صحیح بخاری: مدیث نمبر 6981 **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Former Indian PM Manmohan Singh passes away at 92

Former Indian PM Manmohan Singh, who governed the South Asian country for two terms and liberalised its economy in an earlier stint as finance minister, has died. He was 92. Singh, an economist-turned-politician who also served as the governor of the Central Bank of India, was ailing and admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi late on Thursday.

Palestinian TV channel says Israeli strike kills 5 journalists in Gaza

A Palestinian TV channel affiliated with a militant group said five of its journalists were killed Thursday in an Israeli strike on their vehicle in Gaza, with Israel's military saying it had targeted a

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-us-Sani 24, Friday, December 27, 2024

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(a) @daily spokesman



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#### Condolence

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the Ambassador of Azerbaijan H.E. Khadar Farhadov at the Embassy of Azerbaijan to offer his condolences for the unfortunate accident of an Azeri airplane in Aktau, Kazakhstan.



# PTI founder's nephew among 60 more convicted in May 9 cases

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: The Military Courts convicted 60 more suspects including Hassan Niazi, the nephew of Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, in cases pertaining to May 9 violence, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday.

"Sequel to the announcement of the May 9 punishments in light of the Supreme Court's decision, the Field General Court Martial (FGCM) has promulgated the punishments to the following remaining 60 culprits after examining all evidences, ensuring the provision of all legal rights to the convicts, completion of due process and the appropriate legal  $\,$ proceedings," the ISPR said.

According to the military's awarded 10-year rigorous impris-



The ISPR said that the trial of 9th May accused under military custody, has been concluded media wing Hassan Niazi, son under the relevant laws and all of Hafizullah Niazi has been convicts retain the right to appeal and other legal recourses, as guar- Amanat Ali, 2 years rigorous

onment in the Jinnah House anteed by the Constitution and

1. Hassan Khan Niazi s/o Hafizullah Niazi, 10 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

2. Mian Abbad Farooq s/o

imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

3. Raees Ahmed s/o Shafi Ullah, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

4. Arzam Junaid s/o Junaid Razzaq, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

5. Ali Raza s/o Ghulam Mustafa, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

6. Raja Danish s/o Raja Abdul Waheed, 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in GHQ attack incident.

7. Syed Hassan Shah s/o Asif Hussain Shah, 9 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in GHQ attack incident.

8. Ali Hussain s/o Khalil ur Rehman, 7 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in AIMH Rawalpindi attack incident.

9. Zahid Khan s/o Muhammad Nabi, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in PRC Mardan

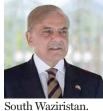
incident. 10. Sohrab Khan s/o Riaz Khan, 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in HQ Dir Scouts Timergara incident.

Continued on Page 7

## PM lauds security forces for successful operations against

#### 👺 City Desk

*terrorists* 



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday lauded the security forces for their successful operations against the Khawariji terrorists in Bannu and North and

He appreciated the security forces for eliminating 13 Khawariji terrorists in these oper-

He paid tribute to Major Muhammad Awais of Pakistan army for embracing

martyrdom while countering the terrorists in North Waziristan. He prayed for the elevation of ranks

Major Awais and was determined to eradicate terrorism in all forms.

## PM condoles with Azeri ambassador over loss of lives in airplane crash

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visited the embassy of Azerbaijan here on Thursday and condoled with Azerbaijan's ambassador over the loss of precious lives in an airplane crash in the region of Aktau in Kazakhstan.

The prime minister prayed for the persons who lost lives in the unfortunate accident embassy of Azerbaijan in this and for grant of patience to the bereaved families.

He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

He said people and the express complete solidarity prime minister.

with the brothers and sisters of Azerbaijan in this hour of

Azerbaijan and Pakistan had strong fraternal relations based on shared religion and cultural values, he remarked. Ambassador of Azerbaijan

Khazar Farhadov thanked the prime minister for his visit. He said his country highly valued the visit of prime

minister of Pakistan to the time of grief. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Special

Assistant to Prime Minister government of Pakistan Tariq Fatemi accompanied the

## Major martyred as 13 terrorists killed in three separate engagements in KP

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A major ranked officer embraced martyrdom as security forces killed thirteen terrorists in three separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Prov ince, said a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations.

"On reported presence of Khwarij, an intelligence based operation was conducted by the Security Forces in general area Jani Khel, Bannu District. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and resultantly, two Khwarij were sent to hell,' read the ISPR statement.

According to ISPR, another intelligence based operation was conducted in North Waziristan District.

In the ensuing fire exchange, five terrorists were effectively neutralised by security forces, while eight others got injured, the ISPR statement added.

"However, during intense exchange of fire, Major Muhammad Awais (age: 31 years, resident of District Narowal), a brave officer, who ISPR statement concluded.



was leading his troops from the front, having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat,' read the ISPR statement.

According to ISPR statement, in a third encounter that took place in South Waziristan District, own troops successfully neutralised six Khwarij, while eight khwarij were injured.

'Sanitization operations are being carried out 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 strengthens our resolve," the

# President pays tribute to security forces for eliminating 13 Khawarij



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari Thursday paid tribute to security forces for eliminating 13 Khawarij during different operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He appreciated the bravery of security forces for killing the Khawarij during the successful operations.

lauded Major Muhammad Awais of Pakistan Army for embracing martyrdom while bravely countering the terrorists in North Waziristan.

He condoled with the heirs of Major Muhammad Awais Shaheed. He prayed for the elevation

of ranks of the Shaheed officer and for grant of patience to the bereaved family. The President expressed

determination to continue actions against Fitna al-Khawarij till its complete elimination.

He said the whole nation was with the security forces in the war against terrorism, adding operations would continue against the menace of terrorism till its complete eradication.

#### Delegation of various Bar associations call on CJP 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Delegations of various Bar Associations call on Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi on Thursday, reported 24News-HD TV channel. According to SC press release, lawyers' groups belonging to Azad Kashmir, Multan and Sahiwal Division meet Chief Justice of Pakistan.

During the meeting, CJP stressed the need for improving coordination between courts and Bar Associations. Justice Afridi accepted the demand of lawyers regarding their training. Justice Yahya Afridi also assured Multan lawyers that video link facility will be provided in Lahore High Court's Multan bench.

## Tarar welcomes May 9 convictions, seeks military trial of mastermind & accomplices

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday, welcoming the convictions of those attempted to undermine the nation's

involved in May 9 arson, underlined the need for military trial of its mastermind and his accomplices.

Talking to the media, the minister said the military courts have convicted some 60 individuals

involved in the May 9 attacks on Lahore's he added. Jinnah House, PAF Airbase Mianwali, Qila Chakdara, and other sensitive installations.

"This is a significant step forward, as those responsible for attacking sensitive installations have been brought to justice,"

"nefarious conspiracy masterminded by the PTI founder". He declared it a landmark day for Paki-

he said, while attributing the attacks to a

stan as justice was served to those who

will strengthen national of law, and ensure that no one dares to attack installations defense again for fulfilling the dreams of the enemies,"

defense institutions. "This security, establish the rule

"This day marks a turning point for Pakistan. Justice has been served, and the rule of law has prevailed. The martyrs can now rest in peace knowing their sacrifices have been honored," he remarked.

of martyred Major Awais in heaven and condoled with the bereaved family. He said the whole nation saluted martyred

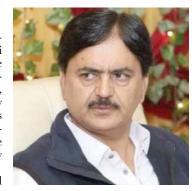
Friday, December 27, 2024

# Honoring the Martyrdom of Benazir Bhutto: A Renewed **Commitment to Her Mission**

跨 Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: P. P. Shaheed Benazirabad General Secretary Mumtaz Ali Chandio, in a statement issued on the occasion of Benazir Bhutto's martyrdom anniversary on 27th December. emphasized that this day is not only a tribute to Benazir Bhutto's sacrifices but also a reaffirmation of the commitment to continue her mission for the welfare of the people and the stability of democracy.

Mumtaz Ali Chandio further stated



that Benazir Bhutto's contributions to strengthen her mission. He urged all both Pakistani politics and her efforts to raise the nation's standing internationally will always be remembered. He noted that her sacrifices serve as a beacon for the nation. He also assured that the leadership and workers of the party are united in their resolve to continue Benazir Bhutto's mission.

Mumtaz Ali Chandio spoke about the significance of the upcoming rally on 27th December, calling it not just an event to remember Benazir Bhutto's legacy, but a renewed commitment to reality," he concluded.

party workers and the general public to participate in the rally in large numbers to demonstrate their commitment to fulfilling Benazir Bhutto's political

Mumtaz Ali Chandio appealed to all party members, supporters, and the public to attend the rally in large numbers to pay tribute to Benazir Bhutto's sacrifices and continue her mission. "Together, we are committed to turning Benazir Bhutto's vision into

## Shaheed Benazir Bhutto death anniversary ceremony

LAHORE: President Pakistan People's Party (PPP) central Punjab Raja Pervaiz Ashraf talk to media persons before departure to Garhi Khuda Bakhsh to attend former Prime Minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto death anniversary ceremony, at Lahore Railway station, in the Provincial Capital.



## Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held



跨 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: District Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Naeem Sindhu.

related to the development of the agricultural sector and provision of facilities to the farmers were consid-

Ali Khan gave a detailed briefing on wheat cultivation strategy, green tractor scheme, availability of fertilizers, livestock card and use of pesticides in the meeting.

The participants were informed In the meeting, various issues that the use of modern technology and quality seeds is being ensured for maximum production of wheat. The Deputy Commissioner directed

ture Toba Tek Singh, Dr. Noshair under the Green Tractor Scheme in a transparent manner.

He said that no hindrance in the supply of fertilizers to the farmers will be tolerated and special attention will be paid to the quality of the fertilizers. Regarding the Livestock Card, the farmers will be provided with modern facilities related to animal health and food. Strict instructions were issued

their quality.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner said that agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy and for its development. The government is taking all possible steps. All resources will be utilized to solve farmers' problems and increase agricultural production. Officials of the concerned departto the Department of Agriculture to ments and farmers' representatives ered. Deputy Director of Agriculto ensure the distribution of tractors ensure effective use of pesticides and also participated in the meeting.

## 18th death anniversary, Benazir Bhutto Shaheed celebrating today in AJK

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The 18th death anniversary of the leader of the Pakistan People's Party, the first female Prime Minister of Islamic countries, the daughter of the East, Ms. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, will be celebrated on national and international services Friday, December 27, with great devotion, respect and ideological enthusiasm in Azad Kashmir like in all four

election campaign of the party candidates in the general elections, after addressing a grand public meeting at Liaquat Bagh, the world leader was martyred by the bullets of terrorists while returning home.

A nationwide gathering will be held at the shrines of Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Shuhada, which will be addressed by President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari,

Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairperson of Political Affairs, Ms. Faryal Talpur, and the leadership of the four provinces including Party President Chaudhry Muhammad

Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar. The of the martyred leadership will be honored by organizing grand ceremonies in all the district and tehsil places of Azad Kashmir. Tributes will be paid. After returning home, during the The morning will begin with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Fateha Khawani in homes and mosques.

Party President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, former Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, former Acting Prime Minister Chaudhry Pervez Ashraf, Secretary General Faisal Rathore, ministers, party officials and workers led by



A grand anniversary ceremony and

in the capital Muzaffarabad, after which the participants will be served a meal. Yesterday, the party's Central Deputy Secretary for Information, nominated candidate for Assembly Constituency 7, Leepa Valley, Shaukat Javed Mir, strongly demanded that Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq celebrate the anniversary of the martyred democracy Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto at the official level throughout the country and Azad Kashmir and give death penalty to the murderers through a thorough investigation into the Liaquat Bagh tragedy. He also called on the founding chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, Fakhr Isha, the Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, daughter of the East

Fateha Khawani have been organized

## My Responsibility to Solve Problems of Traders. Chaudhry Tariq Rehmani



TOBATEK SINGH: President of Kamalia Tajir Ittehad, Chaudhry Tariq Hassan Rehmani Talking to Daily The Spokesman said that I am very grateful to all the tajers of Kamalia who made me the President of their organization Tajer Ittehad. He further said that whatever problems the tajers have, Inshallah, i will solve them immediately, because the tajers are

the asset of our country, the country is developed because of the tajer. Chaudhry Tariq Hassan Rehmani said that we have monthly meetings, in which all the tajers of Kamalia In these meetings, the problems of the tajers are looked into and I try my best to solve all the problems of the tajer.

#### Law and order situation in Malakand Division is satisfactory: RPO

**Solution** Correspondent

SWAT: Sher Akbar Khan, Regional Police Officer of Malakand Region, has stated that the law and order situation in Malakand Division is satisfactory. Protecting the lives, property, honor, and dignity of citizens is the  $\,$ top priority, and no compromises will be made in this regard.

He emphasized that no one is above the law, and actions are being taken to eradicate crime and narcotics in the region. Police stations and checkpoints are treating visitors with respect, and instructions have been issued to all police personnel to ensure this.

Sher Akbar Khan appealed to the public to cooperate with the police in eliminating crime. He warned that those involved in crime and taking the law into their own hands will be dealt with firmly. The people of Swat and Malakand Division are patriotic and peaceful, and their sacrifices for peace will not be overlooked. Cooperation between the public and police is essential for lasting peace.

## 'Addressing Climate Change: Workshop on the Impact of Climate Change on Crop



Special Correspondent

MULTAN: A significant workshop was organized by the Institute of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, in collaboration with CARE and FDO, at Ramada Hotel, Multan. The theme of the workshop was "The Impact of Climate Change on Crop Calendars."

The event was graced by the esteemed Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Muhammad Zubair Iqbal, as the chief guest. In his address, he highlighted the effects of climate change and the critical role of agricultural research in addressing these challenges. He emphasized the need to promote advanced research and innovations to tackle the issues posed by climate change effectively.

Professor Dr. Nazim Hussain Lahar, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, elaborated on the profound impact of climate change on agriculture, explaining how shifts in crop calendars could affect agricultural productivity. He stressed the importance of robust planning and farmer awareness to combat these challenges.

The Chief Organizer and Director of the Institute of Agronomy, Professor Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, welcomed the participants and shed light on the objectives of the workshop. He stated that the workshop was of immense importance for experts, students, and farmers associated with agriculture, as it facilitated discussions on strategies to adapt to climate changes.

#### Attock police 8kg of hashish recovered

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK 26DEC POLICE IN ACTION AGAINST INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SOCIAL EVILS: Over 8 Kg of Hashish Recovered, 7 Suspects Arrested According to details, under the special instructions of District Police Officer Attock, Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan, Attock Police continues its operations against individuals involved in social evils. In this context, the City Attock Police arrested drug dealers Zaheer Abbas, son of Abrar Hussain, a resident of Mohallah Muhammad Nagar Attock; Suleman Nawaz, son of Muhammad Nawaz, a resident of Attock City; and Reham Ali, alias Mehr Ali, son of Karam Ali, a resident of Maraz Attock.-Recoveries:-Zaheer Abbas: 1422 grams of hashish-Suleman Nawaz: 1550 grams of hashish-Reham Ali: 1400 grams of hashish On the other hand, the Pindigheb Police team recovered:-Suspects:-Muhammad Nawaz, son of Shimamand, a resident of Pindigheb: 1410 grams of hashish-Ghulam Asghar, son of Ghulam Hussain, a resident of Dhurnal: 720 grams of hashish Similarly, the Attock Khurd Police recovered: Suspect: Arshad Khan, son of Muhammad Akram, a resident of Haripur: 1100 grams of hashish The Saddar Attock Police recovered: Suspect: Mukhtiar Hussain, son of Fazal Hussain, a resident of Jassian: 530 grams of hashish Attock Police has registered separate cases under the Narcotics Act against all suspects in various police stations, and the suspects have been sent to jail.

#### CDA eyes major investment through auctioning prime commercial plots

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is gearing up to offer a diverse range of lucrative commercial plots in Islamabad, following a high-level meeting chaired by Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Thursday

The initiative aims to attract significant investments while bolstering the city's economic and infrastructural development.

In the meeting, attended by CDA Members and senior officials, Chairman Randhawa emphasized the importance of creating investor-friendly opportunities.

He directed the identification of prime, business-suitable locations to ensure maximum returns and encourage widespread participation in the upcoming auction. The auction will feature a variety of plots, including commercial spaces, agro farms, Class-III shopping centers, industrial plots, I&T centers, hotel plots, and apartment complexes. These options are designed to cater to a diverse group of investors, ensuring a wide range of development across the city.





## **Namaz Timings** .5:06 pm

### **EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20
Women Delice

### **Women Police**

Statio	ns
Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

Kawaipiilui	92/0001-20
ENQU	IRY
Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	928097

PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092
HOSPITA	ΔLS

CMH	5611111
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

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6

Zafar Bakhtawari and Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari Meet Azerbaijan Ambassador, **Express** *Condolences* 

#### 

ISLAMABAD: Expressing grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the Azerbaijan plane crash, UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari and Chairman Clean and Green Islamabad Movement, former ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, met with Azerbaijan's Ambassador, Khazar Farhadov, in Islamabad. The crash occurred near the Kazakh city of Aktobe, claiming 38 lives and leaving 29 injured.

During the meeting, Zafar Bakhtawari and Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, accompanied by ICCI Executive Committee members Raja Naveed Akhtar Satti, Shah Faisal, and Fatima Hassan, expressed deep condolences and conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families. Speaking with Ambassador Farhadov, they said, "This tragedy is not only a loss for Azerbaijan but for the entire world. In this time of sorrow, we stand with the people and government of Azerbaijan."

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari also penned his sentiments in the condolence book placed at the Azerbaijan Embassy. Ambassador Khazar Farhadov appreciated the condolences and support extended by Zafar Bakhtawari and Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, stating, "The brotherly relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan have always been strong, and your support during such moments gives us solace."

# AIOU Inaugurates Yunus Emre Institute Turkish Cultural Center

#### Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) inaugurated the Yunus Emre Institute Turkish Cultural Center in a ceremony held yesterday. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, was the chief guest, while Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, graced the event as the guest of honor. The ceremony was presided over by Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor, AIOU, and Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan, Irfan Naziroglu was also present at the event.

During his address, Minister Attaullah Tarar highlighted the exemplary friendship between Pakistan and Turkiye, stressing the importance of strengthening people-to-people ties. He emphasized the need for increased cultural exchanges to promote mutual understanding of language, history, and culture. He noted that the bond between the two countries transcends challenges, stating, "Our hearts beat as one." He also praised Turkiye's culture and dramas, which are widely appreciated in Pakistan, and assured that efforts will continue to promote cultural exchange in line with the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

commended AIOU's initiative to introduce Turkish language and culture to Pakistan, calling it a positive step. He stressed that education is the key to overcoming poverty, particularly for the many Pakistanis living below the poverty line.

Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Professor Dr. Nasir Mehmood spoke about the university's efforts to introduce students to the cultures and educational systems of various countries. He mentioned the establishment of the Russian Culture Center at AIOU and announced that a Japanese Culture Center and an Academic Diplomacy Center for Pakistan-Iran relations will soon be Turkish Ambassador Irfan Naziroglu

expressed his views emphasizing that culture serves as an effective bridge between nations, fostering closer ties among their people. He acknowledged the strong collaboration between the two countries at the governmental level and reiterated that cultural exchanges would further enhance bilateral relations.

Country Director, Yunus Emre Institute, Prof. Dr. Halil Toker, provided an overview of the institute's global presence, sharing that there are 90 Yunus Emre Institutes in 80 countries, with



Pakistan. The event concluded with author Dr. Farooq Adil. The ceremony officers, and many students.

this being the third such institution in closing remarks by senior journalist and was attended by faculty members, senior

### Condolence

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman Clean and Green Islamabad Movement, is penning his condolences in the memorial book at the Azerbaijan Embassy for those who lost their lives in the plane crash. On this occasion, Azerbaijan's Ambassador Khazar Farhadov. UBIG (FPCCI) Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, ICCI Executive Member Raja Naveed Satti, Shah Faisal, and Fatima Hassan were also present.



## UAE Envoy celebrate the Christmas with School children

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE Hamad Obaid Alzaabi celebrate the Christmas with children of Convent of Jesus & Mary School and warmest greetings to all. He said this festive season is a time of reflection, joy, and the reaffirmation of our shared values of love, peace, and goodwill.

He was inspired by the importance of nurturing our youth and interfaith harmony. He said "teachings of Jesus resonate deeply, emphasizing compassion, unity among all community and promoting these values in our diverse society".

Ambassador said "UAE and Pakistan share a strong bond rooted in mutual respect, let us renew our commitment to peace and coexistence, ensuring that everyone feels valued and included".



May this Christmas bring joy, hope, and prosperity to all. Wishing you a Merry Christmas!

## Kaspersky uncovers new scam targeting businesses on social media

#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky experts have uncovered a new phishing scam targeting businesses that promote their pages on Facebook. Scammers send emails allegedly on behalf of Meta for Business - Facebook's platform for businesses - claiming the recipient's page contains prohibited content. The email suggests users provide explanations in order for their account and page to be unblocked. The goal of the attackers is likely to get access to users' business accounts.

Kaspersky's anonymized data shows that such emails started reaching users on December 14, with complaints coming from organizations all over the world.. By examining the "From" field in the email it can be seen that the domain does not belong to Facebook. According to Kaspersky data the emails that this campaign used were sent from different domains.

The link in the email redirects users to Facebook Messenger. On Messenger, the account posing as Facebook's support team appears legitimate, creating a false sense of trust. There is an indication that this is a fan page, but it is easy to miss in a situation of high stress after being accused of spreading illegitimate content.

"In 2025, we anticipate a rise in attacks leveraging social engineering and user trust in major platforms. Scams like this are becoming more sophisticated as attackers strive to mimic official services closely. Users must remain vigilant and verify the authenticity of messages.. We strongly advise users not to engage with suspicious accounts and to activate additional security measures, such as two-factor authentication. If you receive such an email, report the incident to Facebook's support team and update your passwords immediately if any information has been compromised," comments Andrey Kovtun, Email Threats Protection Group Manager at Kaspersky.

### Parveen Shakir remembered on 30th death anniversary

#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Poets, writers, former colleagues and members of the  $Parveen\,Shakir\,Trust\,(PST)\,led\,by\,Chairperson\,of\,the\,trust\,Mrs\,Parveen$ Qadir Agha observed on Thursday (Dec 26, 2024) 30th death anniversary of their dear colleague and Pakistan's prominent poet Parveen Shakir who breathed her last on Dec 26, 1994 after she succumbed to her injuries in a fatal accident.

They gathered at her grave to offer Fateha and pay respects to the departed poet.

A contingent of the Pakistan Customs and a delegation of the Pakistan Academy of Letters also joined the mourners and laid floral wreaths on her grave in the H-8 graveyard.

Besides, a large number of the fans of Parveen Shakir's poetry also turned up at the grave and recited her popular couplets.

They called her a trendsetter who gave voice to women's sensibilities in her poems. Even today, she is considered a symbol of women empowerment and a role model for the young emerging women writers and poets.

Among Parveen Shakir's former colleagues who had arrived to pay their respects included ex-collector Customs, Najeebur Rehman Abbasi, Income Tax group's retired officer Muhammad Siddique, Shalimar Recording Company's Mr Anwar Jahangiri, Registrar of the FTO, Khalid Javed, Director General (DG) Khuldoonul Haq, ex-Member Customs, Salman Nabi, another colleague from the Customs Group Zafar Baig and Director Administration Farhan Khan. Eminent poet Mehboob Zafar and Director General of the PAL, Sultan Nasir also laid floral wreath and offered Fateha there.

Members of the PST Riffat Haider, Dr Rubina, Seema Anwar and Muneeza Syed also paid glowing tributes to Parveen Shakir on the

## Exhibition of paintings on 'Mountain Heritage and Landscape' opens at PAC

#### 跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi and Devcom-Pakistan jointly organized a painting exhibition titled "Mountain Heritage Rawalpindi Arts Gallery, in connection with the 14th Pakistan Mountain Festival. The festival is a signature initiative aimed at mainstreaming mountain challenges and celebrating the rich cultural and environmental mental issues. heritage of Pakistan's mountainous

first three prizes were won by Attiqa Malik, Shanza Noreen and Afia Risha respectively, while Salslabeen Aslam,

Hamna and Syed Moazzam won first security, and cultural identity. "Our three prizes in the students category

Well-known artist Shahnaz Akram was the chief jury and chief guest of the occasion. She distributed certifiand Landscape" on Thursday at the cates among the winning artists and praised the creativity and dedication displayed by the participants. In her address, Shahnaz Akram underscored the importance of art in highlighting critical social and environ-

Munir Ahmed, Executive Director of Devcom-Pakistan and founder of In the senior youth group, the the Pakistan Mountain Festival, also addressed the audience. He emphasized the critical role mountains play in Pakistan's ecological balance, water

mountains are more than majestic landscapes; they are the lifeblood of our environment and culture. In the context of changing climate, it is imperative to protect and promote their environmental and cultural heritage," he remarked.

He further lauded the partnership between the Punjab Arts Council and Devcom-Pakistan, noting that such collaborations are vital for raising awareness and fostering appreciation for mountain ecosystems and communities.

The exhibition "Mountain Heritage and Landscape" was a successful platform to engage the public, celebrate mountain life, and advocate for the



preservation of Pakistan's invaluable organizers expressed their gratitude continue their efforts to mainstream natural and cultural treasures. The to all participants and pledged to mountain-related issues.

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Vice Chairman:

Naveed Ahmad Khan Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Khurram Jaffrani

Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

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## Pope calls for 'silence of arms', says Gaza situation 'grave', seeks debt forgiveness

ope Francis, in his traditional Christmas message, has called for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan, as he expressed concern over the "extremely grave" humanitarian situation in besieged Gaza, emphasizing that world leaders forgive the debts "that burden the poorest countries."

Speaking to the thousands gathered in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City for his Christmas blessing and message, Francis returned to the topic of two military conflicts that have dominated his thoughts — and his public remarks — for many months. His message was distributed around the world.

In Ukraine, he called for "the boldness needed to open the door to negotiation and to gestures of dialogue and encounter, in order to achieve a just and lasting peace."

And he urged that "the sound of arms be silenced in the Middle East." His thoughts, he said, were with Christians in the Gaza Strip, "where the humanitarian situation is extremely grave" for all who live there. Francis urged the delivery of aid "to the people worn out by hunger and by war" in Gaza, as well as a cease-fire and the release of the Israeli hostages.

In his message, Francis pleaded for peace and dialogue around the world, citing conflicts including in those in Lebanon, Myanmar, Syria and the Horn of Africa.

He spoke of "the devastating effects of climate change, resulting in the loss of life and the displacement of millions of people." He asked that hope touch "the families of thousands of children who are dying from an outbreak of measles in the Democratic Republic of Congo.'

Francis also used his Christmas Day message to address the conflict in the Middle East, calling for "the doors of dialogue and peace [to] be flung open".

"I think of the Christian communities in Israel and Palestine, particularly in Gaza, where the humanitarian situation is extremely grave," he said. "May there be a ceasefire, may the hostages be released and aid be given to the people worn out by

The conflict has raged for nearly 15 months, while repeated ceasefire efforts have stalled, mainly because of Israel's intran-

Gaza's health ministry said in a statement on Wednesday that more than 45,361 Palestinians have been killed since 7 October 2023. Thousands more people are believed to be buried under the rubble and tens of thousands have been wounded.

Francis urged people to "tear down all walls of separation", citing examples that ranged from the ideologies that "so often mark political life" to physical walls. He called for a "mutually agreed solution" to bring down the border wall that has divided the Mediterranean island of Cyprus since 1974.

"I invite every individual and all people of all nations to have the courage to walk through the door, to become pilgrims of hope, to silence the sounds of arms and overcome divisions,"

# **Christmas Spirit: Spreading Love across Continents**

Kuala Lumpur, France each, and now in the USA, I have been privileged to experience the profound joy and festive spirit of Christmas. In countries with a predominantly Christian population, Christmas transcends being merely a one-day or three-day event; it is a season-long celebration that permeates every facet of life. From the grand gestures of governments and corporations to the heartfelt efforts of small businesses, neighborhoods, households, and individuals, the Christmas spirit is truly ubiquitous. Cities come alive with dazzling lights, ornate decorations, and bustling Christmas markets, while music, caroling, and acts of kindness fill the air with warmth and cheer.

Our Christmas experience in Europe was truly unforgettable—a magical journey that began well over a month before the actual day. The festive spirit swept across the continent like a joyful wave, with government municipalities entering a spirited competition to outshine one another in illuminating their streets and adorning roadside trees. Every corner seemed to sparkle with radiant lights, transforming cities into enchanting wonderlands

The Champs-Élysées and the Eiffel Tower naturally became the epicenters of Christmas celebrations in Paris, drawing in locals and tourists alike in vibrant hordes to revel in the magic of the season. Families and friends strolled these iconic landmarks, basking in the glow of dazzling lights and soaking in the unmistakable Christmas spirit that seemed to hang in the air like a warm embrace. The sights, sounds, and aromas of the season

it felt as though the entire city had transformed into a living fairytale.

One unforgettable Christmas season, we were fortunate to visit Geneva, Switzerland—a city that seemed to embody the very soul of the holidays. The Christmas market was a sight to behold, with stalls that radiated warmth and charm. We

wandered through its festive labyrinth for hours, relishing the local delicacies and savoring the unmistakable flavors of Swiss tradition, all while carefully ensuring to avoid non-Halal offerings. The twinkling lights, snow-kissed surround-

ings, and the hum of joyful chatter left us spellbound, etching those moments into our hearts forever.

**Qamar Bashir** 

Now in Detroit, Michigan, we've found ourselves immersed in the festive charm of the upscale neighborhoods in Macomb County. The Christmas spirit here is nothing short of infectious. The local administration sprang into action a month before the holidays, adorning the trees lining the streets with mesmerizing lights in a myriad of colors and patterns. By evening, the view transformed into a magical spectacle, a magnetic display that could draw even the most indifferent passerby into its festive embrace.

The homes in this neighborhood seemed to compete in their dedication to the season, with families pouring their hearts-and fortunes-into elaborate displays. Caroling figurines, glowing Santas, and signs of Christian faith adorned almost every yard, creating

color. Walking through these streets at night was like stepping into a dream. The decorations welcomed visitors with their bewitching beauty, stirring feelings of warmth, joy, and togetherness, and amplifying the true essence of Christmas. It was not just a celebration of the season but a heartfelt expression of community

and faith—a testament to the enduring magic of this special time of year.

The United States boasts numerous festive hubs renowned for their extravagant Christmas celebrations,

offering a unique blend of tradition and spectacle. New York City is

a hallmark of holiday magic, with the Rockefeller Center's iconic Christmas tree, ice skating rink, and dazzling Fifth Avenue window displays drawing millions. In Chicago, the Christkindlmarket transforms Daley Plaza into a German-inspired wonderland of crafts, treats, and warm mulled wine. Leavenworth, Washington, a Bavarian-style village, feels straight out of a snow globe, complete with carolers and a grand tree-lighting ceremony. Charleston, South Carolina, offers a Southern twist with its Festival of Lights, while San Antonio's River Walk dazzles with illuminated pathways and boat parades. Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, aptly named "Christmas City," brims with charm, markets, and live nativity scenes. From coast to coast, these festive centers embody the joy, warmth, and magic of the Christmas season, making them mustvisit destinations for holiday enthusiasts. Statistically, the Christmas season is one

uring my four years in created an atmosphere so enchanting that a mesmerizing patchwork of light and of the most celebrated holidays globally, with approximately 2 billion people participating in some form, showcasing its universal appeal. In the USA, the season contributes significantly to the economy, generating an estimated \$900 billion in retail sales annually.

An equally heartwarming aspect of Christmas is its deeply rooted philanthropic spirit, which shines brightest during the holiday season. Across the United States, malls, markets, and government initiatives set up special facilities to encourage well-to-do families to donate generously to Christmas funds and charities. These funds serve as a beacon of hope, ensuring that the joy of Christmas reaches everyone, including children in orphanages and families living below the poverty line. In 2022 alone, Americans donated an estimated \$500 billion to charitable causes, with a significant portion directed towards holiday-focused programs.

Christmas delivers a timeless message of love, reaching far and wide, spreading hope, happiness, and the warmth of togetherness across the globe. It is a call to action for compassion, urging us to take responsibility for not only our own lives but also the well-being of others. The spirit of Christmas inspires us to build a world where kindness prevails, where differences dissolve in the face of mutual respect, and where the joy of giving becomes a cornerstone of our shared

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## Immoral Exploitation of Freedom of Expression to Target Pak Army - II

s Pakistan seeks to diversify its defense sources, Belarus, with its well-established defense industry, is seen as a valuable partner for military hardware and defense  $technology. \ The \ two \ leaders \ discussed \ expanding$ joint defense manufacturing, training programs, and supplies of military equipment. With both countries facing security challenges, they also discussed enhancing cooperation on counterterrorism and regional security. Belarus expressed its willingness to assist Pakistan in tackling security concerns, particularly related to extremism

and militancy. Both sides recognized the importance of regional stability and pledged to collaborate on shared security issues.

In addition to economic and defense matters, the visit highlighted the importance of strengthening cultural and educational ties. Although Belarus and Pakistan have a history of friendly relations.

mutual public perception remains limited. The visit emphasized the desire to increase people-topeople exchanges, particularly in areas like higher education, tourism, and cultural diplomacy. President Lukashenko proposed deeper collaboration between Belarusian and Pakistani universities, focusing on technical education, engineering, and science. Given Pakistan's growing interest in technological innovation, especially in information technology and biotechnology, Belarus presents an attractive partner for academic collaboration and research sharing. While Belarus is not a major tourist destination for Pakistanis, discussions during the visit also touched on promoting tourism exchanges and cultural diplomacy. Belarus boasts a rich history, breathtaking landscapes, and a vibrant cultural heritage, all of which the Belarusian government views as an opportunity to

significant geopolitical importance. For Belarus, strengthening its relationship with Pakistan is a key aspect of its broader strategy to diversify its foreign relations in light of Western sanctions and growing isolation due to its support of Russia in the Ukraine conflict. By engaging with Pakistan, which holds a strategically advantageous position in South Asia and the broader Islamic world, Belarus aims to forge new trade and political alliances. For Pakistan, the visit presented a valuable opportunity to engage with a European nation outside its traditional sphere of influence. It reflects Paki-

stan's strategic intent to diversify its foreign policy, particularly as tensions with neighboring India and Afghanistan continue to shape its priorities. By strengthening ties with Belarus and other non-traditional partners, Pakistan aims to reduce its reliance on traditional allies. Given the importance of the visit, special security measures were required

to ensure foolproof protection, and Pakistan is no stranger to deploying its armed forces to secure foreign delegations.

**Abdul Basit Alvi** 

To protect key government buildings and secure the visit of the foreign President, the government deployed the military in the capital. The same political party and its allies abroad began spreading propaganda against the military's deployment. At a recent Formation Commanders' Conference of the Pakistan Army, participants expressed concerns over the malicious propaganda regarding the army's role in securing government buildings and ensuring a safe environment for foreign delegations. The two-day 84th Formation Commanders' Conference, chaired by Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir, addressed these concerns, as reported by the Department of Public Relations (ISPR). In a statement released after the

showcase to Pakistani tourists. The visit also held Formation Commanders' Conference, the ISPR condemned the malicious propaganda being spread regarding the lawful deployment of the army in the capital to protect key government buildings and ensure a secure environment for foreign delegations visiting Pakistan. This coordinated and premeditated campaign is seen as part of a deliberate effort by certain political elements to create a rift between the people and Pakistan's armed forces and institutions. The statement also emphasized that this failed attempt, supported by external forces, will not succeed. It added that the forum highlighted the necessity for the government to enact and enforce strict laws to prevent the reckless and unethical use of freedom of expression to spread lies, hatred, and division. There is also a pressing need to identify and hold accountable those who spread fake news for political and financial gains, the participants noted. The forum reaffirmed that the Pakistan Army is unwavering in its commitment to serving the nation and its people, confronting both external and internal threats impartially, without any political bias. It condemned any efforts to incite violence and create divisions among innocent people for personal gain.

The same group also launched a social media campaign urging a boycott of products from companies managed by the Pakistan Army, but this call has been largely ignored by the people and investors. Recent statistics show that the stock prices of these companies continue to rise, with profits growing despite these malicious calls for

Regrettably, the state has been treating these malicious elements too leniently. The people of Pakistan demand decisive action against those spreading false and harmful propaganda against Pakistan and its military. The people of Pakistan stand firmly with the Army and reject any attempts to spread hatred against the true defenders of

## She Who Became the Path of **Bright Hopes, Immortalized** in History!

on the evening of December 27, 2007, in Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi, shook not only Pakistan but the entire world. Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's first female Prime numerous initiatives aimed at women's educa-

light her personality, political struggle, global stature, and the sacrifices she made. Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was a leader who embodied courage, knowledge, politics,

and humanity all in one. Benazir Bhutto was born on June 21, 1953, in Karachi, as the daughter of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who

carved a distinct place for himself in the world through his principled politics. She received her early education in Pakistan and then went on to pursue higher studies at Harvard and Oxford Universities, where she honed her expertise in politics, history, and economics. Her education not only fostered her political consciousness but also prepared her to become a global leader.

After the dismissal of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's government in 1977 and the subsequent martial law, Benazir Bhutto took up her father's political legacy. During the 1980s, when General Zia-ul-Haq's authoritarian regime was in power, she faced imprisonment and exile. Despite these hardships, she never compromised on her principles and continued to fight for democracy.

In 1988, elections were held in Pakistan, and At the age of 35, she became the world's first

he tragic incident that occurred female Prime Minister, setting an revolutionary example for the Islamic world.

As Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto dedicated herself to improving the lives of women and the marginalized communities. She launched Minister, fell victim to terrorism, sacrificing tion, health, and social rights, among which the her life for the nation. This article aims to high- Live Leadership Program and public health projects stand out as notable

achievements.

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto took a courageous stance against terrorism, recognizing it as a major threat not just to Pakistan, but to the entire world. When she returned to Pakistan in 2007 after her exile, her main objective was Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi to restore democracy in the

country and fight terrorism. During a rally at Liaquat Bagh, Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in a fatal attack. Her martyrdom was not just a huge loss for the people of Pakistan but also a significant blow to

democracy and human rights on a global scale. During her tenure, Benazir Bhutto established strong relationships with world leaders. She was an inspiration on the global stage for peace, development, and women's rights. Her political vision and determination set her apart

as a unique figure. Today, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto is remembered not just as a politician but as a brave, visionary, and people-oriented leader. She taught us the extent to which one must fight for principles and democracy. Though she is no longer with us physically, her thoughts and sacrifices continue to guide us. Benazir Bhutto Benazir Bhutto was elected as Prime Minister. remains alive in the hearts of millions and will forever be remembered.

# The Spokesman 5

# President of Uzbekistan participates in an informal meeting of the CIS heads of state

**Spokesman Report** 

TASHKENT: On December 25, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in an informal meeting of the CIS heads of state in the city of St. Petersburg.

The event was attended by President

of Russia Vladimir Putin, President of main results of joint work in 2024 were Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, President of Kazakhstan Kasvm-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov.

summarized and priority tasks of multilateral cooperation for the coming year were considered.

The importance of developing joint measures to expand intra-regional trade and cooperation was emphasized, In the course of the meeting the primarily through further elimination of



barriers to mutual trade.

Opinions were exchanged on the prospects for the development of multifaceted partnership in new areas. These include the creation of engineering

schools, development of Internet technologies, big data industry, creative economy, green energy and peaceful atom, implementation of digital solu-

Topical issues of the regional and international agenda, expansion of practical cooperation within the CIS in the fight against common challenges and threats were also discussed.

## ISSI inaugurates 'China Corner' to further promote China Studies

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the inaugural ceremony of 'China Corner' at the ISSI Library. The event was graced by Ambasasdor Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to Prime Minister/Minister of State (Foreign Affairs), as Chief Guest. Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Ambassador of Pakistan to China, and Mr. Shi Yuanqiang, Deputy Head of Mission at Embassy of China in Pakistan, attended as Guests of Honour. The event was attended by prominent members of diplomatic community, bureaucracy, civil society and the media. This is the first ever 'China Corner' to be established in a think-tank in Pakistan.

In his welcome address, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted that ISSI has been serving as an important hub for research on China in Pakistan with multiple institutional collaborations with Chinese think tanks and universities. ISSI is



also a dialogue partner for the Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum with the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) as part of the Joint Working Group of CPEC on International Cooperation. He further added that the 'China Corner' has a collection of more than 600 physical and 5000 electronic books, journals, newspapers, and monographs related to China studies that are available for scholars to benefit from.

Khalil Hashmi stated that Pakistan-China relationship has surpassed the traditional construct of inter-state relations and is now a comprehensive and unique partnership built on mutual trust, mutual support and mutual respect as its foundational principles. The establishment of 'China Corner' at ISSI is not only about studying China but also to build bridges and make synergy between both countries to work together.

Mission at Embassy of China, empha-diplomatic strategies.

sized that ISSI has made outstanding efforts to promote mutual understanding and information about China. Chinese Embassy has been cooperating with ISSI and also contributed books and CDs for the 'China Corner.'

In his address, the Chief Guest Ambassador Syed Tariq Fatemi elaborated that there is something very fascinating about Pakistan China relations that has perplexed scholars of international relations abroad for During his remarks, Ambassador years. The history of both countries shows that despite huge differences between the people and philosophies of the two countries the relationship continued to strengthen. Pakistan was among the first to recognize China, it was also the first to advocate for Chinese membership in the UN.

Earlier, in his opening remarks Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, stated that the 'China Corner' will provide comprehensive access to information and resources about China's gover-Mr. Shi Yuanqiang, Deputy Head of nance model, economic policies, and

## Collaboration in climate change between Rwanda, Pakistan discussed

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Rwandan ambassador Fatou Harerimana on Thursday highlighted the potential of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Rwanda in climate change, water conservation, smart agriculture, disaster management, emphasising the need for enhanced collaboration.

During her courtesy call-on meeting with Prime Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam held here in the climate change and environmental coordination ministry, she said there is a need to expand bilateral collaboration and cooperation in environment, climate change and disaster management, adding that the two nations enjoy friendly rela- heatwaves, droughts and



Minister's Coordinator for respect, growing economic ties and cooperation in various sectors.

During the meeting, both sides also highlighted the growing urgency for bilateral cooperation as a part of the international collaboration to tackle the common challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, tions supported by mutual water scarcity, with both

leaders reaffirming their commitment to national and global sustainability.

"Rwanda and Pakistan. with a longstanding relationship spanning sixty-two years, actively collaborate in various fields, including trade, health, and investment. But, now environment, climate resilience building, water conservation, disaster risk management, heatwave,

drought and desertification are the areas which offer a huge potential for both the countries to collaborate," the Rwandan ambassador Fatou Harerimana said.

Ambassador mana and the PM's climate aide explored and discussed several possible areas of cooperation, including the sharing of expertise, joint research initiatives and the implementation of green technologies to promote sustainable development.

"Rwanda is committed to playing a significant role in the global effort to combat climate change. Our partnership with Pakistan will not only strengthen our climate resilience but also pave the way for practical, actionable solutions that can be applied across the developing world," Ambassador Harerimana stated during the meeting.

## Over \$100 million in business deals signed in Build Asia 2024

跨 City Desk

KARACHI: The 18th edition of Build Asia 2024 witnessed handsome business activities with over 100 deals were signed between foreign and local companies and buyers, in heavy machinery, innovative technological building solutions, climate-friendly developers, etc.

According to the organizers, several exhibitors from 10 different countries participated in the event, including China, Russia, and Iran, and it attracted around 28,000 from real estate and 42 ancillary sectors, such as aluminum, brick, cement, glass, marble, paint, steel, tiles, and transportation.

The three-day event also hosted the Prop-Tech Convention, in which stakeholders of property and construction organized



various seminars and panel discussions on the core and emerging issues of the sector.

Farhan Anis, Vice President of Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan, said Build Asia 2024 plays a vital role in the revival and development of the construction sector in Pakistan with the active participation and involvement of key stakeholders

over 10 million in Pakistan could be addressed through out-of-the-box strategies and the involvement of financial institutions in the sector, he said and added. Besides, there are various emerging concepts of interior design, and innovative electrical solutions are introduced from foreign countries

The housing deficit of ferring new trends to the commercial and residential sectors.

It is pertinent to mention here that the construction sector plays a pivotal role in Pakistan's economic development, including infrastructure development and urban growth. It contributes over 2.5% to Pakistan's GDP, employing over 7% of

## 18 Death Anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

**Asim Tanveer** 

n December 23.

amidst freezing weather, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, accompanied by her close friend and political secretary Ms. Naheed Khan, traveled from Sukkur to Rahim Yar Khan. That evening, she held a comprehensive meeting with the office bearers of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) district Rahim Yar Khan. She issued instructions to the local leadership for preparing the public rally scheduled for the next day and ensuring its success through a strong turnout. On \*\*December 24\*, Benazir Bhutto arrived at the Rahim Yar Khan Sports Stadium in a grand procession, alongside Ms. Naheed Khan. Upon reaching the venue, she immediately inquired about live media coverage. Ms. Naheed Khan informed her that representatives from both national and international media outlets were present, including Asim Tanveer from Reuters, Mian Khalid Tanveer from the Associated Press of America, Arif Ali from Agence France-Presse, and a BBC team led by Asim Tanveer.

Impressed by the participation of foreign media, Benazir Bhutto invited the journalists



to the stage for an exchange of largest public rally in the history views. The electrifying enthusiasm of the public in Rahim Yar Khan left Benazir Bhutto deeply moved. She expressed her appreciation for Ms. Naheed Khan's efforts. Reports from intelligence agencies estimated the crowd at over 100,000 participants, while independent sources reported a turnout exceeding 200,000 PPP supporters. On the same day, December 24, Benazir Bhutto departed Rahim Yar Khan via chartered plane for Bahawalpur. That evening, despite harsh cold weather, she addressed another massive public gathering at the Bahawalpur Stadium. She stayed at the residence of PPP leader and former Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Zaka Ashraf, where

she also attended a dinner. On December 25, at noon, Benazir Bhutto addressed the of Lodhran. She was accompanied by former federal minister Mirza Nasir Baig and former Member of National Assembly Rana Mumtaz Noon. Immediately after her speech in Lodhran, Benazir Bhutto traveled with former Speaker of the National Assembly Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani to Muzaffargarh College Ground, where she delivered another powerful speech at 4 PM to a massive crowd. This detailed account offers a glimpse into the unwavering dedication of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto during her last days. After addressing the public

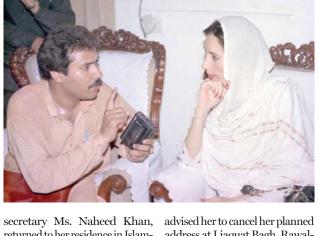
rally in Muzaffargarh, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, accompanied by former Speaker of the National Assembly Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani and her political secretary Ms. Naheed Khan, went directly

to Multan Airport. There, she gave an interview to Shakeel Anjum, the Bureau Chief of Express TV Multan (currently the President of the Press Club). At 8 PM on December 25, Benazir Bhutto departed from Multan and arrived in Islamabad. Late into the night, she held meetings with party leaders at her residence in F-8/2. She was accompanied by her political secretary Ms. Naheed Khan and Senator Safdar Abbasi.

After these meetings, Benazir Bhutto discussed the future political situation with Ms. Naheed Khan and provided her with instructions regarding the party's plans and strategies.

On December 26, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto left for Attock and Peshawar to address public gatherings. She delivered a powerful speech at the public rally held at Arbab Niaz Stadium in Peshawar, marking another significant moment in her relentless political campaign.

Terrorists relentlessly pursued Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, intent on taking her life. Following the tragic Karsaz bombing, another attempt to target her was made in Peshawar. However, security forces successfully thwarted the plan, recovering weapons from the suspects. After addressing the public rally in Peshawar, Benazir Bhutto, along with her political



returned to her residence in Islamabad on December 26. At 2:30 AM, Ms, Naheed Khan departed from the residence, and shortly afterward, at 3:00 AM, Director General of ISI, Lt. General Nadeem Taj, arrived to meet Brigadier (Retd.) Amaan, Benazir's security in charge. The DG ISI urgently requested a meeting with Benazir Bhutto, stating he had an important message for her. At the time, Benazir Bhutto was giving an exclusive interview to Asim Tanveer, a representative of Reuters. After being informed by Brigadier Amaan, she concluded the interview and met with Lt. General Nadeem Taj. During the meeting, he warned her of a signif-

address at Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi, the next day.

On December 27, after breakfast, Benazir Bhutto reviewed national and international newspapers and had discussions with Ms. Naheed Khan. She also had a scheduled meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai at 10:30 AM, which was delayed to 11:30 AM due to his late arrival. Benazir. accompanied by Ms. Naheed Khan and Senator Safdar Abbasi, concluded the meeting by 1:00 PM and returned to her residence. Later, Benazir Bhutto, Ms. Naheed Khan, and Asim Tanveer had lunch together. Following this, she engaged in phone conversations with key political figures icant terrorist threat to her life and and international dignitaries.

At 3:30 PM, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto left her residence in F-8/2 for Liaquat Bagh to address a public rally. Accompanying her were Ms. Naheed Khan, Senator Safdar Abbasi, and former federal minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim. Despite receiving prior warnings about potential threats, Benazir Bhutto chose to proceed with her plans. After delivering a powerful speech at the rally, she intended to visit the Golra Sharif shrine and had a scheduled meeting with a threemember U.S. Senate delegation at 7:00 PM. As Benazir Bhutto's vehicle departed from Liaquat Bagh, a massive crowd followed her. Enthralled by the support, she asked her driver, Javed, to open the sunroof. Standing through it, she waved to the jubilant crowd, responding to their chants. In those fleeting moments, tragedy struck. Gunshots rang out, followed by a devastating bomb explosion. Within seconds, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's beloved daughter Pinky and Pakistan's former Prime Minister was martyred. Her untimely death marked the end of an era and left the nation in profound grief.

Writer is International Journalist associate with British News Agency Reuters

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

index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
110,423.32	112,414.80	
Day's High	Day's Low	
112,480.60	109,858.88	
Index Value	Change	
25,197,566,022	-1991.48	
Percentage	Time	
-1.77%	26 Dec, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
8,136.99	+34.27	
Percentage	Time	
+0.42%	24 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
43,355.83	+58.80	
Percentage	Time	
+0.14% 26 Dec, 11:5 GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change	

#### **Open Market Forex Rates**

39,568.06

**Percentage** 

+1.12%

+437.63

Time

26 Dec, 3:45 pm

GMT+9

Open Market I Orex Rates			
Currency	Buying	Selling	
Australian Dollar	174.75	177.00	
Bahrain Dinar	735.65	743.65	
Canadian Dollar	194.35	196.75	
China Yuan	37.99	38.39	
Danish Krone	39.15	39.55	
Euro	287.05	289.80	
Hong Kong Dollar	35.44	35.79	
Indian Rupee	3.19	3.28	
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.92	
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.56	906.06	
Malaysian Ringgit	61.59	62.19	
NewZealand \$	155.37	157.37	
Norwegians Krone	24.41	24.71	
Omani Riyal	720.00	728.50	
Qatari Riyal	75.7	76.4	
Saudi Riyal	73.80	74.35	
Singapore Dollar	204.99	206.99	
Swedish Korona	24.92	25.22	
Swiss Franc	309.10	311.9	
Thai Bhat	8	8.15	
U.A.E Dirham	75.40	76.05	
UK Pound Sterling	346.25	349.75	
US Dollar	277.90	279.40	

## CCP authorizes KCA Deutag acquisition by HP Global Holdings



#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has authorized the acquisition of 100% shareholding in KCA Deutag International Limited by HP Global Holdings Limited (H&P). The proposed transaction involves the purchase of KCA Deutag from Sculptor Special Master Fund Limited, including its 18.5% shareholding in KCA Deutag GmbH, registered in Pakistan.

KCA Deutag, a major player in the global oil field services sector and registered under US laws, provides drilling and engineering services, operating 138 onshore rigs worldwide. HP Global Holdings Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Helmerich & Payne, Inc., specializes in contract drilling services for the international oil and gas industry. The acquisition will transfer ownership of KCA Deutag International to HP Global Hold-

After a comprehensive review in accordance with the Competition Act, the CCP determined that the transaction does not result in the acquirer gaining a dominant position in the relevant market, defined as the oil field services sector in Pakistan. Since HP Global Holdings is not currently operating in Pakistan, the acquisition will not impact its market share in the country.

The transaction has been approved under Section 31(1)(d)(i) of the Competition Act, 2010, and is not expected to negatively affect competition in the market.

# Pakistan and Türkiye agree to strengthen agricultural cooperation

#### Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, held a productive meeting with the Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan to discuss enhancing agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye. Both sides agreed to explore new avenues for partnership under the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF), focusing on boosting agricultural trade and technology transfer.

The Federal Minister highlighted Pakistan's ability to provide quality agricultural products such as rice, wheat, mangoes, and dry fruits. He expressed Pakistan's readiness to expand exports to Turkiye and emphasized the mutual benefits of strengthening agricultural trade.

During the meeting, both parties agreed to develop an action plan to improve agricultural productivity and trade. The Turkish side appreciated Pakistan's high-quality agricultural products and expressed interest in enhancing economic ties in the agriculture and livestock

Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering longterm partnerships with Türkiye to unlock the full potential of the agricultural sector, creating economic opportunities for both countries.



### Development

KARACHI: Construction work on Jam Sadiq Interchange is underway.



## Cheezious Partnered with Ideas Foundation for a 7-Day Event Series at SOS Orphanage

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Cheezious, a leading fastfood chain & proud Pakistani Brand, partnered with Ideas Foundation hosted a 7-day event series at SOS Orphanage, Islamabad. This collaboration aimed to bring joy, creativity, and meaningful engagement to children while reinforcing the importance of social responsibility.

Head of Marketing Cheezious Zohaib Hassan said, "At Cheezious, we believe in sharing not just food, but happiness. This initiative reinforces our commitment to spreading smiles and supporting underserved communities."

Talha Azhar, Founder of Ideas Foundation, added, "This partnership showcases the power of collaboration. Together, we've created a week of joy, learning, and unforgettable memories for these chil-

This collaboration highlights the shared vision of Cheezious and Ideas



and foster positive change. Cheezious ments, reflecting its dedication to making also provided meals throughout the a meaningful community impact.

# **Bank Alfalah commits** PKR 8.5m to protect endangered Indus River blind dolphins



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: After pledging to plant 100,000 trees to combat the impact of climate change, Bank Alfalah, one of the largest commercial banks in Pakistan, has partnered with WWF-Pakistan for another initiative, committing PKR stan. 8.5 million to safeguard the endangered Indus River dolphin blind dolphins.

species of dolphins which planted 40,000.

only has a habitat in the Indus River. Through this partnership, we will engage local communities in safeguarding dolphin habitats. raising awareness, and ultimately helping to grow their population, preserving a natural treasure that holds special significance for Paki-

Beyond this crucial conservation effort, Bank Alfalah is Commenting on the actively contributing to artnership Madiha Javed environmental sustaina-Qureshi, Head of Corporate bility through its partner-Communication at Bank ship with WWF-Pakistan for Alfalah said "We are proud mangrove plantations. The to collaborate with WWF on bank has pledged to plant this one-of-a-kind initiative, 100,000 mangroves by 2027 which highlights a unique and has already successfully

#### JS Investments launches Lahore's First Digital **Wealth Centre**

#### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: JS Investments, Pakistan's premier asset management company, has launched Lahore's first Digital Wealth Centre in DHA Phase 6, marking a transformative step in the country's wealth management

The Digital Wealth Centre is designed to empower clients with seamless, self-service financial tools and expert guidance. Visitors will experience an advanced, user-friendly ecosystem where they can explore JS Investments' diverse product suite through interactive

screens and engage with goal-based and risk-based investment planning.

Speaking at the launch, Iffat Mankani, CEO of JS Investments, emphasized the company's commitment to redefining wealth management in Pakistan: "The launch of Lahore's first Digital Wealth Centre reflects our vision to make wealth management accessible. innovative, and client-centric. We aim to empower individuals to achieve their financial aspirations through personalized, tech-driven solutions that bring efficiency and confidence to their investment journeys."

## SECP ceases guarantees business of Crescent Star **Insurance Limited**

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and (SECP) has ceased the guarantee business of Crescent Star Insurance Direction, under section 60 of the Insurance Ordinance, 2000 (Ordinance). Crescent Star had issued guarantees amounting to Rs. 229 billion without obtaining requisite it during the proceedings. Despite collateral and any valid reinsurance these opportunities, Crescent Star

In order to ensure adherence compliance with regulatory requireto due process of law and provide ments to carry on guarantees busi-Crescent Star with an opportunity ness including obtaining proper to explain its position regarding the collateral and reinsurance arrange-

to it on January 31, 2024. However, the company challenged the notice Exchange Commission of Pakistan in the Honourable Islamabad High Court. The Honourable Court did not grant any relief to Crescent Star Limited (Crescent Star) through a and directed it to participate in the proceedings initiated by SECP.

SECP provided six opportunities of hearings to Crescent Star and four written responses were submitted by failed to demonstrate the requisite highlighted violations of the regulaments. Crescent Star's With regard

tory framework, a notice was issued to claim of Crescent Star to have the direction not to rollover existing for carrying on guarantees busiobtained reinsurance arrangement against its guarantees business, SECP approached the concerned insurance company which categorically denied any such arrangement. This confirmed SECP's findings with regard to non-compliance with regulatory requirements to carry on the guarantees business and also exposed the misstatements of facts by Crescent Star Insurance.

> It was concluded that guarantees business of Crescent Star was being conducted without obtaining any requisite collateral or reinsurance cover. In order to protect the integrity of the insurance sector, SECP ceased its guarantee business with

guarantees in any form and fulfil its obligations as and when due. Crescent Star has also been required to submit a comparative statement of outstanding guarantees on monthly basis to SECP.

Crescent Star may approach SECP for cancellation or modification of the Direction, provided it complies with the requirements of regulatory framework i.e. obtaining proper collateral and valid reinsurance arrangement, subject to satisfaction of SECP.

In addition to Crescent Star, similar proceedings have also been ance Company of Pakistan Limited public trust.

ness, apparently, without ensuring compliance with the requisite regulatory requirements. The proceedings are pending as United Insurance has obtained a stay Order from the Honourable Lahore High Court.

As part of its ongoing commitment to enhance customers' confidence, SECP successfully addressed over 2,300 complaints during the first half of FY2024-2025, resulting in an additional recovery of claims to individuals, aggregating to Rs. 268

The proactive approach by SECP, is expected to enhance compliance initiated against United Insur- in the insurance sector and build

# Sam Konstas's brother opens up on Virat Kohli incident in **Boxing Day Test**

#### **Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Australia debutant Sam Konstas grabbed attention following his mid-pitch altercation with star Indian batter Virat Kohli in the fourth AUS v IND Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The Boxing Day Test in Melbourne saw the hosts winning the toss and electing to bat first on Thursday.

Sam Konstas, who opened the inning with Usman Khawaja, hit a half-century on his debut, however, it was his altercation with Virat Kohli which became the centre point.

The two got involved in a heated exchange after Kohli bumped Sam Konstas' shoulder at the end of the 10th over on the first day of the fourth AUS v IND game. Now, Sam Konstas' brother Billy has addressed the controversy surrounding his brother and Virat Kohli.

"I didn't mind it - it added a bit of a spectacle to cricket, a bit of rugby league action going on in the cricket space. Out on the field (Sam) has got such a hard exterior, but off the field, he's such a humble guy," Billy said when asked about his views on



Meanwhile, Konstas' brother revealed that his heart was pounding when his brother opened the inning for the hosts in the Boxing Day Test.

"In the backyard, we did have the the incident during the fourth AUS v IND auto-wicketkeeper, so the ramp (shot) was

out of play. I didn't know what to expect, to be honest with you... I was shaking, my heart rate was up, and I was like, 'Sammy, straight bat, straight bat, but yeah... it works! We had no expectation coming into today. We were just taking it moment by moment," Billy added.

It is worth noting here that Australia finished Day 1 of the fourth AUS v IND Test at 311/6 after their top four, including Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas and Marnus Labuschagne scored fifties while star batter Steve Smith remains unbeaten

## Babar Azam achieves historic feat in first South Africa Test

#### **Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan batter Babar Azam achieved a historic feat as he became the first Pakistani to score 4,000 runs across all three formats.

The former Pakistan batter achieved the milestone in the first PAK v SA Test as he smashed a boundary to complete his 4.000 runs in Test cricket, becoming the 12th batter from Pakistan to do so.

Babar Azam was dismissed after scoring just four runs in the Boxing Day Test, however, his short inning helped him join India's Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the elusive list of batters to have scored 4,000 runs across all formats of the game.

The former Pakistan captain has amassed 4,223 runs in 128 T20Is and has scored 5,957 in ODIs.



selves in trouble as they were off to a horrible start, losing four wickets for 88 runs in the first session of the first PAK v SA Boxing Day Test.

After being asked to bat first, the on 14 in quick succession.

Meanwhile, Pakistan found them- opening pair Shan Masood and Saim Ayub gave the hosts a 36-run partner-

> However, South Africa pacers dismissed Masood on 17 and Saim Ayub

Former Pakistan captain Babar Azam's stay at the crease was a brief one, as he was dismissed after adding just four runs

Kamran Ghulam remained the top scorer for Pakistan, having contributed 54 runs to the total in the first PAK v SA

Pakistan Playing XI: Shan Masood (c), Saim Ayub, Babar Azam, Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Saud Shakeel, Salman Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal, Naseem Shah, Khurram Shahzad and Mohammad Abbas.

South Africa Playing XI: Temba Bavuma (c), Tony de Zorzi, Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs, David Bedingham, Kyle Verreynne (wk), Marco Jansen, Kagiso Rabada, Dane Paterson and Corbin

## Star England cricketer signs up for PSL 10 draft

#### **Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The former world No.1 T20I batter from England David Malan, joined his countrymen Jason Roy, Tom Curran and David Willey as he signed up for Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 10 draft, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed on Thursday.

David Malan has represented Peshawar Zalmi, Islamabad United and Multan Sultans in previous seasons of the PSL. He started his PSL journey with Peshawar Zalmi before moving to Islamabad United and represented Multan Sultans in the PSL 2024.

David Malan is the sixth international player to sign up for the forthcoming 10th edition of the PSL, following Sikandar Raza of Zimbabwe, Tom Curran, David Willey, and Jason



Bangladesh.

The former World No.1 T20I batter had announced his retirement from played 114 matches – 22 Tests, 30 ODIs make the fifth pick in the platinum cate-Roy of England, Usman Khawaja of international cricket in August 2024 and 62 T20Is – across all formats. He gory while Islamabad United will make Australia, and Mustafizur Rehman of as he last represented England at the amassed 4,416 runs at an average of the last pick in the category

ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. In his international career, David Malan

37.74, including eight centuries and 31

The PCB had earlier announced that the player draft for the PSL 10 will be held in Gwadar city of Balochistan on January 11, 2025.

The registration and trade window for foreign players for the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 10 was opened by the PCB earlier this month.

As per the pick order announced on Monday, Lahore Qalandars will have the opportunity of the first pick in the platinum category, followed by Karachi

Quetta Gladiators will have the third pick while Peshawar Zalmi will make the fourth in the player draft for the hotly-anticipated PSL 10.

As per the PCB, Multan Sultans will

## Zone-IW, Zone-VW and Zone Vl W register wins at Woodward Trophy U-17 Inter Zonal Cricket **Tournament**



KARACHI: Three More Matches were decided in the Woodward Trophy Under-17 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at various Grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days play was deadly bowling by slow left arm spinner Niqab Shafiq 5/11, Medium Pacers Asad Omar 5/25, Muhammad Khan 3/13, Muhammad Farman 3/14 and Sufvan Khan 3/15.

The Tournament is being organZone-I Whites and Zone-V Whitised by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies.

Scores in Brief:

Zone-I Whites beat Zone-VI Blues by 4 Wickets in their 2nd Match of Group "C" at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-VI Blues 108 all out in 23 overs. Uzair Khan 42 4x4 1x6, Hamza Tahir 22. M. Faraman (rlb) 3/14, Sufyan Khan (sla) 3/15.

Zone-I Whites 109/6 in 22.4 overs. Anas Ali 31, Mounis Nadeem 28. Abdul Wahab 2/22, Hamza Mehmood 2/25. Later Ajmal Naseeb President and Arif Waheed Secretary Zone-I give the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Muhammad Farman

In the 2nd Match at Star Ground Sherpao Zone-V easily won their 2nd Match against Zone-I Blues by 9 Wickets. Zone-I Blues 72 allout in 24 1 overs. M. Yaqoob 14. Muhammad Khan (rlb) 3/13, M. Ali Hussain 2/17, M. Rehan 2/19.

Zone-V Whites 75/1 in 7.1 overs. Abdullah Sr.36, Yousuf Ali

After the end of the Match Iftikhar Ahmed Vice President Zone-V give the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Muhammad Khan Zone-V Whites.

In the 3rd Match Zone-VI Whites beat Zone-IV Blues by 174 runs at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VI Whites 210/6 in 40 overs. Muhammad Hasnain 57 4x4 1x6 not out, Asad Omar 36, Soman Kabir 29, Aryan Khan 26, Muhammad Azaan 20. Abdullah Zakir 2/27, Hafiz Baryal 2/38.

Zone-IV Blues 36 allout in 10.5 overs. Shoaib Khan 21 not out. Niqab Shafiq (sla) 5/11, Asad Omar (mf) 5/25.

End of the Match Former First Class Cricketer Faraz Ahmed Khan gave the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Asad Omar of Zone-VI Whites.

## Markram stands firm to keep South Africa on top in first Pakistan Test

South Africa concluded the opening day of the first Test against Pakistan as the side scored 82 runs at the loss of three wickets at the SuperSport Park, Centurion on Thursday.

Beginning their inning, the Proteas had received an early blow  $from\ Pakistan's\ Khurram\ Shahzad\ as\ he\ dismissed\ opening\ batter$ Tony de Zori in the third over.

The other opener, Aiden Markram, was joined by Ryan Rickelton but Shahzad struck again and dismissed the newcomer after he just added eight runs to the scoreboard.

Rickelton's replacement, Tristan Stubbs, faced 28 balls while Markram steadily added runs to the scoreboard. Stubbs cameo was short-lived as he fell against Mohammad Abbas on nine runs.

Markram remained steady throughout the innings and was then joined by skipper, Temba Bavuma and the pair continued to bat towards the end of the day.

Markram's score at Stumps was 47 off 67 while the captain added four runs off 23 balls. Pakistan's Shahzad took two scalps while Abbas dismissed one

South African batter. South Africa now trails by 129 runs.

Earlier, the Proteas pacers had rattled Pakistan and bundled the side out on 211 runs in their first innings with Dane Paterson taking a five-wicket haul as Corbin Bosch took four scalps with Marco Jansen taking the final wicket of the inning. Pakistan's opener Saim Ayub fell at 14 and Babar Azam at 4.

Whereas, Shan Masood was routed for 17 and Saud Shakeel for 14. The disappointment continued for Pakistan with the fall of Kamran Ghulam after he scored 54 runs, the highest score from any batter in the innings.

It kept on getting worse for Masood's men with the dismissals of wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan (27 off 62), Salman Ali Agha (18 off 34) and Aamer Jamal (28 off 27).

After a duck from Naseem Shah, it was all up to Khurram Shahzad and Mohammad Abbas. The duo put up a strong stand and helped Pakistan cross the 200-run mark against the Proteas.

## PTI founder's nephew among 60 more convicted in May 9 cases

Continued from Page 1

11. Brig (Retd) Javed Akram s/o Chaudhary Muhammad Akarm, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

12. Khuram Liaqat s/o Liaqat dent. Ali Shahid, 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Multan Cantt Checkpost inci-

13. Zakir Hussain s/o Shah Faisal, 7 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Chakdara Fort incident.

14. Ameen Shah s/o Mashter Khan, 9 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Bannu Cantt incident.

15. Fahim Sajid s/o Muhammad Khan, 8 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in PAF Base Mianwali incident. 16. Hamza Sharif s/o

Muhammad Azam, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in ISI Office Faisalabad incident.

Muhammad Siraj, 7 years rigorous imprisonment, involved

in Jinnah House incident. 18. Muhammad Umair s/o

Abdul Sattar, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

19. Noman Shah s/o

Mehmood Ahmad Shah, 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House inci-

20. Ikram Ullah s/o Khanzada Khan, 9 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Bannu Cantt incident.

21. Muhammad Ahmed s/o Muhammad Nazir, 2 vears rigorous imprisonment, involved in Rahwali Gate Gujaranwala incident.

22. Pirzada Mian Muhammad Ishaq Bhutta s/o Pirzada Mian Qamar ud Dind Bhutta, 3 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Multan Cantt Checkpost incident.

23. Muhammad Abdullah s/o Kanwar Ashraf Khan, 4 vears rigorous imprisonment. involved in GHQ attack.

24. Amjad Ali s/o Manzoor 17. Muhammad Arslan s/o Ahmed, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in ISI Office

Faisalabad incident. 25. Muhammad Raheem s/o Naeem Khan, 6 years rigorous

Jinnah House incident. 26. Ehsan Ullah Khan s/o

Najeeb Ullah Khan, 10 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in PAF Base Mianwali incident. 27. Muneeb Ahmed s/o Naveed Ahmed Butt, 2 years

imprisonment, involved in Rahwali Gate Gujaranwala incident. 28. Muhammad Ali s/o Muhammad Boota, 2 years

rigorous imprisonment, involved in ISI Office Faisalabad incident. 29. Sami Ullah s/o Meer dad Khan, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Bannu

Cantt incident. 30. Mian Muhammad Akram Usman s/o Mian Muhammad Usman, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

31. Mudassir Hafiz s/o Hafeez Ullah, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident. 32. Sajjad Ahmed s/o

Muhammad Iqbal, 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident. 33. Khizar Havat s/o Umar

Qiyaz Khan, 9 years rigorous Ahmed Sheikh, 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Bannu Cantt incident.

34. Muhammad Nawaz s/o imprisonment, involved in Rahwali Gate Gujaranwala incident.

35. Muhammad Bilal s/o Muhammad Afzal, 4 years involved in HQ Dir Scouts rigorous imprisonment, involved in PAF Base Mianwali incident.

36. Muhammad Suleman s/o Said Ghani Jan, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in HQ Dir Scouts Timergara incident. 37. Asad Ullah Durani s/o

Badshah Zada, 4 years rigorous

imprisonment, involved in HQ Dir Scouts Timergara incident. 38. Ikram Ullah s/o Shah Zaman, 4 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Chakdara Fort incident.

39. Muhammad Farrukh s/o Shams Tabriz, 5 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in ISI Office Faisalabad incident.

40. Waqas Ali s/o Muhammad Ashraf, 6 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

41. Ameer Zohaib s/o Nazeer

imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

42. Farhad Khan s/o Shahid Abdul Samad, 2 years rigorous Hussain, 7 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in AIMH Rawalpindi incident. 43. Izzat Khan s/o Awal Khan,

2 years rigorous imprisonment,

Timergara incident. 44. Asher Butt s/o Muhammad Arshad Butt, 2

years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Rahwali Gate Guiaranwala incident. 45. Saqlain Haider s/o Rafi-

ullah Khan, 9 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Bannu Cantt incident. 46. Muhammad Salman s/o Zahid Nisar, 2 years rigorous

imprisonment, involved in ISI Office Faisalabad incident. 47. Hamid Ali s/o Syed Hadi Shah, 3 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Multan Cantt Chakdara Fort incident.

Checkpost incident. 48. Muhammad Waqas s/o Malik Muhammad Khalil, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Rahwali Gate Gujaranwala incident.

49. Izzat Gul s/o Mirdat imprisonment, involved in Khan, 9 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Bannu Cantt incident. 50. Haider Majeed s/o

Muhammad Majeed, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

51. Gp Capt Viqas Ahmed Ahmed Mohsin, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Jinnah House incident.

52. Muhammad Ilyas s/o Muhammad Fazal Haleem, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in HQ Dir Scouts Timergara incident.

53. Muhammad Ayaz s/o Sahibzada Khan, 2 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Main Gate FC Cantt Peshawar incident.

54. Raees Ahmed s/o Khaista Rehman, 4 years rigorous appeal and other legal recourses, imprisonment, involved in

55. Gohar Rehman s/o Gul

Chakdara Fort incident. 56. Naik Muhammad s/o

Bannu Cantt incident. 57. Fahad Imran s/o

Muhammad Imran Shahid, 9 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in ISI Office Faisalabad incident. 58. Sufayan Idrees s/o Idrees

Ahmed, 2 years rigorous impris-Mohsin (Retd) s/o Bashir onment, involved in Rahwali Gate Gujaranwala incident. 59. Raheem Ullah s/o Bait

Ullah, 9 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Bannu Cantt incident. 60. Khalid Nawaz s/o Hamid

Khan, 9 years rigorous imprisonment, involved in Bannu Cantt incident. The trial of 9th May accused

under military custody, has hereby been concluded under the relevant laws. All convicts retain the right to

as guaranteed by the Constitution and law. The Nation, Government,

Rehman, 7 years rigorous and the Armed Forces remain imprisonment, involved in steadfast in their commitment to upholding justice and ensuring that the inviolable writ of the Nasrullah Jan, 9 years rigorous state is maintained.

# The Spokesman



# Pak-China partnership, an anchor of regional stability, prosperity: PM

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister an event of unveiling of sculp-Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday underscored the Muhammad Ali Jinnah and importance of the all-weather strategic partnership between the PM House. Pakistan and China, describstability" and "a beacon of hope graced the event. for global peace and prosper-

the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to cultural exchanges, education, and

defence production," the prime lighted that both leaders minister said while addressing of Quaid-e-Azam Chinese leader Mao Zedong at

The niece of Chairman Mao stances". ing it as "an anchor of regional Zedong Mao Xiaoqing also

> of mutual respect, trust and cooperation.

The prime minister high-

recognized the immense Pakistan-China relations and "today our all-weather strachallenging global circum- these two iconic leaders.

He said the historic bonds great leadership played a deci- Ali Jinnah and Mao Zedong between Pakistan and China sive role in carving out Paki-"We are proud of our collab-spanned over decades was a stan from the sub-continent oration in various fields from testament to our shared values, through outstanding leadership and great sacrifices by the Muslims.

Appreciating the great work

done by Chinese renowned artist and sculptor Yaun Xikum who made the sculptures of the great leaders, the prime tegic partnership is an anchor minister said he had wonderof regional stability under these fully, captured the essence of

Yaun Xikum, on the occa-He said Quaid-e-Azam was sion, said the greatness of both strengthening with the passage the founder of Pakistan and his Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad compelled him to make these sculptures.

He said it was the best anniversary of the birth of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad

Ali Jinnah on December 25 and the 131st anniversary of the birth of Mao Zedong.

Information Attaullah Tarar said Pakistan and China were enjoying strong bonds for decades and the relationship was further of time

Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, Pakistan Ambassador commemoration of the 148th to China Khalil Hashmi and other high officials were also present on the occasion.

to test the "limits of what

is allowed" by its allies and

does not encounter a hint

of condemnation of its

openly terrorist methods

either from the capitals of

"advanced democracies" or

from the countless human

rights structures and mech-

anisms controlled by its

The Russian envoy

said the allies are trying

to preserve its image as

a "model democracy" by

silencing the war crimes

of its accused in Ukraine and it is using the powerful

resources of the mainstream

media, doing everything

to paralyze the activity of

multilateral human rights

oodies, blocking sources of

The envoy said the recent

report of the UNESCO

Secretariat on journalists

killed in the exercise of their

professional duties does not

contain a single mention of

all the known facts about

the deaths of Russian jour-

He said the emerging

multipolar world cannot

rely on a one-sided, West-

ern-centered media land-

nalists.

scape.

undesirable information.

allies.

# Russia never gave up on peaceful, diplomatic solution to Ukrainian crisis: Russian envoy

#### Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan, Albert P. Khorev said this while addressing to media briefing on the situation in and around Ukraine here in Russian embassy Islamabad.

Russian Ambassador said that in a speech at the Russian Foreign Ministry on June 14, Russian President Vladimir Putin presented concrete proposals for a final settlement of the conflict.

Russian envoy said that their key points include the withdrawal of Ukrainian armed formations from the new Russian regions and the Donetsk People's Republic, the Luhansk People's Republic, Zaporozhye and Kherson; the recognition of the new territorial realities; Kiev's refusal to join NATO; the lifting of all Western sanctions against Russia; and the guarantee of full rights for Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine.

However, both Kiev and the allies forces continued to think in terms of war and the Russian proposal for a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict was met with an invasion of the Kursk region by the Ukrainian armed forces. He said that they are

most aggressive, shooting civilians, looting Russian villages, attacking journalists and threatening nuclear facilities.

Ambassador said that the Kiev regime is being equipped with increas-





ingly destructive and lethal systems, including inhumane weapons (cluster munitions, depleted uranium shells)

and various types of missiles. On the occasion about the attacks

on Russian Journalists, he said that the media front was and remains one of the main fronts in the aggressive anti-Russian campaign of the allies.

He said the Kiev regime continues ulate the truth.

The Ambassador said that the Ukrainian example clearly shows what can happen to almost any country that happens to be on the next front line of

geopolitical pressure and infact, what is being tested now is the strength of the global information space itself and its ability to resist attempts to manip-

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## **Finance Minister for** not burdening ordinary people with taxes



#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Thursday that a common man should not be burdened with taxes.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, with federal ministers and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial sitting alongside him, Aurangzeb said that a taxpayer's expenditures should be compatible with his income. "We will take the tax-to-GDP ratio to 13 percent in the next three years," he added.

He further said that the government was committed to meeting the revenue collection target and was also taking steps to bring down inflation.

Aurangzeb went on to say that tax reforms played an important role in the country's economy.

Bill had been tabled in the parlia-

FBR planned to limit human inter-

vention in tax collection through the use of technology. "This will help us deal with the issues of harassment and corruption taxpavers have to face at the hands of the bureau officials,"

He said that the government was examining the value chain of sugar, beverages and cement sectors.

He claimed that compared with the last year, tax collection had increased this year. "However this year, the FBR is still to meet its tax collection target.'

Aurangzeb expressed the resolve that Pakistan would fully implement the IMF's programme.

Langrial said the FBR's digitalization was a basic point. "We focus on those five per cent people who are most rich and affluent."

The FBR chairman informed that of 169,000 wealthy people who had He said that the Tax Amendment been issued notices, 38,000 had filed their tax returns. "We are monitoring their data," he said, and added, "These The minister informed that the  $\;\;$  people have paid over Rs370 million

## Sahibzada Hamid Raza gives timeframe for conclusion of PTI-govt talks



₩aseem Khokhar

RAWALPINDI: Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza said on Thursday that talks between the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) and the ruling coalition led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would continue in the coming days and conclude by January 31.

Talking to the media in Rawalpindi, Hamid Raza said the jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan has called upon the overseas Pakistanis to stop sending remittances to Pakistan and this call is intact. He said that supporters of the PTI and its allied parties were being subjected to abuse. He said that Imran Khan has announced forgiving everything

from the attack on him till his arrest. Referring to the ongoing sectarian violence in the Kurram District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Hamid Raza said that Imran Khan had an important meeting with KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Mailis Wahdat-e-Muslimmeen (MWM) chief Allama Nasir Abbas on the Kurram issue.

Responding to a question about the violent May 9 mob attacks on civil and military installations across the country, Hamid Raza said that PTI and its allies were not involved in these attacks: these attacks were carried out by "other people". He said that a judicial commission should be formed to investigate the May 9 incidents and those who instigated people to violence should be identified through CCTV footage. He said a separate judicial commission should be formed to investigate why the security forces opened fire on the PTI supporters during their protest on November 26. He said that release of the imprisoned political workers was part of the agenda for Imran Khan's release.

## PTI founder refuses to take back civil disobedience call: Aleema Khan

#### **Waseem Khokhar**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) founder Imran Khan has refused to retract his call for civil disobedience.

Speaking to reporters in Islamabad Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan told that the PTI founder has categorically said that he would not back down the call, as the government has not shown its seriousness in addressing PTI's two key demands.

She said that Imran Khan demanded at least the release of all political prisoners, in case he is not released by the government.

Imran Khan's sister added that the founder PTI reiterated his stance that peace in Pakistan is closely tied to peace in Afghanistan.

## PTI founder refuses to take back civil disobedience call: Aleema Khan



👺 Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has refused to retract his call for civil disobedience.

Speaking to reporters in Islamabad Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan told that the PTI founder has categorically said that he would not back down the call, as the government has not shown its seriousness in addressing PTI's two key

She said that Imran Khan demanded at least the release of all political prisoners, in case he is not released by the govern-

Imran Khan's sister added that the founder PTI reiterated his stance that peace in Pakistan is closely tied to peace in Afghanistan.