but also a source of life, a native land that has long served as a safety and support for our ancestors.

Kyrgyzstan, being a mountainous country, is proud of its unique natural resources – majestic mountains, sparkling glaciers and full-flowing rivers. They are vital not only for our people, but also for the entire Central Asian region. At the same time, mountains remain one of the most vulnerable parts of the ecosystem. They suffer from excessive human activity, climate change, degradation of biodiversity and depletion of natural resources.

At the initiative of Kyrgyzstan, the



UN General Assembly at its 77th session recognized the importance of promoting sustainable development of mountain regions and adopted the resolution "Sustainable Mountain Development". Within the framework of this resolution, 2023-2027 were declared the Five Years of Action for Mountain Development.

Today, we face serious challenges: melting glaciers, pollution of mountain ecosystems, natural disasters, extreme weather conditions, water scarcity, desertification, degradation of mountain pastures and loss of biodiversity.

We strive to advance the global agenda for mountain conservation, uniting the efforts of the international community to jointly respond to global and regional challenges. In addition, Kyrgyzstan, together with other countries, is actively promoting initiatives to protect the snow leopard.

This year, at the 60th session of the UN Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA), an expert dialogue on mountains and climate change was held, during which it was emphasized that it is necessary to consolidate the efforts of the

international community to support mountain countries. Also, at the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyrgyzstan held a number of important events related to the mountain agenda and organized a National Pavilion called "Sustainable Mountain Development".

The Kyrgyz Republic took the initiative to adopt a Declaration on Climate Change, Mountains and Glaciers, which was supported by 16 states.

We are confident that by combining efforts at the national, regional and global levels, we will be able to preserve mountain ecosystems for future generations.

In this regard, I call on every citizen of Kyrgyzstan to contribute to the protection of nature, the careful use of mountain resources and the fight against climate change. Let our actions be aimed at preserving the greatness of the Kyrgyz mountains, their unique nature and priceless glaciers, which are the wealth of all mankind!

Once again, I congratulate you on International Mountain Day, dear compatriots and dear international partners!"

## Turkiye Envoy calls for joint Turkiye-Pakistan ADR mechanism



Khurram Jaffrani

KARACHI: H. E. Cemal Sangu, the Consul General of Turkey, graciously offered to facilitate connections with prominent chambers of commerce in Turkey, as well as with business counterparts operating in Pakistan. Furthermore, he proposed the possibility of organizing a joint seminar to promote investment opportunities between Pakistan and Turkiye. He added that he was amazed to witness the activities and achievements of Musalaha International Center for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (MICADR). He mentioned this to Justice (R) Arif Hussain Khilji, Founder and MD, Majyd Aziz, Founding Member Board of Governors, and Sarha Rasheed, Co-Founder and Senior Manager, during his visit to MICADR. He was accompanied by Ms. Kowsar Ahmed, Commercial and Economic Specialist.

The Turkish Consul General disclosed that the private sector is very much involved in resolving issues through mediation and arbitration and this has created a sense of security, cooperation, and comfort for them to do business. Over five million cases have been resolved through this process. He offered to work closely with MICADR and also will introduce MICADR to the Turkish companies operating in Pakistan.

## Zong Joins Hands with the SRCC to Foster Cultural Exchange Along the Silk Road

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading digital and telecommunications services provider, proudly announced its role as the exclusive partner for the launch of the Silk Road Culture Center (SRCC). This partnership emphasizes Zong's steadfast commitment to fostering cultural exchange and innovation across the region.

The inauguration of the SRCC was graced by ambassadors and diplomats from Silk Road nations, with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China among the key attendees. The event celebrated the historical legacy of the Silk Road as a symbol of trade, innovation, and cultural collaboration, emphasizing its relevance in today's interconnected world.

The Executive Director of Strategy for Zong, Mr. Naveed Akhtar, attended the event as its Chief Guest. Speaking at the event, he highlighted the shared heritage of Pakistan and Silk Road countries, saying, "The Silk Road symbolizes connection, exchange, and understanding, showcasing how cultures unite to create something greater. This center bridges traditions celebrates shared values, and strengthens ties. Zong proudly supports this initiative, believing progress comes from both innovation and cultural integration, fostering a brighter future for all."

## High Commissioner of Rwanda visits RCCI



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: H. E. Fatou Harerimana, the High Commissioner of Rwanda, paid her maiden visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). The visit aimed to foster bilateral trade relations and encourage the business community to explore trade and investment opportunities in Rwanda.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat warmly welcomed the High Commissioner and presented an overview of the Chamber's initiatives and contributions to promoting trade. He also shared key insights into the existing trade data between Pakistan and Rwanda, highlighting key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, machinery, textiles, and tourism as promising areas for collaboration.

H. E. Fatou Harerimana highlighted the opportunities available in Rwanda for Pakistani investors and businesses, inviting them to explore joint ventures and investment possibilities.

Accompanying the High Commissioner were Mutuyimana Charlotte, Executive Assistant to the High Commissioner, and Maryam Zafar, Mission Receptionist. The visit concluded on a positive note, with both parties reaffirming their commitment to strengthening economic collaboration and exploring new opportunities for growth and prosperity.

The event was attended by Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, members of the Executive Committee, women entrepreneurs, and other distinguished RCCI members. Group Leader Sohail Altaf participated in presenting a memento to the High Commissioner to mark the occasion.

## Pakistan's envoy meets more US lawmakers to seek enhanced investment & trade

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, continued his contacts at Capitol Hill on Tuesday when he held separate meetings with four US lawmakers to discuss the possibility of boosting investment and trade between the two countries.

With Congressman Rich McCormick, a Republican, he shared perspectives on further strengthening Pak-US bilateral relations, according to a Pakistani embassy press release. The conversation focused on expanding avenues of economic interaction and security cooperation.

They also exchanged views on issues of regional as well as of global significance.

With Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett, a Democrat, Ambassador Sheikh discussed bilateral relations and ways to have more people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and the US.

He invited her to lead a Texas business delegation to Pakistan in 2025, and the Congresswoman accepted it, in principle.

# Sara's father, stepmother found guilty of murder over her death

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: 10 year-old Sara Sharif's Father Irfan Sharif and Stepmother Beinash Batool have been found guilty of her murder.

Sara was hooded, burned and beaten during more than two years of abuse before her body was found with dozens of injuries at the family's home in Woking, Surrey, last year.

Her father Irfan Sharif, stepmother Beinash Batool and uncle, Faisal Malik, travelled to Jhelum, Pakistan, with Sara's siblings on 9 August 2023, the day after she died.

Irfan Malik was found guilty of causing or allowing her death.

A post-mortem examination found Sara had suffered injuries including "probable human bite marks", an iron



burn and scalding from hot water before she died on 8 August last year.

Next to Sara's body, which was found by police in a bunkbed, was a note in her father's handwriting, which read:

"Whoever see this note, it's me Urfan Sharif who killed my daughter by beating."

Jurors were initially told that Sharif's case was that Batool was responsible

for Sara's death, and he made a false confession in a note and a subsequent phone call to protect his wife.

However, Sharif went on to accept "full responsibility" for Sara's death under cross-examination.

Sharif, Batool and Malik were arrested as they returned to Gatwick Airport on 13 September, and all of them pleaded not guilty to her murder and an alternative count of causing or allowing the death of a child.

Sharif and Batool have now been found guilty of Sara's murder.

Malik was found not guilty of murder, but guilty of causing or allowing the death of a child.

The judge, Mr Justice Cavanagh, said he will sentence them on Tuesday next week, telling jurors the case had been "extremely stressful and traumatic

## International Mountain Day 2024

# Conference on Sustainable Mountain Tourism held

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) in collaboration with Alpine Club of Pakistan, World Bank Group, Hashoo Group, Riphah International University, STFP, National Incubation Centers (NICs), COTHM, PNCA, and provincial tourism departments, Punjab Tourism for Economic Development Project and Ignite Technology Fund, successfully commemorated International Mountain Day 2024 with a one-day conference on Sustainable Mountain Tourism, photographic competition and tourism startups exhibition at PNCA Islamabad. The event, aligned with this year's theme, "Mountain Solutions for a Sustainable Future: Innovation, Adaptation, and Youth," focused on innovative strategies and sustainable practices to safeguard mountain ecosystems while empowering youth. A large number of people from different walks of life, including mountaineers, trekkers, adventure lovers, social activists, conservationists, tourism industry professionals, students, and media, attended this event.

The event began with the keynote address by PTDC's Managing Director, Aftab ur Rehman Rana, who emphasized the importance of innovative and sustainable tourism practices in mountain regions. He stated, "Mountains are not just magnificent landscapes but lifelines for millions of people. It is imperative to find innovative solutions to protect these treasures and empower communities who are dependent on them." He also stressed the promotion of sustainable and responsible tourism to safeguard the natural environment and mountain ecosystems.

The Chief Guest, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Chairman, Prime Minister Youth Program, inaugurated the photographic exhibition

and delivered an inspiring address. He highlighted, "Mountains are critical to our environment, economy, and culture. Today's event is a step toward creating awareness and fostering partnerships for their sustainable development." He emphasized the need to create a peaceful environment and better conditions in the country to promote tourism. He urged youth to take pro-active initiatives to promote the soft image of the country.

In his keynote address, Gailius Draugelis (Operations Manager, World Bank), emphasized the unparalleled potential of Pakistan's mountainous regions to drive sustainable tourism, uplift local communities, and protect the environment. He highlighted the Bank's contributions through flagship tourism projects in KP and Punjab provinces, which have led to improvements in tourism infrastructure and the conservation of heritage sites.

The conference featured four

engaging panel discussions, bringing together experts and stakeholders to address key aspects of mountain tourism, conservation, and innovation. During the first session on 'Innovative Solutions for the Mountain Economy,' the panelists highlighted the role of technology in the tourism economy of mountainous areas. Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Team Lead of Oxford Policy Management, highlighted the need for employing research-based findings to develop solutions for entrepreneurs, including e-commerce platforms. Rohma Labeeb, Country Director of Accelerate Prosperity, shared the experience of mentoring startups while integrating the local economies of hilly destinations. The need for an enabling regulatory framework for the startup ecosystem was mentioned by Bilal Abbasi, General Manager of Ignite Technology Fund, and Fahad Asad, CFO of Raqami Digital Bank, expressed his views on the

role of mentors and financial markets in mobilizing investments and capital to encourage innovation.

The second session, 4th International Conference on Adventure and Sports Tourism in Mountain Areas of Pakistan, focused on "Mountain Sports Tourism: Challenges and Opportunities." Moderated by Mian Athar Jamil, Director, Riphah International University, the panel featured renowned experts, including Raja Nasir, former Minister for Tourism and Minister for Planning & Development, Gilgit-Baltistan; Syed Sajjad Shah, President, Pakistan Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association; Nisar Ahmed Shaiq, President, AJK Winter Sports Federation; and Zafarullah Siddiqui, former Joint Secretary of Tourism. Panelists discussed the untapped potential of adventure sports in mountain areas and strategies to overcome challenges in infrastructure and accessibility.



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

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current                       | Prev. Close             |
| 110,810.21                    | 108,896.65              |
| Day's High                    | Day's Low               |
| 111,012.01                    | 109,416.32              |
| Index Value                   | Change                  |
| 33,427,561,120                | +1913.56                |
| Percentage                    | Time                    |
| +1.76%                        | 11 Dec, 2024<br>5:00 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Index Value            | Change                 |
| 8,301.62               | +21.26                 |
| Percentage             | Time                   |
| +0.26%                 | 11 Dec, 4:35 pm<br>GMT |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Index Value                       | Change                    |
| 44,316.63                         | +68.80                    |
| Percentage                        | Time                      |
| +0.16%                            | 11 Dec, 11:45 am<br>GMT-5 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value                         | Change                   |
| 39,372.23                           | +4.65                    |
| Percentage                          | Time                     |
| +0.012%                             | 11 Dec, 3:45 pm<br>GMT+9 |

**Open Market Forex Rates**

| Currency          | Buying | Selling |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Australian Dollar | 177.75 | 180.00  |
| Bahrain Dinar     | 733.95 | 741.95  |
| Canadian Dollar   | 197.10 | 199.50  |
| China Yuan        | 37.99  | 38.39   |
| Danish Krone      | 39.15  | 39.55   |
| Euro              | 290.25 | 293.00  |
| Hong Kong Dollar  | 35.45  | 35.8    |
| Indian Rupee      | 3.18   | 3.27    |
| Japanese Yen      | 1.84   | 1.90    |
| Kuwaiti Dinar     | 896.25 | 905.75  |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 61.75  | 62.35   |
| New Zealand \$    | 162.4  | 164.4   |
| Norwegians Krone  | 24.93  | 25.23   |
| Omani Riyal       | 718.35 | 726.85  |
| Qatari Riyal      | 75.7   | 76.4    |
| Saudi Riyal       | 73.70  | 74.25   |
| Singapore Dollar  | 207.75 | 209.75  |
| Swedish Korona    | 25.13  | 25.43   |
| Swiss Franc       | 312.72 | 315.52  |
| Thai Bhat         | 8      | 8.15    |
| U.A.E Dirham      | 75.35  | 76.00   |
| UK Pound Sterling | 352.15 | 355.65  |
| US Dollar         | 277.70 | 279.20  |

**2nd International Islamic Capital Market Conference**

# PSX welcomes delegates of world's top Islamic bankers

✉ **Khurram Jaffrani**

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange proudly hosted a Gong Ceremony today to welcome the distinguished delegates of the 2nd International Islamic Capital Market Conference & Expo 2024, themed "From Tech Transformation to Realizing Sustainability: Building an Inclusive Islamic Capital Market." The conference is being held in Karachi on December 12, 2024 (Today).

The ceremony was graced by distinguished global leaders from Islamic finance, including Dr. Sami Al Suwailem, Acting Director General of the Islamic Development Bank Institute (IsDBI) and Chief Economist of the Islamic Development Bank Group; Dr. Emomotimi Agama, Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Nigeria & Dr. Mahmut Aydogmus-Director-International Relations-Borsa Istanbul. Apart from the foreign dignitaries, Chairman SECP Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairperson PSX Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, MD/CEO PSX Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari, PSX Board Members & its management, representatives of state regulatory organizations, members of brokerage & Islamic finance fraternity also graced the occasion, underscoring the event's global significance.

The conference being held tomorrow aims to provide an excellent thought leadership platform for policymakers, industry experts, and thought leaders on integrating technological innovation



and ethical financial practices to create a more inclusive and sustainable economic future, the conference will debate leveraging technology, incorporating ESG principles, and overcoming challenges unique to Islamic capital markets.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson of PSX, welcoming the delegates, said, "The Islamic finance industry in Pakistan has witnessed remarkable growth in assets and popularity. Our

journey began modestly, yet today, we boast a dynamic and fully operational Islamic banking sector.

Chairman SECP, Mr. Akif Saeed welcomed the delegates and spoke on the occasion. He said, "The gong for the international delegates is a message from Pakistan to Islamic finance. The soul of Islamic finance is the welfare of the society. We have to learn from the world and be a part of

it. Sharia scholars have a responsibility to provide products in line with Islamic teachings."

Dr. Sami Al Suwailem, Acting Director General of the Islamic Development Bank Institute (IsDBI) and Chief Economist of the Islamic Development Bank Group spoke on the occasion.

Dr. Emomotimi Agama, Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Nigeria felt happy on representing his country at the conference and spoke on the occasion.

Dr. Mahmut Aydogmus-Director-International Relations-Borsa Istanbul said, "We came to the first conference in Islamabad last year. It has been a good experience for us as we attend the 2nd Islamic Capital Market Conference here in Karachi.

Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari, MD/CEO of PSX, said on the occasion, "The presence of distinguished dignitaries and guests at the Gong Ceremony highlights the critical role Islamic finance plays in shaping the future of global capital markets.

The conference, co-hosted by AAOIFI and IsDBI, will feature over 20 international experts from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Turkiye and the UK, among others. A pre-conference workshop, Gong ceremony at the Pakistan Stock Exchange, and an Islamic Finance Exhibition displaying 38 leading institutions complement the main event. Discussions will focus on challenges and opportunities in creating sustainable and inclusive Islamic capital markets.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Division, Sardar Awais Leghari and Tajikistan's Minister for Energy and Water Resources, Juma Daler Shofaqir, co-chairing Pakistan-Tajikistan 7th Joint Commission meeting on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## NEPRA Concludes Hearing of K-Electric's Bid Evaluation Report

✉ **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: K-Electric (KE) has made remarkable progress in its journey toward renewable energy with the submission of the Bid Evaluation Report for its 150 MW solar projects at Winder and Bela, Balochistan, to NEPRA. The regulator today concluded the hearing on the subject marking a critical step towards finalization of these projects reflecting KE's journey to transforming Pakistan's energy landscape.

After getting a nod of approval from NEPRA earlier this year, KE initiated the industry's first competitive bidding process to launch renewable energy

projects. The 150 MW Winder and Bela projects are a part of a cumulative 640 MW renewables ambition reflecting the first trench of the company's long-term goal to add 1300 MW of sustainable energy into the generation mix. This milestone is part of KE's broader renewable energy roadmap, which aims to integrate 30% renewables into its generation portfolio by 2030.

Over the past year, KE attracted significant investor interest in its renewable initiatives, including 15 bids for the Winder and Bela projects and subsequently seven bids for its pioneering 220 MW hybrid solar-wind project in Dhabeji, Sindh.

## Traders to work together for betterment of Islamabad's markets: Khalid Iqbal Malik

✉ **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Former Chairman of the Founder Group, Khalid Iqbal Malik, stated that the unity of traders and resolving their issues have always been his top priorities. Speaking at a luncheon he hosted in honor of the newly elected officials of Jinnah Super Market and Super Market, he commended them for providing excellent services to traders and assured them that the Founder Group would play its full role in protecting traders' rights.

The luncheon was attended by Jinnah Super Market President Asad Aziz, Super Market President Shehzad Shabbir Abbasi, United Business Group Pakistan Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, former ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry Owais Satti, ICCI Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Raja Muhammad Yaseen, Amir Qureshi, and other notable figures.



Addressing the gathering, Zafar Bakhtawari emphasized the need for chambers and trader leaders to work together for the development of Islamabad's markets and the facilitation of traders. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari highlighted the necessity for the government and chambers to take further steps to improve the infrastruc-

ture and provide facilities in the markets.

Asad Aziz and Shehzad Shabbir Abbasi, Owais Satti, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Raja Muhammad Yaseen, Amir Qureshi, and other speakers also highlighted the challenges faced by the trading community and shared their suggestions for resolving these issues.

## FAST Cables Signs MoU with IBA and NED for FAST Sustainability and Excellence Awards

✉ **Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Pakistan's leading cable brand, FAST Cables, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) and NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi. The collaboration aims to foster academic excellence, promote sustainable business practices and recognize exceptional student achievements in sustainability and research.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Kamal Mian, CEO of FAST Cables, and Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi, Executive

Director of IBA. Representing NED University, Mr. Syed Ghazanfar Hussain, Rector of NED, also signed the MoU and highlighted the program's potential to nurture future leaders and drive impactful research in sustainable practices.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr. Kamal Mian said: "This collaboration marks a significant step towards bridging the gap between industry and academia. It provides IBA and NED students with hands-on industry experience through internship opportunities at FAST Cables."

## MOL celebrates 25 years of success in Pakistan

✉ **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: MOL Pakistan, a leading stakeholder in Pakistan's energy sector celebrated its 25th anniversary of operations in the country the other day.

The occasion commemorated the company's role and achievements not only in building the country's Exploration & Production sector and contributing to its energy security, but also positively impacting the lives of the local communities for two-and-a-half decades. As a fully owned subsidiary of MOL Group, MOL Pakistan plays an important role in its international portfolio, representing 7% of the group's total hydrocarbon production.

The celebrations were attended by top officials from the govern-

ment ministries and the oil & gas sector.

Chief Guest on the occasion Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan lauded MOL Pakistan's innovative approach, use of advanced technologies, and adherence to international best practices, significantly transforming Pakistan's oil and gas sector.

Mr. Kamal added "Pakistan is on a path of stability and development, with the energy sector playing a key role. MOL Group's 25-year legacy reflects a partnership of mutual trust and shared aspirations."

Mr. Zsombor Marton, Executive Vice President, Exploration and Production of MOL Group while speaking to the audience said "Celebrating 25 years of success in Pakistan as an operator in exploration and



production despite all challenges, far away from our Central and Eastern European core region is the proof of strong partnerships we

have built with the government of Pakistan and with the local communities, and shows the resilience of MOL Pakistan and the strength of

MOL Group's international operations.

Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, assured that the province was open to further investments in the oil and gas sector. He emphasized the government's commitment to going the extra mile to address any challenges faced by companies like MOL Pakistan.

The guest of honour at the ceremony, former Federal Minister for Petroleum Syed Naveed Qamar, highlighted MOL Pakistan's pivotal role in mitigating natural gas shortages during the early 2010s. He commended the company for ramping up exploration and production activities in the Tal Block, significantly contributing to the country's energy needs at crucial times.

## inDrive sees Tripling of B2B Deliveries in Pakistan Amid Growing Demand

✉ **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: inDrive, a leading ride-hailing and delivery service, has achieved a remarkable milestone in Pakistan with its B2B deliveries tripling in 2024 compared to the previous year. This surge reflects a significant shift in the logistics landscape, driven by a rising demand for swift and reliable courier solutions across diverse industries.

An in-depth analysis of 5,000 user comments about delivery experiences has unveiled key insights into the evolving needs of Pakistani consumers. Among the most requested delivery categories, food and beverages lead the list at 27%, closely followed by clothing and accessories at 24%. Medicine, electronics, and documents also emerged as notable categories, accounting for 13%, 12%, and 8% of deliveries, respectively. The findings underline the extensive role inDrive plays in catering to varied consumer and business needs.

## Gold prices surge



LAHORE: Gold prices continue to rise, and today too, a huge increase of Rs.3,100 per tola has been seen in the price of gold on Wednesday.

According to local Sarafa Association and the All Pakistan Gems and Jewelers Association sources, the price of 24-carat gold per tola in local bullion markets has increased by Rs3,100 to Rs.280,500, while the price of 10 grams of gold has also increased by Rs.2,658 to Rs.240,484.

## Pakistan vs South Africa T-20 Cricket Match Series

# South Africa Cricket Team Have won the First T-20 of The Three-Match Series by defeating Pakistan by 11 runs

Asim Tanveer

DURBAN/ SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa Cricket Team Have Won the First T-20 of The Three-Match Series By Defeating Pakistan by 11 runs. The second match will be played on Friday, December 13 at 9 pm.

In Durban, the Proteas won the toss and elected to bat first.

Despite the Pakistani bowlers taking wickets at intervals due to a brilliant innings by David Miller, the Proteas managed to score 183 runs. At one point, the host team had lost 2 wickets for 10 and 3 wickets for 28. Despite this, the South African team managed to score 183 runs for the loss of 9 wickets.

In Durban, South Africa won the toss and elected to bat first. Dear Dussen fell victim to Shaheen Afridi for nil. Matthew Bretke scored 8 runs, while Barar Ahmed and Reza Hendricks also scored 8 runs and were hit by Abrar. Captain Henrik Klaasen also scored only 12 runs and was hit by Abbas Afridi. Donivan also scored 7 runs. Pakistan got a big success from David Miller, who was

hitting everyone. Miller, who scored 82 runs off 40 balls, had 8 sixes and 4 fours in his innings. Shaheen got him caught by Irfan Khan. George Lindy showed such aggression in the closing moments that the Pakistani bowlers were helpless. He scored 48 runs off 24 balls and hit 4 sixes. South Africa scored 183 runs for 9 wickets in 20 overs.

The start of the reply innings by Pakistan cricket team was pathetic. Babar Azam went for zero. He was expected to break some records of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma by scoring 40 runs today, but now the fans will have to wait for the second match. Despite this, Pakistan scored 56 runs for the loss of one wicket and at one point there was a score of 109 for 3 in 9.2 overs. Rizwan was standing. Victory seemed certain, but then such a line was drawn that Pakistan faced difficulties. Mohammad Rizwan remained alone on the wicket but his teammates kept getting out at intervals. Saim Ayub was out for 31 and Usman Khan for nine runs. Shaheen Shah Afridi was out for nine and Tayeb Tahir was out for 18 runs before them.



Irfan Khan was out for one and Abbas Afridi for zero in the same over. This was the over when Pakistan needed 36 runs in the last three overs when Pakistan lost two wickets for just four runs in the 18th over of the innings.

Rizwan had completed his half-century by then and was trying his best to win Pakistan alone. In the last over, 19 runs were needed when Muhammad

Rizwan went to the pavilion after scoring 74 runs off 62 balls. Problems arose for Pakistan. Pakistan's team could score 172 for eight in 20 overs and lost the match by 11 runs. George Linde, who played a brilliant innings of 48 runs off the first 24 balls, bowled this time and gave away four runs.

He was declared the man of the match due to his all-round perfor-



David Miller. For Pakistan, Shaheen Afridi and Abrar Ahmed took three wickets each. Earlier, South Africa scored 183 in 20 overs due to the brilliant batting of

## Training camps in progress for upcoming Quaid-e-Azam Games

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The training camps of Sports Board Punjab teams were in progress on Wednesday for the preparation of upcoming Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games.

Expert coaches imparted intensive training to male and female players at various camps being organized at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex.

Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzal Chaudhry inspected the training camps of various games at Nishtar Park Sports



Complex. He appreciated the performance of the players and asked about the facilities being provided to them at the training camps. The male and female

players were taught modern squash techniques by the coaches at Punjab Squash Complex. Young swimmers are being trained by expert coach Rafi-uz-Zaman at Punjab International Swimming Complex.

Similarly, the javelin throw players and other athletes did their practice under the watchful eyes of coaches at the Punjab Football Stadium.

The qualified coaches engaged table tennis and badminton male and female players in practice matches at the NPSC gymnasium hall to test their match fitness.

## WSF World Team Squash C'ship: Pakistan lose to Germany

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan put up a valiant show at the WSF World Team Squash Championship 2024, but fell short in the play-offs against Germany to lose 2-1 in a fiercely contested encounter in Hong Kong, China.

According to information made available here by Pakistan Squash Federation on Wednesday, the tie began with an intense five-game battle between Germany's Raphael Kandra and Pakistan's Muhammad Asim Khan. Kandra ultimately emerged victorious, defeating Asim 3-2 with scores of 11-9, 9-11, 9-11, 11-4, 11-9 in a 58-minute marathon.

Pakistan bounced back in the second match, where Nasir Iqbal delivered a stellar performance to sweep past Germany's Yannik Omlor in straight games. Nasir dominated the court, winning 3-0 with scores of 11-8, 11-2, 11-6 in just 27 minutes.

In the decisive match, German squash legend Simon Rösner overcame Pakistan's Noor Zaman with a 3-1 victory. Despite Noor's promising start by clinching the first game 11-8, Rösner's experience shone through as he turned the tide, securing the next three games 11-7, 11-5, 11-4 in 38 minutes.

Pakistan will now face Canada in the SC6 playoff on Thursday at 1630 PST.

## Haris Rauf named ICC Men's Player of the Month for November

Pakistan's Haris Rauf has won the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for November 2024 following his crucial role in the Green Shirts victory against Australia.

The Pakistani pacer fired on all cylinders on the tour of Australia, snapping up 10 wickets across three ODIs to steer his team to a first ODI series win Down Under in 22 years. Rauf capped off the month of November with an overall tally of 18 wickets, and scooped the monthly award over India's Jasprit Bumrah and South Africa's Marco Jansen.

The 31-year-old's standout performance came in the second ODI against Australia. As Pakistan trailed 1-0 in the three-match series, Rauf produced a fiery pace-bowling display in Adelaide, claiming figures of 5/29.

## Making talented youth skilled and competent our prime objective: Secretary Sports



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial has presided over an important meeting regarding the Chief Minister Internship Programme at Punjab Stadium on Wednesday. Director General Sports

and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzal Chaudhry, Director General PITB Sajid Latif, Additional Secretary Mian Usman Ali and Director Admin Dr M Kaleem attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar

Khan Sial has directed the officers concerned to resolve all the issues of the Chief Minister Internship Programme immediately in the meeting.

"The graduates participating in the internship programme will be given an internship at the sports complex," he added.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that our prime objective is to make our talented youth skilled and competent. "Rs 25,000 per month will be given to 6,000 youth for 6 months under Chief Minister Internship Programme," he added.

## Mohammad Rizwan, Shaheen Afridi move up in ICC T20I Rankings

A Sports

DUBAI: Pakistan white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan and pace bowler Shaheen Afridi made significant gains in the latest ICC T20I Rankings released on Wednesday.

Rizwan waged a lone war during Pakistan's narrow 11-run loss in the first T20I against South Africa with an anchoring knock of 74 runs from 62 balls. He struck five boundaries and three sixes before falling in the last over.

Consequently, Rizwan jumped two spots to sit in the sixth position in the ICC T20I Batting Rankings with 713 rating points.

Meanwhile, his opening partner Babar Azam, who bagged a four-ball duck in

yesterday's match, dropped two places down to seventh.

South African batter David Miller, who smashed a quick-fire 82 off 40 balls, also made a significant nine-spot jump to claim 42nd position.

On the other hand, Shaheen Afridi jumped six places to 20th in the ICC T20I Bowling Rankings after taking three wickets to complete his tally of 100 wickets in the format.

However, his fellow pacer Haris Rauf experienced a three-place drop, which placed him in the 23rd spot with 588 rating points.

It's worth noting that Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan moved one place up to 18th and 21st spot respectively in the ICC Test Batting Rankings.



## Saudi Arabia to Host FIFA World Cup 2034



Muhammad Adeel

JEDDAH: Official Announcement Made on December 11, 2024. In a historic decision, FIFA President Gianni Infantino officially announced Saudi Arabia as the host of the FIFA World Cup 2034 on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. The announcement was made during an extraordinary general assembly held in Zurich, where the host nations for two upcoming World Cups were revealed.

It was also confirmed that the FIFA World Cup 2030 will be jointly hosted by Spain, Portugal, and Morocco. Saudi Arabia was the sole candidate for the 2034 tournament, making it the second Middle Eastern country to host the event after Qatar in 2022.

Thousands of Saudi citizens gathered in Riyadh's Diriyah and Blue World City to watch the historic announcement on large screens, celebrating this monumental moment.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino expressed optimism about the 2034 event, stating, "The world is going through conflicts and wars, but only football has the power to bring people together. I am confident the 2034 World Cup will be a spectacular event, and I am delighted with the unanimous agreement of all federations."

The Saudi Arabian government and its people eagerly await the opportunity to host the world's biggest football event, promising a grand celebration for all football enthusiasts.

## Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Four more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various cricket grounds. The highlights of the days play Brilliant Century by Mehmood Khan 109 and deadly bowling by Medium Pacer Muhammad Akram 5/15 and spinner Zaid Hussain 5/24.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Master Oil Lubricant. Scores in Brief:

Nazimabad Gymkhana Blues beat Rafiq Shirazi Cricket Club by 161 runs at Student Ground. Nazimabad Gymkhana Blues 288/4 in 40 overs. Mehmood Khan 109 13x4 3x6, Abdul Basit unbeaten 70 5x4 2x6, Zohaib Khan 52 4x4 1x6 Zafar Ali 25 not out. Ahmed Akbar 2/40.

Rafiq Shirazi CC 127 all out in 28.1 overs. Habibur Rehman 40, Danish Raees 24. Zafar Ali (ob) 4/24, Sami ullah 3/21, Saddam Khan 2/11.

In the 2nd Match Pak Surti CC beat Good Luck CC by 50 runs at Aza Ground. Pak Surti CC 279/9 in 40 overs. Israr Ahmed 65 8x4 3x6, Muhammad Waqas 55 4x4 3x6, Rohail Nisar 38, Danish Mehboob 35, Abdul Rehman 23, Sabih Siddiqui 21. Talah Bahadur 3/47, Muhammad Asghar 2/46.

In the 3rd Match Modern Gymkhana beat New Karachi Gymkhana by 18 runs at KCCA Stadium.

Modern Gymkhana 140 all out in 28.1 overs. Arshad 35, Ikhtiar Shah 18, Umair 18. Ghazanfar Khan 3/15, Zakwan Ahmed 3/28. In the Fourth Match Doab Cricket Club beat Karachi Fighter CC by 31 runs at AAS. Doab Cricket Club 163 all out in 31.5 overs. Waqas Iqbal 51 7x4, Muhammad Zubair 29, Umar Ejaz 27. Muhammad Hussain 3/18, Muhammad Nabeel 3/19.

Karachi Fighter CC 132 all out in 26.4 overs. Israr Rashid 39, Muhammad Shahid 28. Muhammad Akram (mf) 5/15, Umar Ejaz 3/27.

## National Day of Romania

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi, Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan Dr Dan Stoenescu and others cutting the cake during Romania National Day ceremony at a local hotel.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Pakistan Navy Ship MOAWIN conducts maiden visit



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship MOAWIN conducted its maiden visit to Comoros and established a free medical camp for the local populace. Upon arrival at Port Mutsamudu, Anjouan Island, the ship was warmly welcomed by Commander of the Comorian Coast Guard, along with other senior military and government officials.

During its stay at the port, the Commanding Officer of PNS MOAWIN called on the Governor of Anjouan, Dr. Zaidou Youssouf, Deputy Chief of the Army Staff Colonel S. B. Dailami, and other civil and military leaders of Comoros. Various matters of mutual interest and opportunities for bilateral cooperation were discussed during these meetings. The Commanding Officer

also conveyed warm greetings from Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, to the Comorian authorities for their support extended to the visiting ship. Additionally, ship-board exercises and discussions on various operational matters were held onboard to enhance interoperability.

In Comoros, PNS MOAWIN established a medical camp where Pakistan Navy surgeons and medical specialists provided free medical consultations, treatments, and medicines to patients. The medical camp was widely appreciated by the local populace, who benefited from the high-quality medical care provided.

The maiden visit of PNS MOAWIN to Comoros stands as a testament to the Pakistan Navy's commitment to fostering friendly relations and delivering essential medical services to communities in need.

## Pak-China Joint Exercise Warrior-VIII concludes

Three-week long Pak-China Joint Exercise Warrior-VIII between Pakistan Army and People's Liberation Army of China has been concluded on Wednesday, the Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The Warrior-VIII was conducted from 19 November to 11 December 2024.

The three-week long exercise in the counter terrorism domain was the eight in the series of bilateral exercises being held annually.

"Distinguished Visitor's Day (DVD) Ceremony of the Exercise was conducted at Tilla Field Firing Range on 10 December 2024.



Commander Rawalpindi Corps, Lieutenant General Shahid Imtiaz, HI (M) graced the ceremony as Chief Guest while, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan along with dignitaries from China were also present," the ISPR said.

It added that the dignitaries appreciated high standards of professionalism displayed by troops during the Exercise.

Earlier on November 29, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir

visited National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Pabbi and interacted with the participants of Pak-China Joint Exercise Warrior-VIII between.

According to the military media wing, COAS

was briefed on the scope & conduct of the exercise. COAS also interacted with participants of the exercise. He appreciated the professionalism and high morale of participants being displayed during the Joint Exercise.

## 'CASS Hosts Launch of Book on Technology Governance'

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, organised the launch of Azhar Zia-ur-Rehman's new book, 'Governance of Technologies in Industry 4.0 and Society 5.0', which focuses on addressing challenges and strategies for technology governance in the modern era.

In his opening talk, Air Commodore Raza Haider (Retd), Director at CASS, highlighted the transformative impact of emerging technologies on aerospace, emphasising the critical role of drones, AI, and space economy advancements. He discussed cutting-edge innovations such as swarm drones, stealth capabilities, and gener-

ative AI applications in cybersecurity and aerospace. Stressing the significance of digital transformation, he outlined the need for policies fostering STEM education, digital startups, and industry digitisation in Pakistan to remain competitive in the global arena.

The author of the book, Mr. Azhar Zia-ur-Rehman, an international governance consultant, outlined the need for structured governance frameworks to manage the risks and opportunities presented by emerging technologies. He explained his methodology for navigating digital ecosystems, focusing on aligning technology with strategic organisational goals through the DIGI4MATION, FRAMEWORK and the



PENTRIUM Model, emphasising the need for synergy among diverse technologies. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of governance

frameworks that ensure ethical practices, particularly in fields such as Artificial Intelligence and biotechnology, to mitigate risks and promote responsible

innovation.

President of CASS, Islamabad, Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd) delivered concluding remarks and congratulated the author on his publication. He underscored the critical need for integrating governance practices with technology, highlighting that organisations must develop systems enabling the effective and ethical use of emerging technologies to stay competitive in today's rapidly evolving landscape.

The launch concluded with a discussion where participants explored how industries and governments can use the insights from the book to adapt to technological changes and strengthen governance systems.

## Mountain Day celebrated with call for building climate resilience of lives



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a national awareness-raising and advocacy seminar regarding the International Mountain Day emphasised the urgency of halting global warming to stave off the mountain communities, their livelihoods and fragile ecosystems from adverse fallouts of climate change.

Global warming is accelerating at an unprecedented rate, leaving a profound impact on mountain ecosystems and glaciers worldwide. This phenomenon poses critical threats to our environment, communities, and global sustainability, they said at the event organized here by the Ministry

of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination in collaboration with various development partners.

While highlighting the vital significance of sustainable development and conservation of the Pakistan's majestic mountain ranges and the ecosystem these harbour up in the country's north, Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam said during her keynote address that this year's theme, "Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation and youth" underscores the unprecedented role of mountains in preserving ecosystems, supporting livelihoods, and mitigating climate change.

## Former PM AJK Raja Farooq called on AJK President

### Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan called on AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry here today.

During the meeting the duo discussed in detail the issues of mutual concern with particular focus on dire human rights situation in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Voicing their grave concern over the stepping human rights violations in the region, both the leaders agreed to launch a comprehensive campaign from the base camp to highlight the Kashmir issue effectively at international level.

## Japan announces \$3.1 million grant to support Pakistan's Polio Programme

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has announced a new US\$ 3.1 million grant to procure essential oral polio vaccines as part of its continued support to polio eradication efforts in Pakistan. Pakistan Polio Programme will use these funds to procure more than 20.22 million doses of vaccines to support polio campaigns in 2025.

"Despite the challenges, Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to eradicating polio by mid-2025," said Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services. "As we prepare to launch polio campaigns in 2025, together with our partners we will maintain an emergency focus towards resolving the remaining challenges that stand in our way to reach all children."

"The challenges faced in 2024 have underscored the critical need to accelerate our efforts to eradicate polio. With Japan's continued support, we are further



strengthened to intensify our efforts, aiming to achieve zero polio cases by mid-2025 under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif," stated Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq. Mr. TAKANO Shuichi, Charge d' Affaires ad interim of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, said "Japan has supported Pakistan to eradicate polio for nearly 30 years despite hindrances such as floods, COVID, and terrorist attacks. Since this year marks the 70th anniversary of Japan's ODA to Pakistan, we would like to renew our commitment to continue to promote routine immunization including polio vaccination in Pakistan."

The new funding is part of the continuous support from the Government of Japan to the Polio Eradication programme since 1996. To date, the grant and loan contribution from the Government of Japan has amounted to approx. US\$ 242.194 million dollars to support the Polio programme in Pakistan through UNICEF.

We sincerely hope that all the polio campaigns of this year will be conducted successfully towards zero polio cases," said Mr. MIYATA Naoaki, Chief Representative, JICA Pakistan Office.

The sharp rise in polio cases this year are a reminder of the urgent need to protect every child with vaccines through campaigns and routine immunization. While there is polio anywhere, every child will remain at risk until the virus is eradicated," said Mr. Abdullah Fadil, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. "With steadfast support from partners like Japan, UNICEF remains fully committed to making Pakistan polio-free, ensuring no child is left behind."

## SCO unveils Bhimber STP: Empowering Youth Through IT

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Communications Organization (SCO) has formally inaugurated its 6th Software Technology Park (STP) in Bhimber (AJK), as part of its ambitious Vision 2025 to transform Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) into IT-enabled regions. The facility was formally inaugurated by Major General Umar Ahmad Shah, HI (M), Director General SCO, marking another milestone in SCO's mission to empower youth and enhance regional development.

Speaking at the inauguration, DG SCO highlighted that Bhimber Software Technology Park exemplifies SCO's dedication to building a digital ecosystem in AJK and GB. He emphasized that with state-of-the-art IT facilities, the initiative fosters innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth,

aligning with Vision 2025 to make the region a hub of IT excellence. He credited special interest and guidance of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) as instrumental in achieving this vision and empowering the region's youth.

Young professionals expressed their gratitude to SCO for establishing a facility that provides a secure and innovative environment, empowering them to contribute to the digital economy. This initiative underscores SCO's commitment to creating a sustainable IT ecosystem in AJK and GB, fostering growth and prosperity for the region's youth.

