

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
 سرور نے بیان کیا کہ تم عبد اللہ بن عمرو کے پاس بیٹھے ہوئے تھے وہ تم سے باتیں کر رہے تھے اسی دوران انہوں نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم بدگوشتے نہ پڑھائی کرتے تھے (کہ منہ سے گاواں نکالیں) بلکہ آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم فرمایا کرتے تھے کہ تم میں سے زیادہ ہمزو ہے جس کے اخلاق سب سے اچھے ہوں۔  
 (بخاری ص ۱۳۵ نمبر ۶۰۱۳)  
**Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited**

RAWALPINDI



## Canada PM Trudeau announces resignation

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced on Monday that he intends to step down as leader of the ruling Liberals after nine years in office but will stay on in his post until the party chooses a replacement.



## Maj General (R) Dr Ghulam Qamar to head Directorate General for Religious Education

The government has appointed Major General (Retired) Dr Ghulam Qamar director general of the Directorate General for Religious Education. Dr Ghulam Qamar's appointment for a period of three years. According to the notification,

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## Meeting on Human Trafficking

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs meeting on progress upon the measures taken against human trafficking on Monday.



Photo: PID

# PM directs strict legal action against all human trafficking groups, confiscation of properties

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed for taking of strict legal action against all human trafficking groups in the country to set an example, besides called for immediate legal action to confiscate the properties and assets of human traffickers.

The prime minister chaired a review meeting on measures taken against human trafficking

in the country, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister appreciated the recent actions taken by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) against government officials involved in human trafficking.

Following disciplinary actions, he further directed that strict punitive measures should also be taken against facilitators.

In the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the measures taken against human

trafficking, progress in the legal actions against facilitators, and in legislation for the eradication of human trafficking.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam, and senior officials from the relevant departments.

The prime minister said the prosecution process against all individuals involved in this

heinous trade should be made more effective, adding the top lawyers should be appointed for prosecution after consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The prime minister said the Foreign Office should contact relevant countries to expedite the extradition of Pakistanis running human trafficking operations abroad.

He further directed that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in collaboration

with the Ministry of Interior, launch an awareness campaign to educate the public about using only legal channels for overseas employment.

He said the country should promote technical training institutions that could provide certified professionals to the international market according to modern requirements, adding that the screening process for individuals traveling abroad at airports should be made more effective.

## IHC declares Toshakhana-II, case of further inquiry

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday declared the Toshakhana II case against the founder of PTI as a case of further inquiry.

The court said that according to the rules, action could be taken for not submitting the gift receipt. When action cannot be taken for not submitting the gift, then this is a case of further inquiry, it said.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb issued a detailed 14-page order regarding the matter. It said that the founder of PTI and his wife are accused of not submitting the gift of a Bulgarian jewelry set received from the Saudi Crown Prince to the Toshakhana.

### Toshakhana.

It said that according to the prosecutor, by not submitting the gift, the founder of PTI and his wife violated the procedure and a criminal breach of trust was committed. The two people were also accused of misusing their position to get undervalued market assessment of the gift. It is alleged that the national exchequer suffered a loss of Rs 32.8 million by buying a jewelry set at a lower price.

The order further said that according to the FIA challan, it was necessary to submit the gift along with the gift receipt. The court said that according to the 2018 Toshakhana Rules, it was not necessary to submit the gift but only the receipt. It was not denied that the founder of PTI submitted the receipt to the Toshakhana through the Deputy Military Secretary, the order said.

## Govt committed to ensuring national uplift: Ahsan Iqbal

### City Desk

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Monday said that the federal government under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was committed to ensuring national uplift, which is

reflected in the new initiative called 'Uraan Pakistan'.

While talking to media persons, along with Sindh Minister for Planning and Development and Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah after a meeting on federally-funded PSDP projects at Sindh Planning and Development Department,

he acknowledged the challenges saying that they emerged as a mismanagement and mis-governance in the past by the poor conduct of the previous government.

He said that the federal government would try to resolve issues raised by the Sindh government and



would work together for development of the country under the new initiative. Earlier, the Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Ahsan Iqbal in the meeting with top-officials and representatives of Planning and Development Sindh reviewed the PSDP projects.

The meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal alongside the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Sindh Nasir Shah. P&D Sindh Chairman Najam Ahmed Shah and other Secretaries briefed the Federal Minister of the projects.

## Pakistan Navy Coastal Command Annual Efficiency Competition Parade-2024 held at Karachi



### Khurram Jaffrani

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Coastal Command Annual Efficiency Competition Parade for the year 2024 was held at PNS QASIM. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event, organized annually by the Coastal Command of Pakistan Navy, celebrates achievements upon the successful culmination of its operational year.

In his address, Chief of the Naval Staff emphasized that the Coastal Command has excelled in its mission by safeguarding Pakistan's coastal areas, spanning from Sir Creek to Jiwani, despite challenging internal and external security

environments. Earlier, in his welcome address, Commander Coast highlighted the operational achievements of Coastal Command and presented a brief review of the activities undertaken during 2024. He also underscored command's accomplishments in various operational, administrative, and welfare projects over the past year.

During the ceremony, the Chief Guest presented efficiency awards and trophies to the best-performing units of Pakistan Navy Coastal Command. The event was attended by a large number of senior serving and retired naval officers, civil dignitaries, and CPOs/sailors of Pakistan Navy.

## Two cops martyred in Lakki Marwat terrorist attack



### Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Two police officers were martyred in a terrorist attack in Lakki Marwat district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) on Monday.

According to Express News, the incident occurred

near the Khero Khel Paka area, where the terrorists targeted the police personnel.

The police reported that the two officers were on their way to the station on a motorcycle when they were ambushed and shot at by the militants. Investigations into the incident are ongoing.

## Naqvi condemns terrorist attack on police near Lakki Marwat

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on police officers near Lakki Marwat, in which two brave officers embraced martyrdom.

Paying tribute to the fallen heroes, the minister expressed heartfelt condolences to their families, assuring them of the nation's unwavering support during this difficult time.

"We salute the sacrifices of the martyred officers who have set an example of courage and dedication," said Naqvi. He emphasized the



historic contributions of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police in the fight against terrorism, stating that their bravery and sacrifices will always be remembered and honored.

Naqvi reaffirmed the government's commitment to combating terrorism and ensuring the safety of law enforcement personnel who continue to protect the nation.



# CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's visits to BZ University Multan, distributes scholarships

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Chief Minister announced increasing the "Merit Scholarship" fund to PKR 100 billion and adding 20,000 more scholarships next year. Interest-free loans of up to PKR 30 million will be provided for startups and new business ventures. One hundred thousand e-bikes will be distributed to students next year, along with the establishment of e-bike charging stations in universities and colleges across Punjab.

Plans to teach advanced IT skills like Artificial Intelligence and Robotics to children, inspired by witnessing young children mastering AI in China. Initiatives include paid internships in agriculture, environmental sciences, and other fields. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz stated that empowering the youth could transform Pakistan's future. She emphasized removing barriers to their progress and promoting sustainable development, including transitioning the transport culture toward electric vehicles for cleaner air. The Chief Minister assured that no deserving child would be deprived of education, promising fee waivers and scholarships. She mentioned plans to distribute laptops to students soon and provide international scholarships based on their aspirations.



CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz urged young people to avoid violence and divisive politics, emphasizing patriotism

and ethical conduct. She expressed sorrow over the involvement of youth in destructive activities but encouraged them to focus on building a brighter future. She saluted the students' hard work and merit, reaffirming her commitment to an unbiased scholarship process. She concluded by extending congratulations from Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and praying for Pakistan's continued progress.

Students from Jhang and Muzaffargarh expressed gratitude in the Seraiki language, adding a regional touch to the event. Maryam Nawaz took selfies, interacted warmly with the students, and spent significant time in their company. The event concluded with students receiving a police contingent's guard of honor, reflecting the respect and importance given to their achievements.

A special documentary on the Merit Scholarship Program was also presented during the ceremony. Two students from Jhang and Muzaffargarh expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister in the Seraiki language, adding a regional flavor to the event.

Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat also addressed the ceremony. Toward the end, Maryam Nawaz mingled with the students, took selfies, and engaged in conversations, spending considerable time in their company. The ceremony highlighted her deep connection with the youth and her commitment to their empowerment.

## A MoU signed between the University of Faisalabad and the Drugs Advisory Training Hub



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A MoU was signed between the University of Faisalabad and the Drugs Advisory Training Hub. The University of Faisalabad Rector Professor Dr. Amanullah Malik and Director Drug Advisory Training Hub Syed Zulfikar Hussain signed the MoU. Assistant Director Anti-Narcotics Force Faisalabad Salman Hindal were also present on this occasion. Both the institutions agreed to work together on this issue. Rector University of Faisalabad Professor Dr. Amanullah Malik, while addressing the ceremony, said that today's young generation is using drugs like vape, cigarette smoking and ice, which both the institutions reiterated their commitment to work together to stop. He said that there is a complete ban on cigarette and vape smoking within the university premises, while the university has also been providing awareness to students about the harms of smoking through seminars and workshops. On this occasion, Assistant Director Anti-Narcotics Force Salman Hindal shared the policies of his institution with the students. He told the university students about the harms of drugs. He said how the use of vape and cigarettes attracts students towards addiction. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by a large number of deans, HODs, students and teachers from all departments of the university.

## Flow Cytometer Machine has been activated in Children's Complex Hospital: Dr Kashif Chishti

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Dean of Children's Hospital Multan, Professor Dr. Muhammad Kashif Chishti and MS Dr. Kamran Asif thanked the Chief Minister of Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Provincial Health Minister and other staff for fulfilling another demand of Multan and South Punjab by providing a flow cytometer machine in Multan. This machine is now fully functional and will enable the diagnosis and treatment of blood cancer in children of South Punjab and Multan.

Children's Hospital Multan is the only center in South Punjab where a flow cytometer machine is being used for the diagnosis of acute leukemia (blood cancer). This machine is fully functional and available to serve the patients. On this occasion, Dr. Moaz, other doctors, nurses and other staff of Children's Hospital appreciated the efforts of Dean Professor Dr. Muhammad Kashif Chishti due to which this machine has been activated, and all the reagents/materials of the machine are also being provided by the hospital administration.

## Corruption of Intelligence and Investigation Customs and Adjudication Staff

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The decision passed by the Collector Customs was received by the respondents. By fraud, misrepresentation, tendering false, fabricated, false statement and presenting the real record of the auction of the applicant without his knowledge, consent, by false and self-made defensive and manipulative story, by self-made, fabricated and fake document/document/declaration of the sale agreement before the decision, by deliberately concealing the facts and committing fraud to evade duty and tax by illegal means, by colluding with each other in decision making and by releasing smuggled and non-duty paid goods (clothes) with the aim of earning money through bribery. Munir Khan, the applicant, is a law-abiding and tax-paying citizen of Pakistan, who has been doing a legal business of buying auctioned pods from all over Punjab since 2017 till date. The applicant had purchased 100% Polyester Grey Textile Fabric weighing 12575 kg which was offered from Intelligence and Investigation, Customs, Faisalabad through Lot No. 623 (19) with a bid amount of Rs. 1,08,00,000/-. FIA FIR No. 147/24 is attached as Annexure.

## Agreement inked for establishment of National Reference Laboratory for Department of Plant Protection

KARACHI, JAN 06 (APP): Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Monday witnessed the signing of an agreement regarding establishment of National Reference Laboratory for Department of Plant Protection (NRL- DPP).

The agreement was inked between the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi and Federal Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) at HEJRIC ICCBS KU.

The NRL- DPP will be established under the umbrella of IAC at HEJ ICCBS through the financial support of the MNFS&R while the Director ICCBS will be the sole administrative authority of the NRL-DPP. The Federal Secretary Food Security Wasim Ajmal Chaudhry, Federal Secretary Industries and Production Captain Saif Anjum, Director General Plant Protection Waqas Alam and other notables also attended the signing ceremony.

Vice Chancellor University of Karachi Prof. Dr. Khalid Iraqi, former federal minister Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman and Director ICCBS Dr. Farzana Shaheen were also present.

Under the agreement, the HEJ will provide testing facilities on a commercial basis for pesticide residue and related analysis through IAC. The NRL-DPP shall serve as a national facility for quality check of samples against pesticide residue and related testings and shall meet the demand of emerging challenges in food and drug testing through new and innovative method development.

A Technical Evaluation Committee of NRL-DPP shall be constituted initially for five years for monitoring of overall progress of the project. The committee will continue regular meetings every year to assess the progress of the NRL-DPP. The committee will continue or be reconstituted every year for five years with the permission of the Board of Governors of ICCBS and MNFS&R.

Technical staff shall be nominees of ICCBS for a period of five-year tenure which may be extendable. All technical and non-technical staff will be hired as per government rules. The hiring and firing remain under administrative control of the Director ICCBS and the staff is treated as employees of the ICCBS for administration and discipline.

In the future, H.E.J. will work for accreditation of the MNFS&R NRL-DPP. The MNFS&R will be responsible for the expenditure of the entire accreditation process.

## Rashan

HUNGU: A large number of trucks loaded with "Rashan" are parked in thall area along the road side waiting in convoy for 3 days in to reach Parachinar.



Photo: Online

## Late night attack on Police Station Saddar Tandlianwala

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Three people were killed and one was injured in firing in the custody of Police Station Saddar Tandlianwala, Faisalabad. The opponents killed the suspects inside the police station and left. The police took 6 people into custody. According to the Punjab Police spokesperson, the opponents fired on the suspects in the custody of Police Station Saddar Tandlianwala, 03 brothers in custody were killed, a cousin was injured. 6 suspects entered the police station from behind the police station using stairs and attacked. The suspects fled after firing. IG Punjab ordered CPO



Faisalabad to immediately arrest the accused involved in the firing, SP Investigation Faisalabad and CIA teams took 06 suspects involved in the firing into

custody, the murder was a result of long-standing enmity, the deceased were accused of killing members of the Kharal community, CPO Kamran Adil immediately reached the spot along with senior officers and a heavy contingent of police, the deceased Usman, Nasir and cousin Asif were arrested by the City Tandlianwala Police Station on charges of murder and terrorism, due to the long-standing enmity of the accused and for their safety, they were locked up in the Saddar Tandlianwala Police Station instead of the City. Early in the morning of 05/06, the unknown accused entered the police station by climbing a ladder from the back wall of the police station.

## NAB Forms Committee on Handover of RBOD Project Records

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly has taken notice of the suspension of work since 2015 on the 273-kilometer-long RBOD-II project, which was launched in 2001 under a revised Rs. 62 billion scheme. In response, the Chairman of WAPDA and relevant authorities have been summoned for a briefing in the next meeting regarding the halt in work and lack of federal funding for the project.

On Monday, a PAC meeting was held in the committee room, chaired by Nisar Khuhro. Members Qasim Siraj Soomro, Khurram Karim Soomro, and Makhdoom Fakhar Zaman partici-

pated. The meeting included NAB Director Abdul Hafeez Siddiqui, Irrigation Secretary Zarif Khoro, Finance Secretary Fayaz Jatoi, and Board of Revenue Senior Member Baqaullah Anar, who briefed PAC on the RBOD project.

NAB Director Abdul Hafeez Siddiqui informed PAC that NAB had investigated four cases related to the RBOD project. Of these, an inquiry into irregularities worth Rs. 400 million in land acquisition had led NAB to take custody of certain records.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner of Jamshoro and Assistant Commissioner of Thatta stated that NAB had not yet provided them with RBOD records. In response, PAC

member Khurram Soomro questioned the Irrigation Department on why the project had remained stalled for 10 years despite NAB's clarification.

Secretary Zarif Khoro informed PAC that the project's current design would result in toxic water reaching the sea, causing environmental damage and making flood control difficult. He further stated that the PC-I of the project needed revision, increasing the cost to over Rs. 400 billion, requiring discussions with WAPDA and the federal government.

Sindh's Finance Secretary Fayaz Jatoi provided details on project costs, stating that the RBOD-II project was originally launched in 2001 with a budget of Rs. 14 billion, which was revised twice

and reached Rs. 61,985 billion in 2016.

PAC Chairman Nisar Khuhro questioned why Rs. 40 billion had been spent on an infeasible project. He stated that RBOD-II was crucial for Sindh, and the continued suspension of work highlighted failures in project management.

During the meeting, it was revealed that revising PC-I would increase project costs to Rs. 400 billion, prompting PAC to demand immediate federal funding. Khuhro stated that Sindh would not abandon the project and that federal intervention was necessary. He directed the Irrigation Department to immediately engage WAPDA and the federal government for funding and technical assistance.





Islamabad

30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr .....5:45 am  
Zohr .....12:13 pm  
Asr .....3:36 pm  
Maghrib .....5:14 pm  
Isha .....6:43 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad .....9222596  
Rawalpindi .....9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

*Resolving public issues purely on merit foremost priority; says IGP*

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Islamabad Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery (open Court) at the Central Police Office.

A public relation officer told APP that during the khuli katchery, IG Rizvi listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives to senior police officers on the spot for timely resolution of their concerns.

Rizvi said that resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority. Negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated. Citizens facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. His office is always open for citizens, the IGP added.

He further directed the officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office. IG directed all SDPOs and SHOs to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues.

On this occasion, the IG said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens. The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis, he added.

Moreover, all zonal officers and SHOs are directed to meet citizens during the designated office hours and resolve their issues promptly and on merit.

# Zahid Bakhtawari appreciated ongoing development initiatives cantonment

City Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Zahid Bakhtawari, President of the Markazi Anjuman e Tajran Cantonment Registered, appreciated the ongoing development initiatives and projects to increase economic activities in the cantonment, overcome parking problems and provide better facilities to citizens, especially senior citizens and families, who come for shopping. The problems faced by citizens and the business community in terms of parking in business centers will be resolved only through

understanding and negotiations.

These views were expressed in a meeting between a delegation of the Central Organization of Traders Cantonment Registered and Additional Cantonment Executive Officer of the Cantonment Board Haider Shuja and Secretary Cantonment Muhammad Rashid Saqib. The delegation headed by Zahid Bakhtawari included Sheikh Inayatullah, Rafiq Bhatia and other officials. On this occasion, Zahid Bakhtawari stated that the first two phases have been completed in the cantonment and phases three and



four are in the final stages of completion. And according to the unanimous decisions taken in the joint meeting of both factions of the cantonment traders' organizations with the Station Commander and the Cantonment Executive Officer last

December, after the beautification of the first Bank Road, underground cabling and other developments are completed, the central organization Traders Cantonment Registered has been established with the commitment to solve the prob-

lems faced by the business community and citizens on foot shopping, parking and other issues. The aim of all the business organizations is to protect the rights of traders and people coming for shopping.

## Pleasant weather

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the dark clouds hovering on the sky, people are still waiting for rain in the twin cities.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Sardar Attique says now is the time to immediately implement UN resolutions

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that now is the time to immediately implement the Kashmir mandate in the international forum as per the UN resolutions of January 5, 1949. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, while talking to political leaders former Prime Ministers Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan and Raja Farooq Haider Khan and other central leaders who came to visited inquiring his wife health at CMH Rawalpindi, said that 76 years ago, the UN Security Council approved the resolution of the Kashmir dispute through an international referendum in Jammu and Kashmir. Both Pakistan and India, as parties to the dispute, had accepted/signed



this method of resolution before the UN arbitration body. He reminded that the proposed approach to the settlement of Kashmir has the support of the international community as a member of the United Nations. He warned that the ongoing anti-Kashmir and anti-Kashmir demonic measures by the occupying Indian army and paramilitary forces to distort the cultural identity

of Kashmir and conduct demographic surgery to reduce the Muslim population of Jammu and Kashmir will be doomed to failure. All such actions are against the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on the Kashmir dispute. There are four parties to this dispute—UNO, Pakistan, India and 23 million Kashmiris. All four should sit together and prepare a plan to implement

the UN resolutions on the Kashmir solution. All Kashmiri political, social, religious communities will fully cooperate if such a step is taken by the United Nations or any world power for lasting peace and security in South Asia, then our demand for implementation is 100 percent justified because India and Pakistan have agreed in writing on the UN's demand for a plebiscite.

## Inland Revenue Revenue Department IRIS system launched

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: The Inland Revenue Department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has crossed another milestone under the automated system. The state's Inland Revenue Department has made significant progress in the computerized system IRIS. Under which, the latest tax modules (BTB Module) and (WHT Module) have been launched under the AJ&K IRIS system of the Federal Board of Revenue, Government of Pakistan in collaboration with Pakistan Revenue Automation (PRAL). According to a press release issued by the spokesperson of the Inland Revenue Department, online tax registration, online return filing and online tax payment facilities have already been provided to the taxpayers across the state. Now, two new programs, Broadening of Tax Base Module and Withholding Tax Module, have been successfully launched in the AJ&K IRIS system of the Federal Board of Revenue, Government of Pakistan in collaboration with PRAL. According to the details, the mandatory registration of new individuals under the BTB module will be implemented under Section 181 of the Income Tax Act, which will be done under a completely automated system and in this regard, all notices will be issued under an automated system at the addresses of new taxpayers and No manual notice will be issued. Under this module, the authorized tax officer will complete the registration process in a timely manner by monitoring it under an automated system, due to which not only the tax net will increase but also the tax base will increase and the fiscal government will also improve.

## Shanze Noreen's work put on display at PAC

City Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized a painting exhibition of artworks by Shanze Noreen, an artist from Murree. The exhibition showcased more than 70 paintings, which are a testament to her creative talent. The event was inaugurated by Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture Ms. Shazia Rizwan and Chief Traffic Police Officer Rawalpindi Ms. Beenish Fatima. Director of the Arts Council Sajjad Hussain, Deputy Director Muhammad Shakoor, and Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman were also present alongside the distinguished guests. During the inaugural ceremony, the chief guest Ms. Shazia Rizwan praised Shanze Noreen's creations, stating that her artworks serve as a great inspiration for the younger generation. In her remarks, Ms. Shazia Rizwan emphasized that artists like Shanze Noreen play a vital role in highlighting the country's cultural heritage. Ms. Beenish Fatima noted that such exhibitions not only promote fine arts but also provide young artists with an opportunity to showcase their talent. Director of the Arts Council Sajjad Hussain stated that the purpose of the exhibition is to provide a platform for emerging artists to demonstrate their creative abilities and contribute to the promotion of the country's cultural values. The exhibition was attended by a large number of art enthusiasts, students, and personalities associated with the arts, who highly appreciated Shanze Noreen's work. Participants at the event stressed the need for more such cultural programs to be organized in the future.

## Meeting between DG PNCA Ayub Jamali and Zafar Bakhtawari

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Director General of Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA), Ayub Jamali, met with President of Pakistan Cultural Forum, Zafar Bakhtawari, at his office yesterday. They held detailed discussions regarding the promotion of Pakistan's cultural heritage, arts, and the projection of the country's positive image.



Both dignitaries agreed that Pakistan's cultural heritage plays a pivotal role in highlighting its positive aspects globally. Ayub Jamali emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to showcase Pakistan's diverse culture, traditions, and arts on the international stage. He highlighted the ongoing projects and activities of PNCA aimed at promoting the arts and culture.

Zafar Bakhtawari shared details about the activities of the Pakistan Cultural Forum and stressed the importance of cultural events, art galleries, and active international representation to enhance the country's soft image. He proposed joint projects between PNCA and the Cultural Forum, focusing on music, film, and theater.

It was mutually decided to organize cultural festivals, exhibitions, and art workshops across the country. Additionally, they agreed on launching special campaigns and activating cultural delegations to promote Pakistani culture on the international level.

# Commandant Scouts Force Congratulates Wana Press Club's New Office bearers

Umer Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Commandant Scouts Force Wana Muhammad Tahir Khan extended heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected Office bearers of Wana Press Club for the year 2025 and expressed good wishes.

He Further added that journalism is the fourth pillar of the state, and the positive role of journalism is crucial for safeguarding national interests. He further stated that for establishing peace and regional development, the media, public, and



state institutions should be on the same page.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Wana Press Club President Shahzada Wazir thanked Commandant Muhammad Tahir Khan, Captain Ibrahim, and other staff.

He appealed for the reopening of the Angoor Adda Gate at the Pak-Afghan border to restore trade activities and eliminate unemployment. Commandant Muhammad Tahir Khan responded positively, assuring efforts to boost trade activities in Lower Waziristan.



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# The Ruthless Accountability...

The democratization and widespread accessibility of social media across the globe have given a loud and clear voice to those who were previously unheard. These individuals, whose voices once had no reach, impact, or influence in their communities, societies, countries, or on a global level, are now empowered. Social media, with its various platforms, has opened up avenues of communication that, until a few years ago, were the exclusive domain of the rich and influential.

This newfound freedom has enabled the general populace to develop the skills to ask questions, build followings, and exercise their influence. Social media influencers worldwide have become so powerful that media managers across the globe now systematically engage with them to leverage their reach and connect with their audiences, fans, and followers.

During my tenure as a media manager at the Ministry of Information, I played a pivotal role in establishing social media initiatives. I was instrumental in setting up the social media cell for Maryam Nawaz Sharif and later the Digital Media Cell during the PTI government. Both entities effectively utilized social media platforms to amplify their policies and narratives, reaching millions of social media users.

As Press Secretary, I curated a list of the country's top media influencers and organized two luncheons with the President. These events provided a platform for the President to share his thoughts on various critical issues of the time, fostering dialogue and understanding between the influencers and the government.

One striking example of this global accountability was seen in the case of

General (Retired) Qamar Javed Bajwa, the former Chief of the Pakistan Army. General Bajwa wielded immense power over the country, to the extent that he was often described as a "God-like" figure. He had the authority to install or dismantle governments at will. During his tenure, allegations surfaced regarding the accumulation of billions in wealth. When his wealth and tax returns were leaked, the whistleblowers—journalists and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) officials—were imprisoned rather than commended for exposing illegal financial activities.

However, accountability for General Bajwa came in an unusual and public manner. While sitting on the steps of a church with his wife, he was repeatedly subjected to degrading verbal abuse, and the entire humiliating episode was recorded and uploaded to social media. The footage quickly became a viral story worldwide, illustrating how one of the most powerful figures in Pakistan could be reduced to a common, helpless individual in the face of public scrutiny.

Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Qazi Faez Isa played a controversial role in Pakistan's political landscape. Through what were perceived as vindictive and revenge-driven decisions, he deprived the most popular and largest political party of its election symbol, removed its chairman, and barred it from contesting elections as a unified political entity. These actions were widely viewed as a grave disservice to the country and its people. While in Pakistan, Justice Isa

appeared to be above the law. However, public accountability eventually caught up with him. First, he was humiliated while buying donuts, and later during a flight to London. Videos of these incidents quickly went viral, providing a sense of satisfaction to those who felt justice had been served for the perceived injustices against the party and its millions of supporters.

On a broader scale, the world has become increasingly hostile to the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N). The PML-N has been criticized for allegedly compromising its principles, aligning itself with the establishment, and using these connections to secure power at both the federal and provincial levels. The party was seen as the primary beneficiary of what has been described as the most rigged, managed, and engineered election in Pakistan's history on February 8.

Despite holding a minority in parliament, the PML-N formed a government with the establishment's support. Once in power, they introduced constitutional amendments and legislative changes that further empowered the already dominant establishment, solidifying their authority. These actions, however, did not go unchallenged. Both domestically and abroad, the leadership of the PML-N has faced relentless backlash. Overseas Pakistanis have publicly confronted and humiliated them, recording these incidents on video. These clips often go viral on social media, amplifying their humiliation globally and serving as a form of public accountability.

When a country's internal accountability mechanisms are stifled and fail to deliver justice, the diaspora of misgoverned nations turns to other power centers in their host countries to hold their leadership accountable for unlawful, undemocratic, and illegal actions. In Pakistan's case, as all pillars of the state have become subservient to the powerful establishment, the Pakistani diaspora has looked to the leadership of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. These countries wield significant influence over Pakistan as its largest aid donors, key importers, business partners, and through their control and influence over international financial institutions like the IMF, which can bring Pakistan's fragile economy to its knees.

This two-pronged accountability is extremely potent and has the potential to shrink the space for dictators and corrupt rulers globally. No matter how powerful a dictator, corrupt ruler, judge, parliamentarian, or businessman may be, they might evade formal accountability processes within their country, but they cannot escape the relentless accountability of the general public wielding the power of social media or the unyielding scrutiny of the country's diaspora worldwide.

Rulers and dictators now face a stark choice: either restore the rule of law and allow the pillars of the state to function independently or prepare to face ruthless accountability through social media and the global diaspora. The era of unchallenged impunity is rapidly coming to an end.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## How Assad's failures fueled Syria's collapse

When Bashar Assad lost control of the oil-rich areas in eastern Syria, most of which came under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces, he turned to Iran for oil and its derivatives to enable his forces to continue fighting and to maintain services in the areas under his rule.

In any case, despite the horrifying revelations about him after his downfall, which added to what we already knew about his terrifying regime, he always seemed polite in person, ready to listen and respond. Rarely did he lose his composure. This was his demeanor with all his guests.

This left many puzzled about his true nature. Was there a sinister group behind the atrocities in Syria and Lebanon? Was it his brother Maher, his officer Ali Mamlouk, his wife Asma or the Iranian Qassem Soleimani?

The truth is that he was behind it all, orchestrating and managing it — not the image he projected. He compensated for his failure to govern the state by wielding brute force. The impoverished country became even poorer, contrary to his claims of being targeted by hostile nations.

The truth is, Assad received widespread regional and international support after assuming power. There was hope he would move Syria beyond Hafez Assad's legacy toward openness and modernization. Instead, he increased the number of prisons, surpassed his father in terms of assassinations and bombings, and hosted terrorist organizations.

Thus, the Syrian revolution against Bashar was no surprise, even though it erupted three months after Tunisia's uprising. Having failed economically, Assad resorted to drug trafficking and hosting armed groups during the Iraq war in coordination with Iran, repeating the same approach during his decade-long war. I cannot recall him ever discussing economic development, modernization or improving citizens' livelihoods before the revolution.

Today, Syria and its new leaders need to reflect on the history of the Assad regime. It is no surprise that a regime collapses when a soldier guarding it or a university professor, who represents the societal elite, earns about \$20 a month. The profound lesson is that the risks of economic failure are greater than those of security failure.

Economic failure preceded the war by years, as well as America's Caesar Act sanctions, the freezing of state assets abroad and the collapse of the currency. It was the result of Assad's mismanagement, rampant corruption, weak governance and the regime's reliance on a shadow economy fueled by drugs and foreign wars.

Despite their severe hardships in the countries in which they sought refuge, Syrians have achieved success in every field. Today, a great opportunity lies ahead. The government of Ahmad Al-Sharaa must first bring together all Syrians in their diversity to become part of the state and open up to the world to attract investment.



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

## A Revolutionary Spirit: Tribute to Zahida Shaikh on her death anniversary

**Kalavanti Raja**

In a society weighed down by feudal oppression and centuries-old traditions, Zahida Shaikh stood as a beacon of hope. Her life was a story of struggle, resilience, and sacrifice for the betterment of Sindhi women. On her sixth death anniversary, we honor her revolutionary spirit and the lasting impact she left on her people.

Zahida lived in a time when Pakistan faced numerous challenges, including political instability, economic inequality, and social injustice. Gender inequality, in particular, was deeply entrenched in society, with women being denied basic rights and freedoms. Education for girls was often discouraged, and women were kept confined to their homes, their voices silenced. Zahida saw these injustices as a call to action.

Her inspiration came from the teachings of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, a revered Sindhi poet, and Rasool Bux Palijo, a revolutionary leader. Bhittai's poetry celebrated the courage and resilience of women like Sassui, Marvi, and Sohni, while Palijo transformed these ideas into a movement for social and political change. Zahida took these lessons to heart and became an active leader in the Sindhiyehi Tehreek, an organization dedicated to women's rights and empowerment in Sindh.

Zahida's journey was not easy. Sindh was a region dominated by feudal traditions where challenging the status quo was seen as dangerous, especially for women. Yet, Zahida courageously broke these barriers. She believed that women could not be free unless they were educated, respected, and allowed to participate in all areas of life. Her activism focused on empowering women in rural and urban areas,

showing them the power of unity and collective action.

Zahida Shaikh (1961–Jan 6, 2018) was a fearless revolutionary and advocate for women's rights, political equality, and Sindh's autonomy. Born in Kamber-Shahdadkot, she defied societal norms by attending a boys' school and later earned a Master's in Mass Communication and also earned LLB from Sindh University Jamshoro. Inspired by revolutionary movements, she joined the Sindhi Shagird



Tehreek, eventually leading the Sindhi Girls' Student Organisation and Sindhiyehi Tehreek, the women's wing of Awami Tehreek. Married to Rasool Bux Palijo, Zahida championed grassroots campaigns against injustices like Karo-Kari, exploitative customs, and the Kalabagh Dam. She participated in historic long marches for Sindh's water rights, wrote insightful articles, and translated revolutionary works. Zahida passed away unexpectedly on 6th January 2018 at 57, leaving behind a legacy of courage, resilience, and unwavering dedication to justice.

Zahida's life was full of sacrifices. She set aside her personal dreams and desires to dedicate herself to the cause of justice. She faced hardships like impris-

onment, police brutality, and societal opposition, but these challenges only strengthened her resolve. As she once said to a friend, while personal struggles can feel overwhelming, living for a greater purpose gives one the strength to face any difficulty. Her words were not just advice—they were a reflection of how she lived her life.

Her work touched the lives of countless women across Sindh. Through her leadership, women who had been silenced found the courage to speak out, to demand their rights, and to dream of a better future. Zahida believed that the true measure of progress was the collective freedom of all women, and she worked tirelessly to achieve it.

Zahida's efforts were not limited to Sindh. Her activism brought attention to the struggles of marginalized communities in Pakistan on a national and even global scale. She showed how powerful women's voices can be in creating political and social change. Zahida, alongside her companions in the Sindhiyehi Tehreek, inspired hope in women who had long been ignored and oppressed.

Zahida Shaikh was one of those stars. Her light illuminated the path for others to follow. She believed in truth, justice, and equality, and she gave her life to these ideals. Her legacy challenges us to continue the fight she started, to carry forward her dream of a just and fair society where every woman is free and equal.

Today, as we remember Zahida Shaikh, we honor her with a red salute. She was not just a leader; she was a symbol of hope and courage. Her spirit lives on in the women she inspired, and her work will continue to guide us toward a brighter future. Zahida's life reminds us that even in the darkest times, one person's dedication and bravery can bring light to the world.

## Pakistan-China Missile Cooperation: A response to the targeted US sanctions

Pakistan's ballistic missile program has been in the eyes of the United States and India since the beginning of the day and these countries consider it a threat to themselves, which can be gauged from the recent statement of US Deputy National Security Advisor John Finer in which he said that "Pakistan's ballistic missile technology is a growing threat to the United States that can target the United States."

From the perspective of the balance of power in the region, I believe, this is a much bigger deal than CPEC because these aircraft are comparable to the most advanced American aircraft and, like the F-16, provide countries like Pakistan with such advanced technology forty years after its invention. After acquiring these forty aircraft in two years, Pakistan will become the fifth country in the world after the United States, Russia, South Korea and China to have fighter jets equipped with supersonic stealth technology, which are not only famous for their effectiveness in delivering nuclear weapons, but also cannot be detected on radars and targeted.

Most importantly, under the agreement, like the JF-17, these aircraft will also be manufactured in Pakistan in the future. At a time when just a year ago, fears of Pakistan going bankrupt were in everyone's mind Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has certainly hit a huge and incredible six, then Written By: Fiza Zia the world experts of Mutually Assured Destruction, think tanks and war strategists have been brainstorming on the long-term impact of Pakistan's recent move on South Asia and the Middle East. If we talk only about the impact on India, the fifth generation, supersonic stealth J35 fighter jets that Pakistan is getting from China will change the balance of power in the region in such a way that the 2200 fighter jets of various types that India has will suddenly become insufficient for its defense.

For a new balance of power, it will have to buy American F-35 fighter jets immediately and on the strictest terms, which are so expensive that they can slow down the Indian economy. On the other hand, how will India, which is not ready to transfer technology up to F-16 to India, be ready to transfer technology of F-35, while China is ready to do the same for Pakistan in the case of J-35? That is, even if India buys F-35 aircraft from America on the strictest

American terms to compete with Pakistan, they will be just aircraft, there will be no technology transfer.

In this case, India will be forced to become America's sidekick for spare parts for more or less twenty years, losing its traditional uniqueness in terms of foreign policy, through which it did not become a regular part of any global pool of power for seventy years of independence and continued to benefit simultaneously from all warring power brokers, including America and Russia. For the balance of power, even if India unconditionally joins the American camp and obtains 200 F-35s, which is impossible, in the event of a war with Pakistan, it will not be able to bring all its planes, which will be 2400 in the new situation, only to the Pakistani border because it will have to keep more than half of them on standby for China on the other border, while Pakistan can deploy more than two-thirds of its jets in a war against India. Even if Pakistan has more planes in numbers than India, and there will be no threat on its other borders as India does on the China border. That is, India will be exposed to the threat of attack by fifth generation aircraft from both sides. For a real balance of power, it will need more fighter jets than the combined fighter jets of both Pakistan and China, which can never be possible for it.

The imbalance created in the region by today's Pak-China deal will not change even in the next two decades. The fighter jets that America provides to Arab countries are not comparable to the fighter jets provided to Israel. The inclusion of J35 aircraft in the Pakistani fleet will actually create a demand for these aircraft in the Arab market, which will not only deal a major blow to a major American economic interest, but will also raise questions about Israel's defense. Being a prudent person with understanding of the whole game I can clearly see that China is entering the next phase of challenging the West and especially the United States, and after South Asia, it has its eyes on changing the balance of power in the Middle East in its favor.

One aspect of the recent Pak-China deal is that now a new and unprecedented race of conventional arms is about to begin in the region. While this new race will shrink the Indian economy, Pakistan's debts will also increase.

*I, Fiza Zia, with heart and soul on fire, For Pakistan's honor, my life I'll aspire. Through every test, I'll stand and proudly fight, For my beloved nation, I'll shine with all my light. (FIZA ZIA)*



Analysis

Fiza Zia



# Fostering Unity through Diversity in ECO Region Highlighted

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: ECO member countries with their rich cultural heritage and diversity of languages, traditions and richness of culture offer a foundation for fostering mutual understanding, regional integration, and sustainable development.

They collectively underscored that embracing this diversity not only strengthens diplomatic and cultural ties but also paves the way for economic collaboration and social cohesion, positioning the ECO region as a global model for harmony through diversity.

These were the remarks of the speakers who were sharing the insights during the seminar "Fostering Cultural Harmony: Celebrating Diversity Among ECO Member States," organized by the ECO Cultural Institute, the Ministry of National Heritage & Culture Division, and the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies.

The speakers underscored the vital role of cultural diversity in fostering unity and regional integration. The discussions revolved around leveraging the rich cultural tapestry of the ECO region to enhance mutual understanding, regional harmony, and shared prosperity.

Dr. Farhat Asif, President, IPDS, emphasized the significance of cultural



diplomacy as a bridge connecting the ECO member states and highlighted Pakistan's pivotal role in promoting cultural exchange within the ECO framework, celebrating the nation's rich heritage and its commitment to

fostering regional harmony. Dr. Saad Khan, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, stressed the importance of preserving the region's shared cultural heritage and pointed out that the ECO, as a platform, has successfully nurtured

a sense of belonging and cooperation among its member states, urging further investments in cultural initiatives that strengthen bonds and celebrate the unique traditions and values of the region.

Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan has said that cultural harmony is a cornerstone of sustainable regional integration and stressed the need for continued dialogue and collaborative efforts to protect and promote the shared heritage of the ECO member states. He also highlighted Pakistan's commitment to ECO's vision and its role as a bridge between South and Central Asia.

Dr. Avazbek Atakhanov, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, reflected on the historical ties between ECO member states, emphasizing that the shared cultural and historical legacy offers a strong foundation for regional solidarity. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, highlighted Azerbaijan's commitment to promoting cultural diplomacy within the ECO framework and stressed the importance of leveraging the region's cultural wealth as a tool for peace-building and fostering sustainable development.

Dr. Eynulla Madatli, Executive Director, Institute of Philosophy, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and Former Ambassador of Azerbaijan said that interplay between cultural heritage and regional stability is an important aspect and underscored the need to protect intangible cultural

heritage. Nurlan Smagulov, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, focused on Kazakhstan's efforts in promoting cultural initiatives that highlight the region's diversity. Majid Meshki, Cultural Counsellor at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, spoke about the deep historical and cultural connections between Iran and the ECO member states and emphasized the unifying power of art, particularly calligraphy, as a medium to foster dialogue and understanding across cultural boundaries.

Dr. Samina Yasmeen Amin, Chairperson of the Department of Pakistan Studies at AIOU, offered a scholarly analysis of the role of education in promoting cultural understanding and highlighted the need for incorporating cultural studies into academic curricula to nurture a sense of shared identity among future generations of the ECO region. Mirsaid Rahmonov, Senior Researcher at the Institute of Asian and European Studies, Tajikistan National Academy of Sciences, shared insights on Tajikistan's cultural contributions and the importance of preserving historical artifacts and traditions as a legacy for future generations.

The seminar was attended by a large number of diplomats and civil society members.

# Rural development; empowers communities, reduces poverty, increase food security, improves nutrition, strengthens resilience

Rafiullah Mandokhail

ZHOB: 'Rural development; empowers communities, reduces poverty, increases food security, improves nutrition and strengthens resilience. Moreover, it enables the rural poor and particularly the youth and women folk to realize their development potential,' said the officials while speaking at an event to discuss the development progress in a remote part of northern Balochistan.

A delegation of the representatives of International Fund for Agriculture Development, Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Balochistan Rural Support Programme visited the rural organization—Omzha Wyala Development Organization in Pasta village—in the north of Zhob city. The delegation reviewed the development plan of the rural area under the National Poverty Graduation Programme financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Program Officer IFAD Fida Muhammad, Programme Analyst IFAD Sumeera, Programme Director NPGP Muhammad Fazil, Grant Manager Fawad Khan, General

Manager Programme BRSP Niamat Jan Miryani, Dr. Shah Nawaz Khan, Project Manager Rajab Ali and District Program Manager BRSP Quttab Khan met the rural community. The community members warmly welcomed the guests upon their arrival and presented them traditional turbans.

The officials of the rural organization briefed the delegation regarding their performance, development works, coordination and projects completed with the financial support of various departments. The delegation asked various questions from the members of



the rural organization during an interactive session and said, IFAD invests

in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security,

improve nutrition and strengthen resilience.



# Inaugurate Ceremony held Suthra Punjab Programme in Toba Tek Singh

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: "Suthra Punjab Programme" has been launched to meet modern sanitation requirements in Toba Tek Singh. This project has been started by the Punjab government and private partnership with the aim of making the city clean and free from environmental pollution. In the opening ceremony, Member National Assembly Junaid Anwaar, Member Provincial Assembly Amjad Ali Javid, Member Provincial Assembly Ayub Khan Gadhi, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Syed Jamil Haider Shah, Deputy Commissioner General

Zeeshan Labbha Masih, Chief Officer Municipal Committee and District Council Anwar Baig Sial, Chief Executive of Mediland Mian Shahid Mehmood, Project Director Muhammad Waseem Asadullah, media representatives and other dignitaries were also present.

The participants appreciated this machinery and expressed good wishes for the success of this program. Moreover, an awareness walk was organized to create awareness among the citizens, in which Member National Assembly Junaid Anwaar, Member Provincial Assembly Amjad Ali Javid, Member Provincial Assembly Ayub Gadhi, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu,

Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Syed Jamil Haider Shah, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Zeeshan Labbha Masih, Chief Officer Municipal Committee and District Council Anwar Baig Sial, Chief Executive of Mediland Mian Shahid Mehmood, Project Director Muhammad Waseem Asadullah, along with media representatives dignitaries and solid waste management Employees and citizens participated in large numbers. On this occasion, Chief Executive Mian Shahid Mehmood said that the aim of the walk was to inform the public about the importance of cleanliness and invite them to be a part of this national campaign.

# Towards a Cleaner, Greener Karachi: A New Year's Green Resolution

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sea View Beach, Karachi, witnessed a momentous start to the New Year as the Climate Hub Forum (CHF), in collaboration with Rotary Club of Karachi (RCK) Environment, RCK Elite, and Rotary District 3271, organized a Beach Clean-up Drive under the flagship 'Towards Zero Waste' project. This impactful initiative, supported by the Cantonment Board Clifton (CBC) and DHA Authorities, marked a significant stride toward promoting environmental sustainability in Pakistan's largest city. The event was further supported by Lal Roti, symbolizing a strong community-private partnership.

The activity, greatly supervised by Aamir Sadozai, Co-Founder of the Climate Hub Forum, Erum Khan, Chairperson CHF, and Assistant Governor Rotary District 3271 Fizza Khan brought together youth, students, and

environmental advocates. The CBC team, led by their in-charge, played a pivotal role by preparing the beach and assisting participants in making this cleanup a success. Volunteers were provided eco-friendly garbage bags and gloves to collect trash, with the CBC cleaning vehicles actively contributing to the effort. Significance of the Initiative:

This beach clean-up drive aligns with key international frameworks, such as the COP 29 Declaration, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a signatory to the MAP Declaration, the Climate Hub Forum has consistently demonstrated its commitment to reducing plastic pollution and advocating for sustainable waste management practices. The campaign's message, "Say No to Plastic," resonates globally, calling for a transition toward sustainable lifestyles.

**An Inspiring and Impactful Initiative:**

The event exemplified the power of community mobilization, youth engagement, and collaborative efforts. It served as an inspiration for Karachiites and global stakeholders alike by showcasing how collective action can lead to meaningful environmental change. The presence of students from Iqra University's Psychology Department further highlighted the active role of academia in fostering environmental awareness. The event emphasized the importance of adopting green resolutions and sustainable living practices for a cleaner future.

**Key Messages from Stakeholders:**

Aamir Sadozai, Vice President RCK Environment, emphasized the need for cleaner cities, highlighting the acute challenges Karachi faces, including municipal waste, hazardous waste, and pollution. He thanked the CBC and DHA authorities for their

critical support in making this initiative possible.

Erum Khan, Chairperson CHF, encouraged participants to commit to sustainable lifestyles, starting with eliminating plastic bottles and adopting environmentally friendly practices.

Fizza Khan, Assistant Governor Rotary District 3271, emphasized the collective efforts of RCK Elite, RCK Environment, Rotary District 3271, Lal Roti and Climate Hub Forum, supported by CBC and DHA, in addressing coastal pollution. She highlighted the beauty of Karachi's coastline and called on communities and stakeholders to join hands in creating awareness and taking action for a cleaner, greener environment for all.

Kafeel Hussain, President RCK Environment, stressed that such activities push municipal authorities to work harder on waste management solutions.

Waseem Qaiser, RCK Envi-



ronment, underlined the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing climate change challenges.

Azra Ali from RCK Environment said, "It's a great day to start the New Year with a strong message of environmental awareness. Activities like these inspire children and youth to actively

participate in projects that create a better future for all."

Hasnain Homae, Project Chair RCK Environment, highlighted the collective goal of gifting a cleaner Karachi to its citizens.

Shabnum Akbar, Member of Karachi Elite expressed her views, "Today, we gathered here to give a gift to our environment,

our people, and our city. I request everyone to join us in keeping Karachi clean and making it a better place for future generations."

Abbas, treasurer RCK Environment stated that their efforts to clean the beach are aimed at creating cleaner, healthier beaches and raising awareness for environmental preservation.

Dr. Mehwish, Coordinator, Iqra University, expressed her students' eagerness to join more green initiatives.

Munawar, CBC In-charge, applauded the organizers for their efforts and pledged continued support to make Karachi's beaches cleaner and more beautiful.

**Call to Action:**

The event concluded with an impactful closing ceremony, led by Aamir Sadozai, where all stakeholders shared their experiences and pledged their commitment to a cleaner Karachi. Snacks



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
116,255.12	117,586.98
Day's High	Day's Low
118,735.09	115,941.94
Index Value	Change
25,914,775,252	-1331.86
Percentage	Time
-1.13%	6 Jan, 2025 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,249.66	+25.68
Percentage	Time
+0.31%	6 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
43,021.07	+288.94
Percentage	Time
+0.68%	6 Jan, 12:37 pm GMT-5
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,307.05	-587.49
Percentage	Time
-1.47%	6 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	173.75	176.00
Bahrain Dinar	736.40	744.40
Canadian Dollar	194.10	196.50
China Yuan	37.97	38.37
Danish Krone	38.08	38.48
Euro	288.75	291.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.45	35.80
Indian Rupee	3.19	3.28
Japanese Yen	1.78	1.84
Kuwaiti Dinar	895.50	905.00
Malaysian Ringgit	61.27	61.87
New Zealand \$	154.13	156.13
Norwegians Krone	24.2	24.50
Omani Riyal	720.75	729.25
Qatari Riyal	75.86	76.56
Saudi Riyal	73.90	74.45
Singapore Dollar	204.25	206.25
Swedish Korona	24.76	25.06
Swiss Franc	307.08	309.88
Thai Bhat	7.95	8.1
U.A.E Dirham	75.55	76.20
UK Pound Sterling	348.00	351.5
US Dollar	278.50	280.00

# Denmark to work closely with Pakistan to attract foreign investments: Envoy

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Danish Ambassador Jakob Linulf on Monday underscored the collaborative role of Denmark and SDPI in creating a conducive environment for climate action. "Denmark is proud to work closely with SDPI to help Pakistan attract foreign investments in addressing climate change."

He said this during the policy dialogue titled "Post COP Dialogue: Operationalization of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement - The Road from Baku to Belem, hosted by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with the Embassy of Denmark, said a press release.

Ambassador Linulf said the efforts to mitigate climate change impacts and global warming would only succeed if the government of Pakistan secured a conducive environment for climate action.

Denmark and Pakistan, he said are supporting each other in making their societies more resilient. However, the framework under which both governments cooperate is guided by meetings held at the conference of the parties (COPs) and forums under the



umbrella of the United Nations.

The next climate regime would be based on trading on carbon emissions reduction enabling funding for climate adaptation, he said, adding, "Climate Change mitigation will rely on the internal climate action efforts that every individual will contribute. Climate action starts with yourself as each one has to take steps like avoiding open garbage dumping, ensure tree plantation, select eco-friendly consumption practices, focus on RE, power solutions, energy-efficient buildings for less power consumption, and securing a long-term environment for

foreign direct investment through carbon emissions trading."

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, SDPI Executive Director, underscored the need for transparency and robust monitoring in carbon markets. "We must establish independent accreditation bodies and align with international frameworks like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)," he stated.

Zulfiqar Younas of the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) announced the launch of a customized carbon registry by February, marking a key milestone in operationalizing Article 6. The registry aims to facilitate trans-

parent carbon credit trading, enabling Pakistan to tap into international carbon finance markets.

Ambassador Shafiqat Kakakhel, Chairman BoG SDPI, stressed the importance of shifting the energy sector from fossil fuels to domestically available renewables like biomass, water, solar, and wind.

Andrew Bailey Managing director, BASF and representative of OICCI reiterated the chamber's commitment to supporting Pakistan's climate action goals. The private sector remains a critical partner in achieving carbon neutrality.

Meanwhile, Dr. Arif Goheer of GCISC pointed out the financial gaps in meeting NDC targets and emphasized the private sector's role in bridging them.

In his vote of thanks, Dr. Shafiqat Munir, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI thanked partners for their contributions, stating, "Our readiness is critical to reaping the benefits of international carbon trading mechanisms. However, Pakistan needs to be conscious about the nature and implications of other climate finance instruments that will be available amid complete rollout of carbon markets."

## Development

ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in their work during the construction of F-8 underpass project in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Political stability, long-term economic policies crucial for economic growth: ICCI Acting President

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The acting President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, emphasized the pivotal role of the business community in driving Pakistan's economy, particularly in industrial, commercial, and trade sectors. However, he pointed out that numerous challenges are hindering its progress. He added that the business community remains committed to working diligently for its economic well-being, aiming to reduce the country's reliance on foreign debt by contributing taxes. In



turn, the community only expects support, respect, and a conducive environment for conducting business.

## Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves lowest in region: Governor SBP

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves are the lowest among regional countries when compared to their import bills, says State Bank of Pakistan Governor Jameel Ahmed.



Governor Jameel Ahmed made these remarks before the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, stating that inflation is expected to rise further in the last quarter of the current fiscal year and the first quarter of the next one. He also highlighted that Pakistan must meet \$4.5 billion in external debt payments by July 2025.

Ahmed confirmed that a UAE safe deposit will be cleared on schedule this month. He added that for the first time in 20 years, the current account showed a surplus as of November in the ongoing fiscal year.

A reduction in the interest rate has lowered debt servicing costs from PKR 9.8 trillion to PKR 8.3 trillion. During the briefing, it was revealed that Pakistan banks pay around \$800 million annually for ATM card and online transaction services. The committee suggested introducing a local payment card to reduce this burden.

The chairman of the committee warned that unless banks halt dollar payments for local services, legislation will be considered. He expressed concern over dollar shortages while billions are spent on card services.

Despite launching the PayPak card in 2016, the scheme failed to gain traction. Ahmed stated that remittances could reach \$35 billion this fiscal year, surpassing the budget target by \$5 billion. He noted that the central bank currently holds \$11.7 billion in reserves and intervenes in the market by buying surplus dollars or selling when necessary.

The State Bank expects a profit of PKR 3.4 trillion this fiscal year, while fiscal space in debt servicing could reach PKR 1.5 trillion, helping achieve budgetary targets.

## SECP Introduces Regulatory Framework for Investment Plans to Facilitate the Mutual Fund Industry

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has further strengthened the regulatory framework for the mutual fund industry by specifying detailed requirements for "Investment Plans." This initiative builds upon the enabling provisions previously introduced via amendments to the Non-Banking Finance Companies and Notified Entities Regulations, 2008 (NBFC Regulations). The framework aims to enhance governance, streamline operations, and ensure secure investment horizons, thus fostering retail penetration in the mutual fund industry.

The new requirements have been developed after exten-



sive consultation with stakeholders, including the Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP), to align with best practices and ensure compliance with defined principles.

These requirements specify the eligible categories of Collec-

tive Investment Schemes (CIS) under which Asset Management Companies (AMCs) can offer Investment Plans, including Fund of Funds, Fixed Rate/Return, Sovereign Income, Asset Allocation Schemes, Capital Protected and

Exchange Traded Funds.

Operational requirements provide clear guidelines on the maximum number of Investment Plans, their duration, exposure limits, investment restrictions, and performance benchmarks. To promote transparency, the framework mandates specific disclosures for Fund of Fund CIS and additional risk information. Furthermore, the framework also obligates the AMCs for issuance of a separate Investment Plan report within the Fund Manager Report (FMR). It also outlines essential offering guidelines, including subscription timelines and NAV announcements, and establishes detailed provisions for Total Expense Ratio, formation costs, and other charges.

## Germany witnesses 27% drop in electric car sales in 2024

**AFP**

Sales of new battery-powered cars plunged by 27.4 percent in Germany last year, official figures showed Monday, as crisis hit the country's flagship auto industry.

Overall, some 2.8 million new vehicles were registered in Europe's largest car market in 2024, one percent fewer than in the previous year, the KBA federal transport authority said.

Of those, only 380,609 were electric vehicles, equivalent to a market share of 13.5 percent.

The weak sales figures represented a "lost year for electro-mobility", said EY analyst Constantin Gall.

After years of growth, demand for battery-powered cars in Germany has lost momentum since the withdrawal of government subsidies at the end of 2023.

High prices for new EV models, patchy charging infrastructure, and range limitations had also dissuaded many consumers from picking battery-powered cars, Gall said.

Falling sales of battery-powered cars underline the challenges facing

Germany's wider auto industry.

The sector has struggled with weaker demand and a troubled switch to electric vehicles, with manufacturers and suppliers announcing a slew of job cuts last year.

The crisis in the auto industry has become a political issue ahead of the February 23 elections.

Some critics have linked Germany's general economic malaise with a forced switch to electric vehicles that they say has undermined carmakers.

Europe's largest economy looked



likely to have recorded its second straight year in recession in 2024, with the outlook for 2025 not much more positive.

"In order to spark new sales momentum, strong impulses are needed, including in terms of price," Gall said.

A new support program could provide a "significant boost" to sales of electric vehicles, he said.

The weak outlook for the economy as a whole meant that carmakers could not hope for much more than a "slight increase" in sales in the year ahead, he said.

## Nippon Steel, US Steel file suit against Biden's merger block



**AFP**

Nippon Steel and US Steel filed suit Monday over President Joe Biden's decision to block the Japanese giant's proposed acquisition of its American rival, accusing his administration of "illegal interference" in the huge transaction.

The companies said in a

statement that they initiated the legal action in the US Court of appeals in Washington challenging the review process for the acquisition, claiming Biden, who is leaving office on January 20, had improperly used his influence and blocked the deal "for purely political reasons."



# Sohail Adnan wins British Junior Open 2025, Making Pakistan Proud

LAHORE: 6th Jan 2025, Pakistan celebrates an extraordinary moment in squash history as Sohail Adnan, the nation's rising star, claims victory in the Boys Under-13 category at the prestigious British Junior Open 2025. Sohail Adnan secured a remarkable victory over Elmoghazy with a thrilling match scoreline of 5-11, 11-5, 11-6, 7-11, 5-11, 11-5, showcasing his resilience and skill in a hard-fought battle. With this monumental achievement, Sohail has cemented his place among the brightest young talents in international squash.

Sohail's journey to the title was nothing short of phenomenal. Facing top-tier competition from around the globe, he displayed unmatched skill, grit, and composure, culminating in a spectacular win in the final. His performance throughout the tournament has not only brought immense pride to Pakistan but also established him as a player to watch on the international stage.

This victory adds another milestone to an already remarkable career. In December 2024, Sohail clinched the Scottish Junior Open Boys Under-13 title, defeating Spain's Itzel Reguero Garcia in straight sets. Earlier in the year, he dominated the Asian Junior U13 Championship, securing the title with an impressive run. Additionally, at the 31st Junior Individual Squash Championship 2024, Sohail reached the semifinals and secured a commanding quarterfinal victory against Singapore's Jackrish Kumar with a scoreline of 11-0, 11-7, 11-3.



Mahreen Dawood expressed her pride in Sohail's achievement:

"Sohail Adnan's incredible victory at the British Junior Open 2025 is a moment of immense pride for Pakistan. His determination, hard work, and exceptional skill have brought glory to the nation. At BARD Foundation, we remain committed to supporting Sohail as he continues to inspire us all with his talent and dedication."

Abdul Razak Dawood also lauded Sohail's historic win:

"This is a monumental achievement for Sohail Adnan and a proud moment for Pakistan. His journey reflects the potential of our youth when given the right opportunities and support. Sohail's success at the British Junior Open 2025 is just the beginning of what promises to be a remarkable career in squash."

The BARD Foundation, a steadfast supporter of Sohail's journey, has played a pivotal role in his rise, providing him with the resources and mentorship to excel on the global stage.

As Sohail brings home the coveted title, he carries with him the hopes and dreams of a nation inspired by his dedication and achievements. His victory marks a new chapter in the story of Pakistan's success in squash.

## Development of youth is the aim of Chief Minister Internship Programme: Secretary Sports

Tahir Amin Malik

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that the aim of Chief Minister Internship Programme is the development of youth. He said this while presiding over an important meeting regarding the Chief Minister Internship Programme at Punjab Stadium on Monday.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry, Additional Secretary Mian Usman Ali, Director Admin Dr M Kaleem and officers of Bank of Punjab and PITB participated in the meeting.

The officers of Bank of Punjab and

PITB gave in-depth briefing during the meeting. The applications submitted by hundreds of youth for the Chief Minister Internship Programme were reviewed thoroughly in the meeting.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial directed the officers concerned to resolve all issues regarding Chief Minister Internship Programme immediately.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that this revolutionary programme has been launched for the youth to play a constructive and effective role in the development of the country in accordance with the vision of



Punjab Chief Minister.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial further said that under Chief Minister Internship Programme, Rs 25,000 will be awarded to the talented youth for a period of six months. "Our youngsters are quite talented and they can play an important role in the progress of the country."

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that the process of application receiving is in progress and the talented youth is taking immense interest in this programme. "Thousands of applications have been received so far in the second phase of Chief Minister Internship Programme," he added.

## Meer Afzal hits ton in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

KARACHI: Four more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various cricket grounds.

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

Scores in Brief:

Agha Khan Gymkhana defeated Surjani Sports by 139 runs at Agha Khan Gymkhana. Agha Khan Gymkhana 339/7 in allotted 40 overs. Mir Afzal scored 151 with the help of 14x4 and 5x6, Saud Islam 84 9x4 1x6, Waqar Johar 35, Hassan Jawed 3/56, Maaz Ali 2/70.



Surjani Sports 200 all out in 30.5 overs. Maaz Ali 57 11x4 1x6, Hasan Javed 28, Sikandar Ali 22, Javed Mansoor 2/18, M. Ayaz 2/21, Hamid Ali 2/37, Adil Rehmat 2/50.

In the 2nd Match Muhammad Hussain

CC beat Memon Gymkhana by 92 runs at KGA Ground. Muhammad Hussain CC 232/6 in 40 overs. Test Cricketer Sohail Khan 60 5x4 2x6, Arif Khan 55 7x4 2x6, Khan Shah Khan 34, M. Hussain 29, Amit Ravi 26, Muhammad Raza 3/43.

Memon Gymkhana 140 all out in 29.1 overs. Zakir Rehman 41, Faisal 37, M. Sunny 24, Naved Ahmed 4/43, Yasir Hussain 3/19.

In the 3rd Match Steel Town Gymkhana beat Asifabad Sports by 21 runs at Student Ground. Steel Town Gymkhana 204 all out in 33.5 overs. Naveed Anjum 89 11x4 3x6, Zeshan Younus 41, Memon Rafay 25, Wali

Khan 3/20, Sami ullah 3/21, Abdul Hamid 2/47.

Asifabad Sports 183 all out in 33.1 overs. Abdul Zahir 34, Sami Khan 29, Shehzad Iqbal 26, M. Shakeel 3/41, Basit Shah 2/15, Abbas Ali 2/25.

In the Fourth Match Premier Sports beat New Star CC by 56 runs at Pak Star Ground. Premier Sports 199 all out in 29.5 overs. Jawad Jo Ji 76 7x4 2x6, Ishaq Asim 35, Awais ullah 35, M. Ali 22, Fazal Ahmed 3/35, Aamir Nawaz 3/38.

New Star CC 143 all out in 25.2 overs. Fazal Ahmed 36, Zahid ullah 34, Mushraf Ali 20, Amanullah (mf) 4/20, Nasir ullah 2/12, Anas Khalid 2/34.

## West Indies cricket team accorded presidential security protocol

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: (APP): The West Indies Test cricket squad led by captain Kraigg Brathwaite landed in Islamabad on Monday, marking the beginning of their anticipated tour of Pakistan.

The team has arrived to set the stage for a two-match Test series against Pakistan.

Prior to the official Test matches, they will play a three-day tour match against the Pakistan Shaheens from January 10 to 12 at the Islamabad Club, allowing players to acclimatize and fine-tune their strategies.

The first Test match will commence on January 17 in Multan, with the second Test following on January 25 at the same venue.

Following Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's approval, the Ministry of Interior on Monday announced presidential security protocol for the West Indies



cricket team that arrived in Pakistan to play two tests after 19 years.

The team will be provided with full security protocol during its stay in Islamabad

and Punjab.

The personnel of police, Elite Force and Rangers will escort the visitors to the stadium and hotels. The protocol will be given to the team until its departure.

Earlier, West Indies cricket

team reached Islamabad from Dubai onboard flight EK-612 to play two test matches and a three-day match.

Strict security arrangements were made as the team was taken from the airport to a hotel.

The visitors will face the hosts in two tests to be played as part of the ICC's World Test Championship in Multan.

The first test will commence on January 17 while the second on January 25.

The tourists will also take on the hosts in a three-day match to be played at Islamabad Club from January 10 to January 12.

Last time both sides had faced each other in tests was in November 2006, when West Indies had played three matches against Pakistan.

Both teams had featured in an away-from-home test series in the United Arab Emirates in October 2016.

West Indies has thrice visited Pakistan since April 2018 when it played a T-20 International series.

It came to Pakistan in December 2021 and June 2022 to play a T-20I and a one-day series, respectively.

## President congratulates Sohail Adnan on winning British Junior Squash Championship

Sports Desk



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari Monday congratulated Sohail Adnan on winning British Junior Squash Championship.

He lauded Sohail Adnan for winning Junior Squash Championship after a lapse of 18 years.

He said Sohail Adnan brought laurels to Pakistan in the field of squash and he prays for his success in the future.

## PM felicitates Sohail Adnan on winning British Junior Squash Championship



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday congratulated Sohail Adnan on winning British Junior Squash Championship.

He said after a gap of 18 years Sohail Adnan won Junior Squash Championship and brightened the name of Pakistan in the whole world. He said the win of Sohail Adnan refreshed memories of Pakistan's successes in the game of squash.

Sohail Adnan brought happiness to the nation, he said adding the whole nation was proud of him.

He expressed best wishes for the future of Sohail Adnan.

## Gaddafi stadium upgradation nears completion



LAHORE: The up-gradation of Gaddafi stadium is all but complete as 100 percent grey structure work has been completed while finishing work is being undertaken at a rapid pace.

Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi was informed on the progress of work during his visit of the stadium here on Monday.

Chairman PCB conducted a detailed visit to the stadium Monday to review the progress of the renovation project. During the visit, Mr Naqvi inspected the construction work across all areas of the facility, including the main building's floors, and walked up to the top tiers of the general enclosures to personally assess the improved view of the ground.

The stadium is set to emerge as a world-class facility with a seating capacity exceeding 34,000. Installation of brand-new scoreboards on both sides of the stadium is also underway.

The installation of state-of-the-art floodlights is in its final phase, ensuring unparalleled visibility for players and spectators alike after sunset. Additionally, enhancements in general enclosures have improved the ground view, providing a superior experience for fans.

Expressing his satisfaction with the progress, Chairman PCB commended the efforts of the workers and acknowledged their dedication in maintaining the project's momentum despite challenging winter conditions and dense fog. He lauded the remarkable transformation and noted the improved fan experience from the general enclosures.

The Chairman met with workers on-site to appreciate their hard work and urged the team to ensure the project is completed within the stipulated timeline.

"This project is advancing swiftly despite adverse weather conditions. We are committed to delivering a fully renovated and modernised Gaddafi Stadium before the ICC Champions Trophy. It will stand as a symbol of excellence and pride for Pakistan cricket," said Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi.

The project director from the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) briefed the Chairman on the progress, while key officials including PCB Chief Operating Officer Sumair Ahmed, Advisor Mr Aamir Mir and representatives from NESPAK were also present during the visit.

## Rashid Khan steers Afghanistan to Test series win against Zimbabwe

BULAWAYO: Star leg spinner Rashid Khan took his seventh wicket of the innings as Afghanistan speedily wrapped up a 72-run victory over Zimbabwe here on Monday to win the two-Test series.

Zimbabwe were 205-8 overnight with captain Craig Ervine unbeaten on 53 and needing 73 more runs to win the Test at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo after a drawn first Test.

But the home team failed to add a run and Afghanistan needed just 15 deliveries to seal a first Test win since beating Zimbabwe in Abu Dhabi four years ago.

Richard Ngarava was run out for three, then man of the match Khan (7-66) added to his six-wicket haul on Sunday by trapping Ervine leg before. Ervine was the top Zimbabwe scorer with his 103-ball knock including a six and four fours.

Rashid Khan tormented Zimbabwe throughout a match interrupted several times by rain, taking four wickets in the first innings as well. The 26-year-old deflected attention from himself after receiving the player of the match award, praising second-innings' centurions Rahmat Shah (139) — who was named player of the series — and debutant Ismat Alam (101) instead.

"The way they performed second time round got us back into the match," he said, referring to the 86-run deficit the tourists faced after the first innings.

"The way Ismat shrugged off the disappointment of being out for nought in his first innings was amazing. He was hurt during the second innings but carried on for the sake of his country.



## ECC meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Monday.



Photo: PID

## Finance minister for timely policy measures to address critical needs

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday emphasized the importance of timely policy measures to address critical economic, energy and industrial needs, with a focus on transparency and efficiency in implementation.

He stated this while chairing the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, which was also attended by Minister for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad

Khan Leghari, and Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Parvez Malik. Among others, the federal secretaries of concerned ministries, senior officers from relevant departments and divisions also attended the meeting, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The ECC reviewed and approved a Technical Supplementary Grant (TSG) of Rs1.945 billion in favor of the Ministry of Defense and Rs. 5.276 million for the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), which involves the reallocation of funds from the Ministry of

Human Rights (MoHR).

This decision is aimed at supporting NCSW's efforts in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in Pakistan.

The ECC considered and approved a proposal from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for a technical supplementary grant of Rs 2,462.302 million to facilitate the execution of 15 projects under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for fiscal year 2024-25.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also presented a proposal to clear outstanding liabilities for the

"Korean Culture Week" event and the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting held in 2024.

Due to insufficient budgetary allocations under operational heads, liabilities amounting to Rs. 25 million for the Korean Culture Week and Rs. 95.822 million for the SCO CHG meeting remain unpaid. The ECC approved the reallocation of Rs. 120.822 million as a technical supplementary grant.

The meeting approved Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training

presented a request for a technical supplementary grant of Rs. 1.5 billion. The funding is intended to increase the salaries of faculty members under the Tenure Track System, which has not been revised since 2021. The ECC approved the request.

The ECC also approved technical supplementary grant of Rs. 650.357 million to cover security arrangements and maintain law and order during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2024, repair safe city cameras damaged during violent protests, and address other law enforcement needs.

## Coordination between BISP, Population Council crucial for health needs: Rubina Khalid

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of meeting the basic health and nutritional needs of over 2.6 million pregnant and lactating mothers, as well as their children under two years of age, through the Benazir Nashonuma Programme.

She highlighted the need for greater coordination between BISP and the Population Council to ensure sustainable and impactful health and nutrition outcomes for mothers and children.

Speaking during a meeting with President of the Population Council, Dr. Rana Hajjeh, and, Country Director of the Population Council, Dr. Zeba A. Sathar at BISP headquarters on Monday, Senator Rubina Khalid stated, "The PMT



(Proxy Means Test) limit for inclusion in the Nashonuma Programme in Balochistan has been increased from 32 to 60, allowing more deserving beneficiaries to avail of these essential services."

During the meeting, the participants discussed a joint action plan aimed at

addressing maternal and child health, nutrition initiatives, and awareness campaigns under the Benazir Nashonuma Programme.

Senator Rubina Khalid stressed the need to create targeted audio and video messages to raise awareness among deserving women about health and nutrition.

Additional Secretary BISP Dr. Tahir Noor and Director General Dr. Asim Ijaz also attended the meeting. The discussion underscored the importance of engaging with key stakeholders, including the Health Department, to maximize outreach and program effectiveness.

Dr. Rana Hajjeh lauded the potential of BISP's extensive database in identifying and reaching out to the deserved women and children for health and nutrition interventions.

Dr. Zeba A. Sathar assured full support in providing technical and operational assistance to enhance health and nutrition services for BISP beneficiaries.

## Secy Info, Bangladesh High Commissioner discuss enhanced media cooperation

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information and Broadcasting Ambreen Jan and Bangladesh's High Commissioner in Pakistan Iqbal Hussain Khan met here Monday and discussed ways to boost media cooperation and people-to-people contacts between their countries.

In a meeting held here at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the two sides focused on enhanced partnerships to highlight shared historical narratives and cultural values that strengthen mutual understanding.

Secretary Information Ambreen Jan said Pakistan and Bangladesh had a longstanding diplomatic and cultural ties along with a shared history of cooperation in diverse sectors.

She emphasized collaboration between state media organizations including Pakistan Television Corpora-



tion, Associated Press of Pakistan and Radio Pakistan with their Bangladeshi

counterparts in fields of joint productions and exchange of news.

She highlighted that a journalist exchange programme could provide the media persons from Pakistan and Bangladesh an opportunity to learn about each other's perspectives and narratives on various matters.

High Commissioner Iqbal Hussain Khan lauded the government of Pakistan for taking steps to encourage multifarious cooperation between the two countries.

He likened the people of two countries as brothers and added that their connectivity through joint cooperation programmes would bring both nations further closer.

The two sides also discussed expanding the availability of Pakistani news and entertainment channels on Bangladeshi cable networks and organizing film festivals and photographic exhibitions.

## 28th Annual Parents' Day held at Cadet College Sanghar



## Bureau Report

KARACHI: The 28th Parents' Day was held at Cadet College Sanghar (CCS), where Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Upon the arrival of Chief Guest, a smartly turned-out contingent of cadets presented a salute and the Guard of Honour.

While addressing the ceremony, the Naval Chief lauded efforts of the teaching faculty and administration for providing excellent training facilities to the cadets and for their outstanding achievements in the annual board results. He commended the Sindh Government's continued financial support toward the development and progression of this esteemed institute in Pakistan. The Chief Guest also appreciated the efforts of HQ COMKAR in ensuring high standards of academic excellence and character building at Cadet College Sanghar.

Earlier, the Principal of the College, Commodore Zeeshan Ali, presented the Annual Report - 2024 and highlighted the exceptional performance

of cadets in academics, sports, and co-curricular activities. Later, the Chief Guest presented prizes to the winners for their outstanding overall performance during the year. Ex-Cadet Fabeem Ahmed and Ex-Cadet Sahib Khan clinched the highest prizes of the Stick of Honour and the Badge of Honour, respectively. Ex-Cadet Junaid Babar was awarded the Quaid-e-Azam Medal for Best Academic Performance. Meanwhile, Cadet Muhammad Aziz received the award for Best Sportsman, and Cadet Muhammad Ali was declared Best Debater for 2024.

The event featured a parade, PT show, Tiger Squad drill, and tent pegging, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees, and the cadets' performance was widely lauded. The Chief Guest also visited Science, Arts, and Cultural Exhibition presented by the cadets and appreciated their efforts and hard work.

The ceremony was attended by senior civil and military officials, members of the board of governors, and a large number of cadets' parents.

## German diplomat found dead in Islamabad apartment

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The body of a foreign embassy official has been discovered in a flat located within Islamabad's diplomatic enclave.

Sources have identified the deceased as Jurgen Thomas, a

German Second Secretary.

Police have transported the body to a hospital for an autopsy, and investigations into the circumstances surrounding the death are underway.

Sources confirm that the German embassy has been notified of the incident.

## Guo Jiakun makes debut as 35th Spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry

## Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Guo Jiakun has made debut as 35th spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry by officially hosting regular press conference here on Monday.

Having served in the Foreign Ministry for 23 years, Guo has a well of experience in diplomacy and excellent communication skill.

Guo, born in August 1980, is of Mongol ethnicity. He holds a bachelor's degree and is a member of the



Communist Party of China.

During his debut, Guo said that he expects to work with journalists to present an accurate, multidimensional and panoramic image of China to the world.

## Pakistan launches first locally made ventilator

## City Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan took a major step toward technological self-sufficiency with the launch of its first locally-made ventilator, unveiled by the Federal Minister for Planning,

Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, ARY News reported.

According to reports, this breakthrough, developed by a private company, is a major milestone for Pakistan's innovation sector and is part of the 'Uraan Pakistan' initiative, which aims to promote homegrown technology.

During the ceremony, Iqbal praised the company behind the ventilator, calling it a "champion of Uraan Pakistan," and emphasised the importance of similar efforts to

help Pakistan thrive in an increasingly competitive world. He urged the country to foster a new generation of individuals who combine hard work, ambition, and intelligence to drive progress.

Iqbal also highlighted the negative



perception surrounding Pakistan, acknowledging that despite the nation's hardworking people, certain forces have undermined the country's global image. He called for a collective effort to reshape Pakistan's future, especially as it approaches its 100th anniversary of independence in 2047.