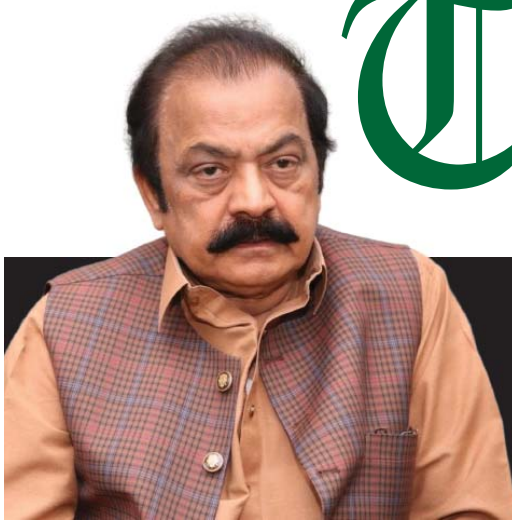


فرمان رسول
ابن شہاب نے بیان کیا ان سے سامنے اور ان سے عبد اللہ بن عمر نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم ﷺ کا ہر ایک شخص پر سے وہ ابو اسیدہ جانی پر جانی اور جسے ناراض ہو رہا تھا اور کہہ رہا تھا کہ تمہارے شہادت ہو، گو وہ کہہ رہا تھا کہ تم اس کی وجہ سے اپنا نقصان کر لیتے ہو۔ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے ان سے فرمایا کہ اسے چھوڑ دو کہ جیاد ایمان میں سے ہے۔ (بخاری: صفحہ نمبر 6118)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Govt has no pressure for release of Imran Khan: Rana Sana

PM Advisor on Political Affairs Rana Sana Ullah has said that PTI leadership can cross all limits to prove that PTI founder was being mistreated in the jail but fact of the matter is that there is no truth in such reports



PCB appoints Rafia Haider as Head of Women's Cricket

According to sources, Rafia Haider has joined Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) as Head of Women's Cricket. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi approved Rafia Haider's appointment as Head of Women's Cricket. Rafia Haider has joined the PCB on deputation, as the post of head of women's cricket was vacant after Tania Malik's resignation. Rafia Haider has previously served as the deputy commissioner of Lahore.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

New era

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif rings the ceremonial gong during his visit to Pakistan Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

Stock Exchange welcomes

Invest in Opportunity

Photo: PID

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meets Ambassador of United Arab Emirates

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Wednesday met with Ambassador of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al-Zaabi, at Zardari House, Islamabad.

During the meeting, they discussed to promote bilateral relations and strengthen Pakistan-UAE ties.

They agreed on the importance of solidifying Pakistan-UAE relations, focusing on mutual interests and cooperation. This meeting highlights the ongoing efforts to enhance diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Bilawal Bhutto also held a meeting with the Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, in which they discussed the affairs pertaining to the Upper House the Parliament.

PM vows to convert macroeconomic stability into sustainable growth

Abdul Ghaffor Sarohi

KARACHI: The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, vowing to take forward the agenda of economic stabilization and reforms, on Wednesday said that the vigorous collective efforts has resulted in macro level stability and now we have to convert it into sustainable economic growth.

The prime minister was addressing to a ceremony held here at the Pakistan Stock Exchange to mark the exceptional performance of PSX and becoming the top stock market in the world.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Information Minister Atta Tarar, Governor and Chief Minister Sindh, Chairperson PSX Shamshad Akhtar and distinguished business and trade personalities.

The prime minister felicitated the PSX for achieving the tail-winds and stressed on sustaining the momentum as our actual target is economic growth with prudent utilization of immense natural resources and skills and expertise of experienced business and trade leaders so that we could lead the country to path of progress and prosperity and preventing the economy from the boom and bust cycles.

He said Karachi the city of lights is nerve center of Pakistan's economy and feed back and suggestions of the investors of the city would prove beneficial for boasting the growth. The government will welcome tangible proposals and recommendations by the business community for actualizing the export led growth.

Shehbaz Sharif underscored the significance of progressive taxation and structural reforms and said that Pakistan had a target of enhancing the tax to GDP ratio to 10.6 percent under the commitments with IMF but we have taken the ratio to 10.8% that is a major achievement.

Expressing satisfaction on significant decrease in the policy rate from 22% to 13%, he noted that there was more space available to further decrease it but any such move must be made in a prudent and cautious manner.

He highlighted the growth opportunities in agriculture, mines and minerals sectors and said foreign investors who recently visited the country shown interest to bring investment and technology to Pakistan. We want to utilize the natural resources for promoting manufacturing in the country and employment generation with a strategy of taking the Pakistan to new heights, he maintained.

The Deputy prime minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, speaking at the occasion said that the sapling planted nine years ago with initiative of merger of stock markets of the country has grown into a gigantic tree and we are getting the best result of it today with remarkable performance being recognized across the world.

Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Stock Exchange Farukh Sabzwari, in his welcome address highlighted exceptional performance of PSX, China's strategic investment and partnership, key features and proposals for further growth of the capital market.

Later, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, along with DPM Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister Aurangzeb, CM and Governor Sindh, chairperson and CEO of PSX struck the gong to mark the remarkable performance of PSX.

Ayaz expresses regret over allegations by PTI leaders

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed regret over the allegations made by some PTI leaders and Members of the National Assembly regarding his role in the negotiation process.

In his statement, he clarified that his role in government-opposition negotiations is purely that of a facilitator, and arranging a meeting with the party's founding chairman is neither his mandate nor his responsibility.

He expressed disappointment over claims that attempts to contact the Speaker's office were not positively received.

He reiterated that his doors have always been open to everyone, and he has never refused a meeting with any member of the National Assembly.

Furthermore, he stated that if PTI leaders believe that he should withdraw from the negotiation process, then he is willing to consider such proposal to uphold the neutrality and integrity of the Speaker's office.

NA Speaker also emphasized that his visit to abroad does not hinder his ability to arrange meetings. He stated that he is always ready to facilitate such arrangements upon the request of the government and opposition.

Imran Khan wins set of facilities from court

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Wednesday allowed a set of facilities to Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan including talking to his sons on phone.

The petition seeking a number of facilities was filed in the court by advocate Faisal Chaudhry representing Imran Khan.

While Advocate Zaheer Shah and Naveed Malik appeared in the court on behalf of the prosecution, while another advocate Mohammad Faisal Malik was also present in the court along with his legal team on behalf of the PTI founder.

The court also allowed Imran Khan to undergo medical examination by his physician, have daily newspaper and TV facility restored.

Earlier in October 2024, Imran Khan had held a conversation with his sons, Kasim and Sulaiman, from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. The WhatsApp conversation lasted for 30 minutes.

Ahsan directs development of marketing templates, packages for Gwadar Port's cost-effective trade routes

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday directed the quarters concerned to prepare marketing templates and packages, showcasing Gwadar Deep Seaport's cost-effective trade routes and potential incentives for international businesses.

"These materials will be distributed through Pakistan's embassies and missions worldwide to promote Gwadar Port on a global scale," he said while chairing a high-level meeting on the operationalization of Gwadar Port here, a news release said.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Planning Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Petroleum, and other relevant departments. Representatives from embassies participated in the discussion via video link.

During the meeting, the minister emphasized Gwadar Port's strategic significance as one of Pakistan's most valuable assets.

He highlighted that Gwadar provided the shortest trade route to Gulf and Central Asian countries, including Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, and has immense potential to serve as a key regional trans-shipment hub.

یوم شہید

105 YEARS

شہید حکیم محمد سعید
ولادت 9 جنوری 1920ء

شہید حکیم محمد سعید، ایک عہد ساز شخصیت، علم، بصیرت اور خدمت کی درخشندہ علامت جن کے انکار، قلم اور جدوجہد نے قوم کو شعور دیا۔
وجود نے انسانیت کو معنی بخینے اور فرات نے کم گنتی منزلوں کا رستہ دکھایا۔
105 برس قبل روشن ہونے والے اس چراغ کی نور، آج بھی علم، خدمت اور انسانیت کی راہوں کو روشن کر رہی ہے۔
آئیے، شہید سعید کے خوابوں کو حقیقت بنانے کا عہد کریں
یہ محض یادی نہیں، ایک وراثت بھی ہے، کیا ہم اس کے ائین نہیں گے؟

[Hamdarpdofficial](https://www.facebook.com/Hamdarpdofficial)

RC BLUE COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Iqrar termed the decision of the Punjab Governor as political interference in educational matters

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Former Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University Faisalabad Dr. Iqrar Ahmed Khan has termed the order of the Governor of Punjab to cancel 228 appointments in the university as unilateral, illegal and political. Talking to the media at the Faisalabad Press Club, Dr. Iqrar Ahmed Khan said that this decision is an attempt to establish political influence on educational matters, which will prove detrimental not only to the academic standard of the university but also to its administrative structure.

He said that the order of the Governor of Punjab gave the impression that the 228 appointments were made without advertisement, which is completely baseless. All the appointments were made under the legal process, through advertisements and



after necessary approvals.

He further said that according to the University Act, the Vice Chancellor does not have the authority to make appointments above grade 17, and all appointments are made with the approval of the Finance and Planning Committee, Syndicate, and Senate, which also includes the Governor's

representative.

Dr. Iqrar Ahmed Khan termed the decision of the Punjab Governor as political interference in educational matters and said that such decisions weaken the administrative structure of the university.

He said that the decision gives the impression that the Punjab Governor wants to control educational institutions on political grounds, which will adversely affect the quality of higher education.

He explained that the legal process was completed for all appointments in 2022, in which thousands of candidates applied. The eligibility of each applicant was examined in detail and unsuitable candidates were given an opportunity to appeal.

The selection board and syndicate approved the appointments with full quorum, which included judges of

the High Court, representatives of the Punjab Public Service Commission, and other experts.

Dr. Iqrar Ahmed Khan, while terming the decision of the Punjab Governor as a direct attack on the academic standards of the university, said that if this decision is upheld, the academic and research activities in the university will suffer irreparable damage.

He said that the university already needs at least 1,100 teachers for 35,000 students, but currently there are only 700 full-time teachers. He said that this decision of the Punjab Governor has been taken for political purposes and it will harm not only the university but also the entire education system.

He added that this order challenges the autonomy of the educational institution and unnecessarily politicizes the administrative affairs of the university.

ADCR Syed Jamil Haider Shah Promoted to Grade 18

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Syed Jamil Haider Shah, currently serving as the Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue in Toba Tek Singh, has been promoted to Grade 18 in the Provincial Management Service. Syed Jamil Haider Shah is a skilled and experienced officer known for his dedication and exceptional administrative abilities. His promotion reflects recognition of his outstanding performance and commitment to duty. The district administration and other officials have congratulated him on this achievement and wished him continued success in the future.



AC and ASP Kamalia Inspected Routes Procession



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Assistant Commissioner and Administrator Municipal Committee Kamalia Iqra Nasir is inspecting the routes of the procession in order to review security and other arrangements with reference to the birth of Hazrat Ali Karamullah Wajha. On this Occasion ASP Kamalia Zainab Ayub is also present. Assistant Commissioner Iqra Nasir while addressing the participants said that Kamalia is a peaceful city in which people of all schools of thought respect each other and all scholars and peace committee members have played a key role in establishing peace. Which is commendable. Assistant Commissioner Iqra Nasir and ASP Kamalia Zainab Ayub also inspected the routes of the main procession taken out with reference to the birth anniversary of Hazrat Ali Karamullah Wajha and reviewed other arrangements including security.

PPP Mardan division leadership resigns, protest against the Governor KPK

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: PPP Mardan division leadership resigns over lack of consultation in university syndicate nominations. In protest against the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's decision to ignore consultation with PPP leaders in Mardan District and other areas regarding university syndicate nominations, PPP Mardan Division President Umar Farooq Hoti and other district, tehsil, and local officeholders have resigned. According to Ibrahim Syed Yousafzai, the PPP Mardan Division spokesperson, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi did not involve local party leadership or seek their input for the appointments.

Expressing reservations about this unilateral decision, the divisional and district PPP leadership announced their resignation in protest. They stated that their agitation will continue until the governor and party leadership review their decisions. The protest may expand to include the entire province.

RPO Rawalpindi visited Dist Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi, Babar Sarfraz Alpa, visited District Attock. During his visit, he toured the Safe Cities Authority Attock and held a crime meeting at the DPO Office Attock, accompanied by District Police Officer (DPO) Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan and SP Investigation. The meeting included SDPOs, SHO, and branch in-charges of the district. The RPO conducted a detailed review of the performance of all police stations, emphasizing the need to swiftly and justly resolve pending cases, particularly those involving serious crimes such as murder, robbery, and dacoity. He also stressed the importance of apprehending proclaimed offenders. In light of the current national security situation, the RPO instructed police officers to ensure that terrorists are thwarted in their nefarious plans. At the end of the meeting, the RPO held an orderly room session where he heard appeals from police officers. On this occasion, Babar Sarfraz Alpa urged all officers of Attock Police to work on merit, ensuring justice for the public and addressing citizens' issues on a priority basis.

CDA, EOBI to explore investment opportunities in Islamabad

Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, hosted Dr. Javed Sheikh, Chairman of the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI), here on Wednesday.

The meeting marked the beginning of discussions on potential joint ventures and investment opportunities in Islamabad.

During the meeting, Randhawa emphasized the vast investment potential Islamabad offers in commercial projects, calling for collaborative efforts between CDA and EOBI. He underlined the importance of such partnerships, stating that they could yield mutual benefits for both organizations while contributing to the city's development.

"Revenue generated from these partnerships will be directed towards the welfare of citizens and the overall growth of the city," he said.

To move forward, it was agreed to form a joint team comprising focal points from both CDA and EOBI. This team will identify feasible projects and explore investment opportunities for collaboration.

Dr. Javed Sheikh, Chairman of EOBI, expressed enthusiasm about investing in CDA-led projects and reaffirmed EOBI's commitment to strengthening its partnership with the CDA.

Both parties concluded the meeting with a shared resolve to work closely and ensure the success of future ventures.

Ancient craft

LAHORE: Skilled workers are engraving the traditional pots during "Sophie Festival" at Al-Hamra Arts Council in Provincial Capital on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

National Outreach Faculty Development Program Launched in Women University Multan

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Women University Multan in collaboration with (NAHE), HEC organised the launching ceremony of the National Outreach Programme for faculty and administrative staff at Katchery Campus the Women University Multan. The training was inaugurated by VC Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha and VC University of Kamalia Prof Dr Yasir Nawab. The focal person of the training program is Registrar Prof. Dr Mamoon Khan. It is a 30-day comprehensive teacher training course that is, for the first time, offered in South Punjab. The training program aims to elevate the capabilities



of faculty and administrative management through dedicated training funds and structured outreach to enhance their quality for optimum performance

and contribution to their institution.

She congratulated the faculty members who have been selected for this training and thanked the chairman HEC for their support and initiative in strengthening the faculty's skills under the National Outreach Program of HEC. VC Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha expressed gratitude to Ms. Noor Amna Malik, Managing Director, NAHE, for awarding the project to the Women University Multan. Besides, VC Prof. Dr. Yasir Nawab explained the module on teaching as a profession in higher education. He emphasized the importance of faculty development in enhancing the quality of higher education.

Qutubpur Police Station Multan Foiled a Large supply of Drugs in the City: DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Qutubpur police station Multan foiled a large supply of drugs in the city, recovered 25 kg of hashish, more than 08 kg of opium, 5 kg of heroin and 2 kg of ice worth crores, three drug dealers were arrested.

CPO Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar Addressing to the Press Conference in Multan along with SSP Operations Multan Kamran Aamir Khan, SSP Investigation Rana Muhammad Ashraf, SP Cantt Division Javed Tahir Majeed and DSP Muzaffarabad Bashir Ahmed Haraj. He Said the Qutubpur police station Multan foiled a large supply of drugs in the city, recovered 25 kg of hashish, more than 08 kg of opium, 5 kg of heroin and 2 kg of ice worth crores, three drug dealers were arrested.

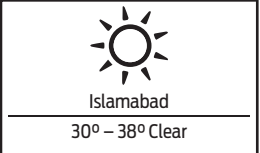


On the direction of CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar, during the ongoing anti-narcotics drive in Multan city, Qutubpur police cordoned off near

Nagshah Chowk on information of drug supply. During the blockade, the Qutubpur police stopped the suspicious car, which, on checking, recovered a huge quantity of drugs.

Multan Police is determined to make the city drug free. He said that drugs are a poison that is destroying our species. Multan Police is working with full force to end this scourge. This successful operation of our team is a clear example of our determination to rid the city of drug dealers.

CPO Multan appreciated the performance of the police team and congratulated them said that "During the first week of this year, Multan police arrested 14 big dealers and seized 100 kg of hashish, 30 kg of heroin, 06 kg of ice, 08 kg of opium, 05 active furnaces and 20 A thousand liters of alcohol has been exported"



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:45 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 3:38 pm
Maghrib 5:16 pm
Isha 6:44 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 9266044
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 116
& Rescue Services 4451122
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 5611111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

PM's aide Romina Khurshid inaugurates Pakistan's first green road initiative

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam launched first green road initiative at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on Wednesday.

In her address, Ms. Khurshid reaffirmed the government's commitment to combating climate change under Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's leadership. She highlighted the country's focus on both short-term and long-term solutions, including renewable energy projects and the development of climate-resilient infrastructure.

She commended the climate initiatives spearheaded by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, emphasizing their significance within Pakistan's broader climate strategy. "These initiatives are key to reducing our carbon footprint," she said.

She also recognized the role of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry in launching the project,

noting the business community's vital contribution to fostering a green economy. "The private sector's participation in sustainability efforts is essential to driving the economic transformation we need," she emphasized. "I encourage businesses of all sizes to adopt green practices, invest in clean technologies, and help build a more sustainable and resilient economy."

Ms. Romina noted this pioneering green road project, designed to address climate change and promote eco-friendly practices, showcases innovative solutions to urban environmental challenges.

"The initiative aims to create an eco-conscious, energy-efficient, and sustainable model for roads and urban spaces, setting an example that can be replicated nationwide," she added.

The event, attended by distinguished diplomats, environmental experts, and business leaders, marked a significant milestone in city's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable infrastructure development.



Called on

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Ms. Jane Marriott, British High Commissioner called on Minister for Defence, Defence production and Aviation, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Dr. Zubair visited the university's daycare center and ladies club

Zain Khan

MULTAN: Dr. Ayesha Zubair, wife of Bahaud-din Zakariya University Multan's Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zubair Iqbal Ghori, visited the university's daycare center and ladies club yesterday. She was accompanied by Dr. Samza Fatima, Principal of the University's Gillani Law College, along with other female faculty members.

During her visit to the daycare center, she met the staff and children. The daycare center provides daytime care for the children of university faculty, officers, and employees. Dr. Ayesha Zubair expressed satisfaction with the center's performance and offered various suggestions for its improvement.

Later, she toured the university's Ladies Club, which serves as a hub for the social activities of the university's female faculty and the families of male faculty members. Members of the Ladies Club, including Dr. Samza Fatima, Prof. Dr. Rehana Kosar, Prof. Dr. Rashida Ateeq, Prof. Dr. Sobha Chauhan, Prof. Dr. Safeena Naz, Prof. Dr. Rehman Imran, Prof. Dr. Lubna Shafique, Dr. Farzana Kokab, Dr. Samiya, Dr. Sophia Umar, Dr. Samra Masood, and Dr. Sarwat Awan, welcomed her and provided a briefing about the club's activities.

As a gesture of appreciation, the female faculty members presented Dr. Ayesha Zubair with flowers and thanked her for her visit. They also posed for a group photo to commemorate the occasion.

Research-based poster's exhibition held at AIOU

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A research exhibition titled "Poster Presentations" was organized yesterday at the Central Library of Allama Iqbal Open University. MPhil and PhD students from the Department of Library Science showcased their research work during the event. A total of 28 research papers were presented, including 10 by PhD students and 18 by MPhil students.

Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir inspected all the projects, scholars individually gave presentation on their research projects to him. Commending the efforts of the Department of Library Science, Dr. Sahir emphasized the importance of aligning research with

contemporary social and societal needs. He acknowledged that all the research projects prepared by the students addressed current demands effectively.

Speaking about the history, significance, and necessity of libraries, Prof. Dr. Abdul Sahir remarked that there was a time when libraries held a central position in society. However, the younger generation's interest in reading

books has declined compared to the past. He stressed the need to restore the bond with books and rebuild the strong connection that once existed to achieve prominence in society.

This research-based poster presentation was organized by the Department of Library and Information Science. According to the Chairman of the Department, Dr. Parvez Ahmad, the aim of exhibition

was to encourage scholars and highlight the research work of students. The senior faculty member of the department, Dr. Munazza Jabeen, supervised the research work. She stated that the MPhil and PhD students had completed their coursework, and the poster presentation was intended to give scholars the opportunity to create and display posters while discussing their research.



CBD Punjab and green tourism partner for sustainable development

City Desk

LAHORE: The Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (CBD Punjab) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Green Tourism (Pvt) Ltd. to promote sustainable development and green tourism initiatives across Pakistan. This significant agreement marks a major step towards incorporating eco-friendly practices into urban and tourism development in the country. The MoU was signed by Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Chief Operating Officer of CBD Punjab, and Umer Farooq Hayat, Chief Executive Officer of Green Tourism



(Pvt) Ltd., in the presence of Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat, Managing Director of Green Tourism (Pvt). The signing ceremony was

attended by representatives from CBD Punjab, including Brigadier Bilal Afzal Khokhar, Executive Director Legal, and Waseem Siddiq, Director

Marketing. Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, COO of CBD Punjab, highlighted the importance of this collaboration, stating, "This partnership represents a crucial milestone for CBD Punjab's vision to integrate sustainability into urban and tourism development."

Umer Farooq Hayat, CEO of Green Tourism (Pvt) Ltd., echoed this sentiment, adding, "This MoU reflects our shared commitment to sustainable tourism development in Pakistan."

This transformative collaboration between CBD Punjab and Green Tourism (Pvt) Ltd. is poised to set a benchmark for sustainable tourism and development in Pakistan.

Chaudhry Nadeem elected Worldwide President AIL

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Renowned London-based Lawyer Chaudhry Nadeem Tass has been unanimously elected as the Worldwide President of the Association of International Lawyers (AIL) Global for the year 2025. The decision was made during the Central Advisory Bench meeting of AIL Global, held in London.

Prominent lawyers and members of AIL Global from across the globe, including Barrister Rashid Aslam, Rana Zia Aslam Khan, Chaudhry Ansar Mahmood, Saeed Hashmi, Ewan Pritchard, Barrister Qamar Bilal Hashmi, Ms. Mangla, Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah and others, extended their heartfelt congratulations to Chaudhry Nadeem Tass on his appointment to this prestigious position.



Three-day Urs Mubarak celebrations of Hazrat Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti Ajmeri (RA)



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The three-day annual Urs Mubarak celebrations of the renowned Sufi saint, Hazrat Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti Ajmeri (RA), of the Chishtiya Silsila, concluded at the Darbar Maula Gulshan-e-Sultan-ul-Hind Ajmeri. The event was presided over by Sheikh-ul-Mashaikh Hazrat Khawaja Diwan Syed Aal Habeeb Ali Khan Madzallah Al-Aali, the Sajjadah Nashin of Ajmer Sharif.

The largest Urs celebrations of Khawaja Gharib Nawaz Chishti in Pakistan were held at the Darbar Maula Gulshan-e-Sultan-ul-Hind Ajmeri, located near the Islamabad Airport on Fateh Jang Road, where visitors from all walks of life across the country participated. As every year, the Urs Mubarak began on the 4th of Rajab after the Isha prayer, with a series of religious activities, including Quranic recitations, Khatm-e-Khawajagan, recitation of the Holy Quran, Naat, speeches, and Samaa.

The concluding rituals of the Urs were carried out at the Darbar Maula Gulshan-e-Sultan-ul-Hind Ajmeri, where the shrines of Hazrat Khawaja Diwan Syed Aal Rasool Ali Khan (RA) and Hazrat Khawaja Diwan Syed Aal Mujtaba Ali Khan (RA) were covered with sacred sheets (Chadar). During this occasion, the Crown Prince and successor of the Sajjadah Nashin of Ajmer Sharif, Khawaja Pizada Syed Aal Wajihah Moini Chishti, highlighted the character and religious services of Khawaja Gharib Nawaz. He mentioned that Khawaja Gharib Nawaz spread the flag of Islam in India and propagated the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah. He also guided over 9 million non-Muslims to embrace Islam.

Kashmiris to Continue Struggle for Right to Self-Determination: Masood Khan

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Masood Ahmed Khan, reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Kashmiri people to their right to self-determination. Speaking at a seminar organized by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir branch in connection with the Right to Self-Determination Day, he highlighted the immense sacrifices made by Kashmiris in pursuit of their freedom.



Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), called on the United Nations and international human rights organizations to exert greater pressure on India to end its ongoing atrocities in occupied Kashmir. He underscored the urgent need for the global community to uphold its responsibility to ensure justice and peace.

Prominent speakers, including Faizullah Firaq and Farooq Rahmani, also addressed the seminar, echoing calls for international intervention. Firaq warned of the potential for a major disaster if the global community remains silent. "The United Nations must act now to protect the fundamental rights of Kashmiris and safeguard regional stability," he urged.

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USA and Europe: Preparing to Deport Muslims

In his latest interview, Trump expressed his views on Islam and Muslim immigrants, stating, "Look at Paris. Look at London. Europe is no longer recognizable. I will never let that happen to the United States of America. There is unbelievable hatred against us in Islam, and we have to be very vigilant; we have to be very careful. We cannot allow people to come to our country who harbor this hatred of the United States."

Since Elon Musk took over Twitter and rebranded it as X, the platform has shifted from being a space for balanced discourse to a tool increasingly used for political, religious, and propaganda purposes, spreading hatred, racial animosity, and extremist views. These extremist opinions promote division and sow discord in societies worldwide, exacerbating tensions and conflicts.

Elon Musk amplified Donald Trump's sarcastic remarks about Prime Minister Trudeau, which had previously caused controversy, suggesting Canada could become the 51st state of the United States. Musk has also made other provocative statements, including a tweet insinuating the annexation of Greenland by the United States and another proposing a merger of the United Kingdom with the U.S. In yet another controversial tweet, Musk called for the King to dissolve the British Parliament over its alleged failure to address sex grooming gangs.

Encouraged by Elon Musk and Trump, Geert Wilders, a leader of the Dutch Party for Freedom (PVV), used X to propagate his hateful five-step plan to address the "Islamization" of the Netherlands, reflecting his staunchly critical stance on Islam. His plan includes acknowl-

edging Islam as incompatible with Dutch society, closing borders to immigrants from Muslim-majority countries, dismantling Islamic institutions such as mosques and schools, jailing or deporting Muslims who threaten violence, and refusing to give in to threats or intimidation from Islamist groups. He also proposed the publication of a cartoon portraying Mohammad (PBUH).

France has implemented stringent measures to regulate religious movements perceived as "cults," primarily through the About-Picard Law of 2001. This law enables the dissolution of organizations deemed a threat to public order or individual freedoms and prosecutes leaders for offenses like fraud, psychological manipulation, or abuse. These laws unfairly stigmatize minority religions and restrict religious freedoms, often targeting smaller or newer movements. Germany employs sect filters to monitor and restrict minority religious groups, most notably the Church of Scientology, citing concerns about their anti-democratic tendencies. These filters are used in employment, where job applicants, especially in businesses tied to government contracts, must declare they have no affiliation with targeted groups. Similar requirements exist in the public sector, including schools and civil service roles. Under Elon Musk's leadership, X has increasingly become a platform amplifying hate speech. This shift has provided fertile ground for hateful commentary and propaganda, emboldening extremists to spread venom against Muslims and their faith. Numerous comments highlight

this disturbing trend, reflecting deeply entrenched animosity.

One user stated: "We want freedom, and it is our duty to speak out against rape, against grooming gangs, against Sharia law, against barbarism. Another added: "GET RID OF THIS AWFUL MUSLIM LONDON MAYOR SADIQ KHAN; he is the reason for all this!"

The rhetoric escalates with blatantly racist remarks such as: "Let's get RACE out of politics! WHITE COUNTRIES for WHITE PEOPLE! You can't Make America (or Europe) GREAT Again unless you Make America (and Europe) WHITE Again!" Others propose extreme measures: "Destroy all mosques in Europe and ban Islam completely. Ban halal meat with immediate effect (they will deport themselves). Then, slowly, revoke citizenship and visas, deport them in groups. Freeze bank accounts, benefits, etc., to enforce."

Some users invoked Geert Wilders' five-step plan as a solution, with one warning: "Britain must start implementing Geert Wilders' 5-step plan for Islam; otherwise, Prince William may probably be the last king of England (if at all), and Buckingham Palace will be converted into England's (Islamland) Central Mosque."

One comment stated: "Some European countries can see the destruction of their nation, culture, values, and heritage by allowing Muslim immigrants to select their countries." Asserting: "Anyone who openly seeks to impose Sharia law on a non-Muslim country is a TRAITOR and should be treated appropriately. Sharia

would destroy all our hard-won freedoms and human rights."

This vitriol extends to Muslims in Europe, with one comment demanding: "Muslims, get out of Holland! Leave for an Islamic country. The Netherlands is not an Islamic state. Go to an Islamic country and enjoy Islam." Another cited the necessity of deportation: "Dutch authorities have no choice but to deport every Muslim thug who participated in the attack on peaceful soccer fans in Amsterdam."

This flood of incendiary comments on X underscores how the platform has become a vehicle for fueling hatred, promoting division, and reinforcing dangerous stereotypes. By providing a space for such views to flourish unchecked, X risks becoming a catalyst for real-world discrimination, violence, and societal fragmentation.

Given that Muslims should be deported from Europe and the USA, European powers such as the Netherlands, Britain, and France had the "legitimate rights to destroy Muslim societies." The Dutch controlled Indonesia, a predominantly Muslim region, for nearly 350 years (early 1600s-1949). Britain ruled over Muslim-majority regions like India, Pakistan, and parts of the Middle East for almost 200 years, while France dominated North Africa and parts of the Middle East for over 130 years, with Algeria under its control from 1830 to 1962. They killed over 6.95 million Muslims, leaving behind a legacy of instability, exploiting resources, dismantling local governance, and leaving many nations impoverished and divided.

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Avian flu risk still 'low' after first US patient dies from H5N1 virus

A day after the United States reported its first human death from avian flu, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) insisted on Tuesday that the risk to the wider population remains "low".

WHO spokesperson Dr. Margaret Harris told reporters in Geneva that the H5N1 virus causing the disease is "not circulating in humans but jumping into humans" who are exposed to poultry or dairy cattle. "We're not seeing sustained circulation," she insisted.

The man who died of the disease in the US state of Louisiana was over 65 and reportedly had underlying medical conditions, Dr. Harris said.

According to the health authorities, he had been exposed to chickens and wild birds. Several dozen people in the US have contracted avian influenza – commonly referred to as bird flu – during the current outbreak, mainly farmworkers in close contact with poultry flocks and cattle herds.

Dr. Harris stressed that WHO's assessment of the risk to the general population "is still low and remains set". The main concern is for people who work in animal industries because they need to be better protected from infection.

The WHO spokesperson added that the United States was continuing to carry out "a lot of surveillance" in the human and animal population, "in the methods we use for farming, for our food production... all those things need to be combined because indeed it always does pose a risk".

Meanwhile, a respiratory virus gaining ground in China, known as the human metapneumovirus, or hMPV, has been sparking media attention in recent weeks, but it does not represent a new or major threat, Dr. Harris insisted.

The UN health agency spokesperson said that such infections are on the rise in China "as expected during winter", with seasonal influenza being "by far the most common among them", as reported by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

"China's reported levels of respiratory infections are within the usual range for the winter season," Dr. Harris explained. "Authorities report that hospital utilization is currently lower than this time last year, and there have been no emergency declarations or responses triggered," she added.

As for hMPV, it was first identified in 2001 and "has been in the human population for a long time", Dr. Harris clarified.

She added that it is a common virus that circulates in winter and spring and usually "causes respiratory symptoms similar to the common cold".



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

Cryptocurrency And The Global Economy

Cryptocurrency has changed how we think about money and finance. Since its creation in 2009, it has grown into a major part of the global economy, influencing investments, government regulations, and the way businesses operate. This article explores how cryptocurrency started, where it stands today, and what its future might look like.

The journey of cryptocurrency began in 2008 when an unknown person or group named Satoshi Nakamoto introduced Bitcoin. Bitcoin was designed to be a decentralized digital currency, free from the control of banks or governments. Its unique technology, called blockchain, allowed secure and transparent record-keeping. In 2010, Bitcoin made headlines when a programmer used 10,000 bitcoins to buy two pizzas. At that time, Bitcoin was only popular among tech enthusiasts who saw its potential to change the financial world. Soon, new cryptocurrencies began to emerge. One of the most notable was Ethereum, launched in 2015. Ethereum introduced smart contracts, which allowed developers to create decentralized applications. This expanded the use of cryptocurrencies beyond transactions and gave rise to concepts like decentralized finance (DeFi) and non-fungible tokens (NFTs). By 2017, the cryptocurrency market was worth over \$600 billion, attracting both individual and institutional investors.



Cryptocurrency has now become a part of mainstream finance. Its total market value has crossed \$2 trillion, and many large companies and financial institutions have started investing in it. Tesla, for example, has purchased significant amounts of Bitcoin, showing confidence in its long-term value.

At the same time, governments around the world are focusing on regulating cryptocurrencies. In the United States, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved Bitcoin and Ethereum exchange-traded funds (ETFs) to make cryptocurrency investment more accessible. However, some countries remain cautious, concerned about fraud, instability, and illegal activities linked to cryptocurrencies. Meanwhile, some nations are embracing cryptocurrencies in unique ways. El Salvador made history by adopting Bitcoin as legal tender, becoming the first country to do so. This move shows how cryptocurrencies can become a significant part of national economies, even as they face challenges like market volatility and regulatory uncertainty.

The future of cryptocurrency holds many exciting possibilities, but it also comes with challenges. As governments create clearer regulations, more big investors are expected to enter the market, which could make digital currencies more stable and widely accepted.

Technological improvements are also on the horizon. New advancements in blockchain technology will make cryp-

tocurrencies faster, cheaper, and more efficient. Innovations like proof-of-stake systems aim to reduce the environmental impact of cryptocurrency mining, which has been a major concern.

Decentralized finance platforms are expected to grow even more, offering services like lending and borrowing without the need for traditional banks. This could make financial services more accessible to people in remote areas or those without access to banks. In addition, governments are working on creating their own digital currencies, called central bank digital currencies (CBDCs). For example, China is developing a digital yuan, while Europe is exploring the digital euro. These currencies could work alongside cryptocurrencies, bridging traditional financial systems and the digital economy.

Cryptocurrency has already come a long way, from being a niche idea to becoming a key player in the global economy. As Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, once said, "Cryptocurrency is a far better way to transfer value than pieces of paper, that's for sure."

While challenges like regulation and environmental concerns remain, cryptocurrencies have the potential to create a more connected and efficient financial system. Looking ahead, it is clear that cryptocurrencies will continue to shape the future of finance. As technology advances and more people adopt digital currencies, they will likely play an even bigger role in building a global economy that is faster, more secure, and more inclusive.

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Academic Sprint

The academic environment in Pakistan has been radically transformed by a growing focus on the publication of research articles among teaching faculty. This trend is largely driven by the policies of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) that created competition in publications where research quality is often suppressed by research quantity. This situation of publications' race has notable implications for teaching faculty as well as overall research quality in Pakistan.

Due to HEC's established framework, the ranking of universities and faculty's promotions are linked to the number of published research articles. Universities' faculty members are in a highly competitive environment of writing and publishing research articles. This has raised a concern that universities are transformed into factories producing research papers. Universities often put pressure on faculty members to publish a certain number of research articles in a specific period of time, which may result in an increased focus on quantity rather than quality in research. The faculty find themselves publishing their research articles in low-quality research journals and conferences, due to their institutional pressure; because their promotions are linked with the number of publications. This culture not only challenges academic integrity but also blurs the value of real scholarly contributions.

The burden of publishing articles may result in some unethical practices, such as plagiarism and self-plagiarism. The majority of universities in Pakistan award monetary incentives against each research paper faculty publish. The consequences of the race of publication go beyond the faculty level to the students and further to the broader academic environment. When the faculty bears the pressure of publication, they can not find ample time and energy to prepare lectures, and their primary role in the classroom as mentors may be compromised. This will result in a decline in the quality of education, as it will become difficult for the faculty to give necessary support to the students.

The current race of publications may create a contrasting situation between faculty's research interests and students' needs of learning. To maintain a specific number of research publications, the faculty members may prioritize research topics that are more likely to yield publishable results rather than students' interests and social needs. This situation

can hamper students' capabilities to engage with impactful research, which ultimately affects their academic experience.

The current scenario also affects newly inducted faculty members in a disproportionate way. Many junior faculty members failed to find proper mentorship and necessary support to navigate the research publication process. They may struggle to secure space in high-impact journals. This situation may lead to frustration among newly inducted faculty members. Pakistani universities should revisit their policies and approach toward research publication by shifting the focus of academic institutions from quantity to quality by defining clear criteria to measure research output. Additionally, the quality of research and the overall academic culture of Pakistani universities can be enhanced by developing a collaborative research environment. Interdisciplinary research collaborations among faculty members of different disciplines can result in emerging research projects that address ongoing social issues and provide valuable data.

Moreover, it is need of time for universities to provide sufficient resources to the faculty members engaged in research-related tasks. This may include access to research funding, rationalizing faculty's teaching workload, and arranging workshops for writing and publishing research papers. Universities should also provide the necessary tools of research to faculty members to empower them to produce quality research. Alongside this, universities should introduce ethical standards of research by devising strict rules related to plagiarism and self-plagiarism to make the publication process more transparent.

In Pakistani academia, the race of research publications needs a cultural shift and faculty members should be encouraged not only to write research papers but also to write quality research papers that can enhance the overall learning experience for both faculty and students. The rise in the number of publications in Pakistani universities has raised the current "publish or perish" mindset which is creating a challenging situation for faculty members, that can be tackled by promoting a vigorous research culture that values quality scholarly work over sheer quantity.

Dr. Ali Bhador is an academician and serving as a regular faculty member at the Department of Media & Communication Studies, GC University, Lahore. He can be contacted at alibhador@gcu.edu.pk



Tribute

Hakim Mohammad Said: Serving humanity

Spokesman Report

A prominent physician, a Hafiz-i-Quran, an author, a travelogue writer, an organiser and an ideal citizen — Hakim Said was all rolled in one. He was such a simple man that when on seeing his worn out socks I asked him to change them he humbly said: 'don't worry; no one can see inside the shoes,' says Hakim Muhammad Usman who is the Deputy Director Programmes, Hamdard Foundation Pakistan.

Hakim Mohammad Said was born on January 09, 1920, in Delhi and was the fifth and the youngest child of his parents, Hafiz Abdul Majeed and Rabia Begum. He lost his father when he was only two years old; his father was also a hakim and had laid the foundation of Hamdard Dawakhana in 1906. His elder-brother Hakim Abdul Hameed later managed it. At the age of nine he became a Hafiz-i-Quran and learnt Arabic and Persian from Qazi Sajjad Hussain, while Master Mumtaz Hussain taught

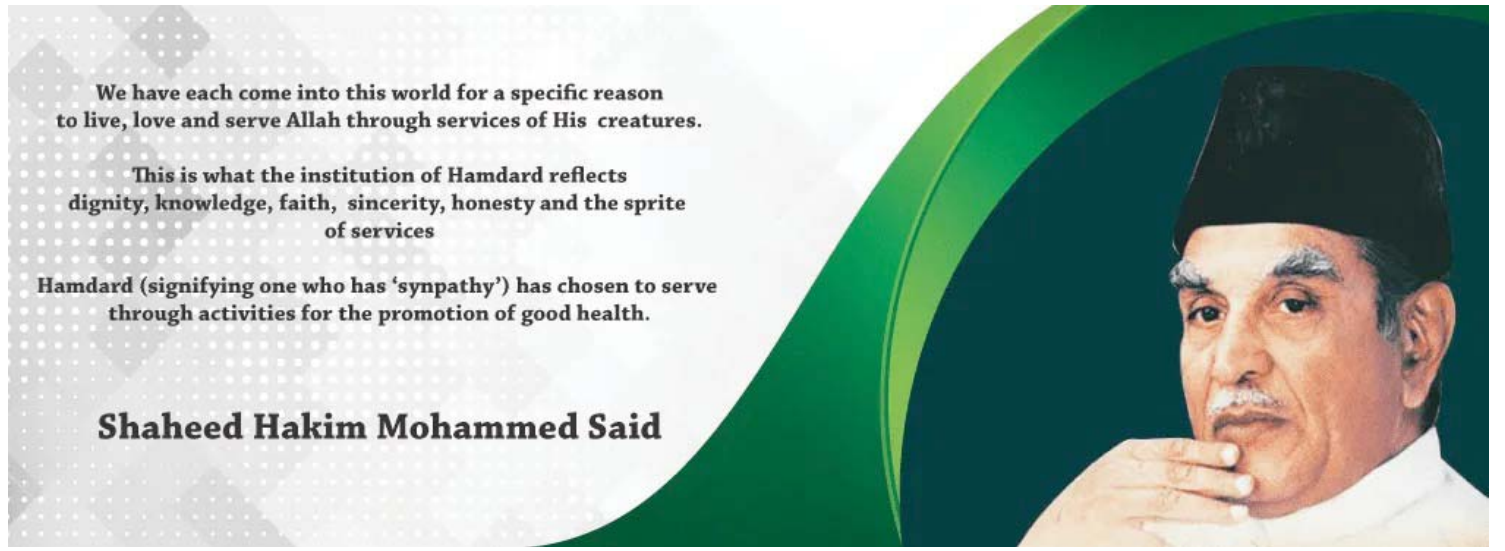
him Urdu and Hakim Iqbal Hussain English.

Following the footprints of his elders, Said studied 'Tibb' and passed its examination from Tibbiya College in 1939. After the completion of his studies, he began to assist his elder brother at the dawakhana. This finally became popular all over India. The brothers made it into a Waqf (Trust) according to their mother's wish.

Hakim Said was already associated with the Pakistan Movement and so, after consultations with his family, migrated to Karachi in January 1948 to serve the new state. He laid the foundation of a new Dawakhana. Hamdard Pakistan is separate from and not a branch of Hamdard India.

Hakim Saheb also made his dawakhana a trust in 1953. Its entire revenue is spent on the promotion of education and all the institutes, like university, college, school, library, research centre, etc., run by Hamdard.

The establishment of Madinat-ul-Hikmat is a great achievement of Hakim Said; he wanted it to be a city of Ilm-o-Hikmat, which includes



Bait-ul-Hikmat, Hamdard Library, Hamdard University, Hamdard College, Hamdard Public School, Al-Furqan Youth Centre, Stadium, Hospital and Jama Masjid.

Hakim Said also had a flair for writing and several monthly publications including Hamdard Sehat

since 1939, Hamdard Naunehal since 1953, Akhbar-i-Watan since 1955, etc. were published under his editorship. Besides this, he wrote and edited several travelogues and religious books, compiled medicinal books and has a few collections of Maqalat-i-Shaam-i-Hamdard to

his name.

Hakim Said was awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz in 1966 and the Kuwait Prize for Tibb-i-Islami in 1983; in July 1991 the American Biographical Institute declared him the Personality of 1990. He served the President of Pakistan as adviser on tibb and remained the

Governor of Sindh from July 19, 1993 to January 21, 1994.

Hakim Saheb enjoyed good health and never missed light exercises in the morning; swimming and tennis were his favourite sports. On October 17, 1998, at the age of 78, Hakim Saheb was assassinated in Karachi.

ISSI holds Guest Lecture titled 'Japan's Perspective on Regional Issues'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a guest lecture on "Japan's Perspective on Regional Issues," delivered by Prof. Dr. KAWASHIMA Shin, from the University of Tokyo. Ambassador Akamatsu Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, also participated in the event.

Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his welcome remarks, highlighted the enduring friendship between Pakistan and Japan. He underscored the historical and multifaceted ties between the two countries, rooted in mutual respect, shared interests, and commitment to peace and development. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also noted Japan's prominent role as a steadfast partner in Pakistan's development journey and stressed growing collaboration in areas such as trade, investment, climate change, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and regional stability. He also stressed the importance of enhanced academic and policy dialogues and think-tank collaboration between Pakistan and



Japan. Ambassador AKAMATSU Shuichi highlighted the long-standing Japan-Pakistan partnership and expressed hope for continued collaboration to address regional and global

challenges. He also appreciated ISSI's efforts to foster mutual understanding through scholarly exchanges.

Prof. Dr. KAWASHIMA Shin, in his lecture, focused on Japan's modernization and its evolving role in regional

geopolitics. Highlighting the transformative journey from the Meiji Restoration to its post-World War II economic resurgence, he underscored Japan's commitment to peace, democracy, and regional cooperation.

He reflected on the enduring partnership between Japan and Pakistan, noting the 70th anniversary of bilateral relations celebrated last year. Dr. KAWASHIMA emphasized Japan's dedication to fostering economic and

cultural ties within the region, reinforcing its role as a proactive contributor to East Asian stability and prosperity.

Dr. KAWASHIMA also discussed the challenges and opportunities in East Asia, focusing on the importance of balanced diplomacy and mutual cooperation. He highlighted Japan's steadfast belief in maintaining open dialogues with neighboring countries to ensure regional stability. Stressing the necessity of economic interdependence, he acknowledged Japan's efforts to strengthen trade and investment networks while respecting the sovereignty and diverse aspirations of its partners.

Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, highlighted Japan's unwavering support for Pakistan's development through Official Development Assistance (ODA) and cultural exchanges. He underscored the mutual commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and addressing shared regional and global challenges collaboratively.

The lecture was attended by a diverse audience, including practitioners, academics, and members of civil society and the media.

Documentary on classical music premiered

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Beaconhouse held the premiere of Echoes of the Fort: Revival of Classical Music in Pakistan at CUE Cinemas, Lahore, marking the launch of a groundbreaking documentary series that celebrates Pakistan's rich musical heritage. The documentary features students from Beaconhouse School System and highlights the immense talent within the country's younger generation.

Written, produced, and directed by Sohail Khan, Manager of Music Curriculum at Beaconhouse, the film artfully explores the rich heritage of classical music in Pakistan. It features Sajal Bano from Beaconhouse Liberty Campus, alongside the renowned actor



Hasan Shah Nawaz Zaidi. It also showcases remarkable vocal performances by Beaconhouse students, Atika Zaineb from Johar Town Girls Campus, Wasi Haider from Valencia Town Campus, and Abana

Shakeel from 78 A-1 Girls Campus, Lahore.

The event was attended by senior dignitaries including Pakistan's renowned musical maestros and celebrities. Speaking at the event,

CEO Beaconhouse, Kasim Kasuri said, 'At Beaconhouse, we value the transformative power of the arts in shaping minds and enriching lives. This documentary is a tribute to the profound beauty of classical

music and the immense talent of our students. Through this initiative, we hope to inspire a deeper appreciation for the arts and play our part in ensuring that this legacy continues to thrive for generations to come.'

Echoes of the Fort is the first of many documentaries planned under a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Beaconhouse School System and Discover Pakistan. The collaboration aims to produce films exploring and preserving the diverse genres of Pakistani music.

Following the premiere, Echoes of the Fort will debut on Discover Pakistan, bringing its powerful narrative to audiences nationwide.

NUST selected UNAI Hub Chair for SDG-12 - Responsible Consumption & Production

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a significant milestone strengthening its position as a leader in sustainability efforts, the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) has been selected as the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Hub Chair for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-12 - Responsible Consumption & Production). This prestigious honour places the university among the elite group of 17 institutions worldwide, chosen from a competitive pool of 333 institutions. With this outstanding accomplishment, NUST now stands as the only university from Pakistan to receive this recognition for the 2025-2027 term.

As part of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, SDG-12 focuses on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, which is key to sustain the livelihoods of current and future generations. By being appointed as the Hub Chair, NUST will lead global initiatives, foster collaborations, and drive research and policy

development to advance sustainability practices in this critical area.

Rector NUST Dr Muhammad Zahid Latif, a renowned academician, has termed this global recognition a testament to the university's unparalleled commitment to sustainable practices towards shaping a more prosperous future for all. He has hoped that as a Hub Chair, NUST would engage with international stakeholders, make meaningful contributions to policy frameworks, and spearhead transformative projects aligned with the SDG-12. He trusts that the landmark achievement will also provide a significant platform for students, researchers and faculty to make discernible contributions to global sustainable initiatives, reinforcing the university's mission to drive a positive change.

As the sole representative from Pakistan on this prestigious UN panel, NUST aims to inspire other institutions of higher learning and communities in the region to embrace sustainable development practices, paving the way for a greener and more equitable future.

Sardar Attique urged the state people to participate in Kashmir Bane Ga Pakistan Convention

Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI/ MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has urged the state people to participate fully in the Kashmir Bane Ga Pakistan Convention to be held at Kohala on January 12. The workers of the Muslim Conference are soldiers of the freedom movement.

The people of Azad Kashmir have a dual responsibility, where they have to play a role for the identity of the state and strengthen their ideological ties with Pakistan.

He expressed these views while talking to Former Prime Minister

Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan and other various delegations journalists at Mujahid Manzil Rawalpindi.

He said that the majority of occupied Kashmir wants to join Pakistan and that is why India is bent on punishing them. Kashmiris have a natural relationship with Pakistan, which came into existence in the name of the Holy Quran.

The Kashmir region is geographically, economically and intellectually connected with Pakistan. Kashmiris have made eternal sacrifices for the Kashmir freedom movement. There is no example in history of the extreme cruelty of India on the defenseless Kashmiris.

He said that the success of

the convention has uprooted numerous political seditions. They will be uprooted. An attempt was made to create political, ideological and intellectual chaos in Azad Kashmir. In these circumstances, the Kashmir will be the dire need of the hour. Workers of all political parties, including those who believe in the theory of accession to Pakistan, should participate in this convention.

He said that the Kashmiri people are fighting for the completion of Pakistan. And are sacrificing their lives. At present, Kashmiri martyrs are being destroyed by wrapping them in the flags of Pakistan.

The Kashmiri people love Pakistan and this love can never be



ended. India could not suppress the freedom spirit of Kashmiris

despite its 10 lakh army deployed in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the workers should fulfill their responsibilities to

make the January 12th convention a success.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
114,148.45	116,052.68	
Day's High	Day's Low	
117,750.22	113,847.03	
Index Value	Change	
20,250,748,280	-1904.23	
Percentage	Time	
-1.64%	8 Jan, 2025 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,251.03	+5.75	
Percentage	Time	
+0.070%	8 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
42,392.65	-135.71	
Percentage	Time	
-0.32%	8 Jan, 12:28 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,981.06	-102.24	
Percentage	Time	
-0.26%	8 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	174.25	176.50
Bahrain Dinar	736.85	744.85
Canadian Dollar	195.10	197.50
China Yuan	37.97	38.37
Danish Krone	38.08	38.48
Euro	289.50	292.25
Hong Kong Dollar	35.44	35.79
Indian Rupee	3.19	3.28
Japanese Yen	1.77	1.83
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.05	905.55
Malaysian Ringgit	61.27	61.87
New Zealand \$	154.13	156.13
Norwegians Krone	24.2	24.50
Omani Riyal	721.25	729.75
Qatari Riyal	75.8	76.50
Saudi Riyal	74.00	74.55
Singapore Dollar	205	207.00
Swedish Korona	24.76	25.06
Swiss Franc	303.71	306.51
Thai Bhat	7.93	8.08
U.A.E Dirham	75.65	76.30
UK Pound Sterling	348.50	352
US Dollar	278.75	280.25

Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan's Korea visit: Advancing Economic Partnerships

Spokesman Report

SEOUL: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, commenced his official three-day visit to South Korea with a series of impactful meetings aimed at strengthening Pakistan's economic ties with Korea. The focus of the visit is on advancing negotiations for the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), boosting bilateral trade, and attracting Korean investment. Minister Khan engaged with Ko Kwang-hyo, Commissioner of the Korea Customs Service (KCS), to discuss enhancing customs cooperation. Both sides emphasized the importance of finalizing the pending Agreement on Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters, which is set to streamline trade processes and complement EPA negotiations.

Minister Khan met with Byung-Kwan (Bob K.) Kim, Chairman of the Korea Importers Association (KOIMA), to discuss expanding trade collaboration. He highlighted Pakistan's macroeconomic recovery, including reduced inflation and interest rates, and invited Korean manufacturers to the Food Ag Exhibition in



Lahore, scheduled for February 26-28, 2025. Chairman Kim appreciated Pakistan's progress and encouraged Pakistani businesses to participate in the Korea Import Fair in July 2025.

The minister attended a lunch hosted by three former Korean ambassadors to Pakistan, who welcomed the initiation of EPA negotia-

tions. They highlighted the agreement's potential to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and significantly enhance trade volumes. The ambassadors praised the minister's role in expediting internal approval processes and strengthening bilateral ties.

The Pakistan Business Association Korea

hosted a dinner in Minister Khan's honor, attended by over 300 Pakistani businessmen. The minister apprised the attendees of the benefits of the EPA and assured the diaspora of government support in addressing their challenges. He emphasized Pakistan's economic stabilization and the importance of their investment in the country's growth. A shield was presented to the minister in recognition of his efforts.

The minister also met with CEOs of leading Korean firms. The CEO of Stardust Company expressed interest in investing in Pakistan, focusing on anti-counterfeiting technologies. Meanwhile, the CEO of STS Robotech presented robotics innovations for food production and shared his contributions to the Pakistani diaspora in Korea.

The first day of Minister Jam Kamal Khan's visit laid a strong foundation for advancing Pakistan-Korea economic relations. Through high-level engagements and strategic discussions, the minister reinforced Pakistan's commitment to fostering trade, investment, and long-term partnerships with South Korea.

Winter Fruit

ISLAMABAD: Vendors are buying Oranges from wholesale dealers at Fruit and Vegetables market at Sector I-11 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

FAST Cables and BNU host seminar on Green Housing and Sustainable Urbanization

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: FAST Cables organized the "FAST Forward Sustainable Development" forum on Wednesday, 8th January 2025, at Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Lahore. This event served as a collaborative platform to address the critical intersection of green housing and sustainable urbanization, bringing together experts from academia and industry to tackle Pakistan's pressing environmental challenges.

The event began with an inspiring welcome address by Kamal Amjad Mian, CEO of FAST Cables, delivered the keynote address, highlighting the company's steadfast commitment to green and sustainable innovations. Prominent speakers shared their insights and actionable strategies, including:

Dr. Imrana Tiwana, Head of the Initiative for Climate Change and Environmental



Sustainability at BNU, Dr. Jamshed Ali, Assistant Professor and JS Bank Chair (Sustainable Finance & Fintech) at BNU and Mr. Momin Imran Sheikh, an expert in sustainable urban development and smart cities.

Kamal Amjad Mian, CEO of FAST Cables, reiterated the company's dedication to addressing climate challenges, stated, "As Pakistan's largest cable manufacturer, we embrace our responsibility to combat the climate crisis. Ranked among the top five most climate-vulnerable nations, Pakistan requires urgent and collective action."

CCP hosts expert session on cartel screening and detection methods

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) organized an insightful capacity-building lecture on "Cartel Screening and Detection Methods" to explore cutting-edge techniques for identifying anti-competitive practices in today's markets.

The session featured Dr. Amber Darr, a Lecturer in Competition Law at the University of Manchester (UK) and Senior Research Fellow at the University College London (UCL) Centre for Law, Economics and Society.

The session aimed at equipping participants with a deeper understanding of how to identify markets prone to collusion, detect cartels in the digital age, and apply methods of both behavioral and structural screening to identify anti-competitive behaviors. A large number of officers from the CCP and other regulatory bodies attended the session, benefiting from Dr. Darr's extensive expertise.

Dr. Darr began started with an overview of history and evolution of competition laws, particularly in South Asia.



She emphasized that competition laws are designed to prevent businesses from entering into agreements that restrict trade and hinder equal opportunities for all participants in the marketplace. As trade techniques evolve, competition laws must adapt to keep pace with global market changes.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, where Dr. Darr answered

various pertinent questions from the participants, further enriching the discussion. Earlier, Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, Chairman CCP warmly welcomed Dr. Darr and commended her remarkable contributions to the field of law and academia. Dr. Sidhu emphasized the importance of such expert-led sessions in advancing CCP's mission to enhance competition law enforcement in Pakistan.

Zong Tops PTA's QoS Survey for Q3 2024, Leading the Industry with Excellence

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) recently released the results of its quarterly Quality of Service (QoS) survey in 18x cities of Pakistan during the 3rd quarter of 2024. During the survey, the performance of Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) has been assessed in accordance with the Cellular Mobile Network QoS Regulations.

This achievement reaffirms Zong's dedication to delivering excellent information services and driving

technological innovation. It underscores Zong's commitment to playing a pivotal role in empowering a Digital Pakistan and shaping a more connected, technologically advanced future for all.

"Zong's exceptional performance in the PTA QoS Q3, 2024 survey highlights our position as leaders in innovation and top-tier connectivity," said Zong's spokesperson, Ms. Andleeb Aslam. "We ensure that our customers' experience is reliable through cutting-edge technology and seamless connectivity across Pakistan."

Fatima Fertilizer celebrates the sixth Kissan Day

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fatima Fertilizer marked the sixth Kissan Day with a landmark celebration in Islamabad, uniting policymakers, stakeholders, and farmers to honor the pivotal role of agriculture in Pakistan's economy. The event reflected on the remarkable success of Kissan Day as a national celebration and its evolution into a meaningful platform advocating for the welfare and recognition of farmers across the country.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Food Security & Industries, Khalid Khokhar, President Pakistan Kissan Ittehad, Ms. Florence Rolle,

FAO Representative in Pakistan, and General Shahid Nazir, Director General GCIPL, who all spoke on the importance of supporting Pakistan's farming community.

Mr. Asad Murad, Chief Operating Officer Fatima Fertilizer, in his opening remarks, said, "Today, as we celebrate the sixth Kissan Day, we pay tribute to the real heroes of our society - Pakistan's farmers. They are the backbone of our nation, and their tireless efforts form the foundation of our economy and food security."

Speaking about the occasion, Rabel Sadozai, Director Marketing and Sales, Fatima Fertilizer, said, "Farmers are vital to Pakistan's economy, and Kissan Day is our tribute to their unwavering resili-

ence and commitment.

Major General Shahid Nazir, Director General at Green Pakistan Initiative also graced the occasion and said, "Farmer community has a crucial role towards protecting the national food security."

Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Food Security & Research, attended the event as the Chief Guest, and addressed the occasion by saying, "Pakistan was once a leader in agriculture in the region, but today, we lag behind. Research and innovation are the keys to reversing this trend." He also acknowledged the role of private companies such as Fatima Fertilizer in facilitating the farmers in protecting the food security by increasing the crop yield.



Zafar Bakhtawari visit Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: United Business Group (FCCI) Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari stated that cooperation and unity within the business community are essential to stabilize Pakistan's economy. He emphasized that businesses and personal brands should be built with hard work and integrity. He expressed these views while addressing the Islamabad Chamber of Small Trade and Small Industries (ICSTSI) during his recent visit. Zafar Bakhtawari congratulated the newly elected Chairman of the Founders Group of ICSTSI, Saqib Abbasi, and presented him with a bouquet. Acting President ICCI Nasir Mahmood Chaudhry, Acting Vice President Raja Naveed Akhtar Satti, Executive Committee members Zulqarnain Abbasi, Roheil Anwar Butt, Malik Mohsin Khalid, former Executive Member Imtiaz Abbasi, Imran Bukhari, Tahir Abbasi, and Nisar Mirza were also present. Upon their arrival at ICSTSI, Qazi Ilyas, Rao Javed, Sardar Zaheer, Sajid Iqbal, Rizwan Siddiqui, and others warmly welcomed the delegation led by Zafar Bakhtawari.

In his speech, Zafar Bakhtawari paid tribute to the services of Taj Abbasi and Qazi Ilyas and extended his best wishes to Saqib Abbasi and Owais Satti. He stressed the importance of creating unity to make traders role models. "We must unite; only then will our voice be heard. We need to work together to improve our country's economy," he said. He praised ICSTSI for consistently working for the betterment of the business community and congratulated Saqib Abbasi on becoming the new Chairman of the Founders Group, expressing hope that he would play a vital role in the chamber's growth.

Lahore and Karachi to host tri-nation ODI series as PCB accelerates preparations

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced Wednesday that preparations for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 are advancing rapidly, with the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore and the National Bank Stadium in Karachi nearing completion to host high-profile matches.

In a regular update, the PCB assured the fans, spectators, and media that all upgradation work was progressing on schedule and would be completed before or around the set deadlines.

Given the advanced stage of preparations at Gaddafi Stadium and National Bank Stadium, the PCB has decided to relocate the upcoming tri-nation ODI series to these two venues.

The series, featuring New Zealand and South Africa alongside Pakistan, was originally scheduled to be held in Multan.

This decision reflects the PCB's confidence in the readiness of these upgraded venues and their ability to deliver a

world-class experience for players, officials, and fans alike. Further details regarding the series will be shared in due course.

Upgrades at Gaddafi Stadium

The spectator capacity at Gaddafi Stadium has been increased to 35,000, with new chairs installed throughout the venue.

Additionally, 480 state-of-the-art LED lights have been installed to enhance broadcast LUX levels, ensuring superior viewing quality for fans worldwide.

To further elevate the spectator experience, two giant digital replay screens—measuring 80 feet x 30 feet and 22 feet x 35 feet—will be installed next week.

The stadium is set to be inaugurated in the last week of January.

A brand-new players' and officials' hospitality enclosure has also been created, which will be operational by 25 January. The iconic stadium is set to provide an unparalleled experience for



all stakeholders.

Upgrades at National Bank Stadium

At the National Bank Stadium, significant enhancements have been made,

including the creation of a new players' and officials' hospitality enclosure at the University End.

To improve broadcast coverage, 350 LED lights have been installed, ensuring optimal

visibility for global audiences.

Two digital replay screens have already been fixed, and 5,000 new chairs have been installed to enhance spectator comfort.

Upgrades at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium is undergoing minor touch-ups, focusing on the installation of 10,000 new chairs, upgrades to hospitality boxes and the

installation of two digital replay screens. These improvements are designed to ensure the stadium exceeds international standards for upcoming events.

Maintenance of playing surfaces

Throughout the upgradation process, PCB curators, under the supervision of Tony Hemming, have diligently maintained the outfield and playing surfaces to keep them protected, healthy and fresh. To prioritise these efforts, no competitive cricket has been played in Lahore and Karachi since the commencement of the upgrades, while Rawalpindi last hosted a match late last year.

Commitment to Excellence

The PCB is fully committed to ensuring that all venues are ready to host the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 and other international matches. With over 250 workers laboring day and night to meet the 25 January deadline, the PCB is confident that the upgrades will elevate the fan experience and uphold Pakistan's reputation as a premier cricketing destination.

DG Sports presided over an important meeting on Khelta Punjab Games

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzal Chaudhry has presided over an important meeting regarding the preparation of Inter-Division phase of Khelta Punjab Games and the management of the Nishtar Park Sports Complex at National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday.

Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Deputy Directors Ata ur Rahman, Zahoor Ahmed, Tariq Khanzada, and administrators of all venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex participated in the meeting.

All the administrators of Nishtar Park Sports Complex including National Hockey Stadium, NPSC Gymnasium Hall, Punjab Stadium, Punjab International Swimming Complex, Tennis Stadium gave a detailed briefing about their respective venues in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzal Chaudhry informed that male and female athletes will compete in 19 sports in the Khelta Punjab Games. "Khelta Punjab Games are being organized in accordance with the vision of



Punjab Chief Minister Punjab," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzal Chaudhry directed the officers concerned that there should be no complacency in providing best transport and accommodation facilities to all athletes especially female players from all

divisions of the Punjab province.

Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzal Chaudhry said that the best transport will be provided to the players from the hotel to the game venues in Khelta Punjab Games. "All possible measures are being taken for the development of sports

across the province."

Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzal Chaudhry further said that several fresh talented players will emerge from the provincial stage of Khelta Punjab Games. "The best sports facilities should be provided to all participating players".

Four-day National Blind Games concluded

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The third edition of the National Blind Games 2024 concluded with great fanfare. Blind athletes from across Pakistan showcased their resilience, strength and determination in four-day event. The games brought together exceptional athletes from across the country, competing in diverse sports including blind football, blind judo, blind archery, braille chess, athletics and blind baseball.

Leadership from the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation (PBSF) including President Mohammad Waqas, General Secretary Salman Elahi, Vice President Shahzad Javed, General Manager Bilal Javed and PBSF's marketing head Khaleel Ahmed were present on the occasion.

Chief Guest Intiaz Sheikh and Ashraf Azeem lauded the performance of players and distributed medals and trophies among the winner and runners-up.

According to the results, Gilgit-Bal-



tistan emerged victorious in the blind baseball category, with Azad Jammu and Kashmir, runner-up.

In the blind judo category, Shumaila from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was gold medalist while the silver medal was won by Saba from Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Zumra Rafeeq from Islamabad won the bronze medal.

In Braille Chess, Rashid Nisar from Punjab was the gold medalist, Aamir Ijaz, also from Punjab, bagged silver and Aneela Shahzadi from Punjab won bronze.

Meanwhile, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Waseem Khan won the gold medal in blind archery while Usama Hashmi from AJK won silver and Usama Khan from KP clinched bronze. Similarly, in the female blind archery event, Islamabad's Wajihah won gold medal after defeating Saba from AJK who got silver. The bronze medal was won by Zainab from Sindh.

In Athletics, B1 100 meters in male event, Adnan bagged gold, Moin won silver while Mubashir won bronze.

In Athletics - B2 200 meters (male category) Manan won gold medal after defeating Waseem, who was awarded silver while bronze medal was clinched by Usman.

Similarly, in Athletics - B1 100 meters female event, gold medal was won by Qandeer, Shumaila got silver and Fatima secured the bronze medal. In Athletics - B2 100 meters female contest, Kiran won gold while Hira and Nimra won silver and bronze medals respectively.

Constitution, not parliament, is supreme, remarks SC judge

Continued from Page 8

The judge asked whether that civilian who had anti-army views would also be tried in a military court. "The question is, which are the cases which should be referred to military courts?"

Addressing Haris, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan said, "It appears as if you have not prepared your case."

The five-member bench had declared some of the sections of the Army Act null and void. "If we uphold the previous judgment, then forget that there could ever be military trials of

civilians."

However, Justice Afghan went on to say, if the bench reached some other conclusion, then it would have to determine which civilians could be tried in military courts.

"Now, an amendment has been made to the Official Secrets Act, 2023. Tell us in the light of that amendment," the judge said to Haris.

Justice Mandokhel remarked that the parliament had the power to declare which act was an offence and which was not. "This is the constitution that gives the parliament this right,"

he said.

The judge said it was said that parliament was supreme. "In my opinion, it is the constitution which is supreme."

The court sought a report on the May 9 convicts and adjourned the hearing of the case until tomorrow.

May 9 convicts being treated as per Jail Rules

The Punjab government has said that all facilities are being provided to the civilians who had been handed down sentences by military courts in the May 9 cases as per the Jail Rules.

In its report submitted to the Supreme Court on Wednesday, the provincial government informed that of a total 28 such prisoners, 27 were in Punjab jails.

It said that at the time of the entry of these convicts in jails, the medical officer examined them.

It stated that quality cooked meals were served to the prisoners three times a day as per the official menu.

Furthermore, the government said, it had provided prisoners with beds and blankets as well.

The convicts had also been given the facility of meeting their family members every Friday, said the government, adding that on that day the families are allowed to bring with them meals, fruits and other items.

Thousands of people immediately took to the streets after hearing the news of the arrest of their leader Imran Khan on May 9.

They ransacked government and military installations besides setting the memorials of the Pakistan Army martyrs on fire.

Zone-II Whites, Zone-III W and Zone-V W Qualify for Semi Finals of Woodward Trophy U-17 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-II Whites, Zone-III Whites and Zone-V Whites Qualify for the Semi Finals of the Woodward Trophy Under-17 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament after beating their opponents at various Grounds of the City.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies.

Scores in Brief:

In the 2nd Quarter Final Zone-II Whites beat Zone-VII Blues by 34 runs at KCCA Stadium. Zone-II Whites 211/7 in 40 overs. Aliyan Khan 78 10x4, Haris Naveed 35, Muhammad Karim 25. Syed Touana 2/12. Rehan Khan 2/46.

Zone-VII Blues 177 all out in 37.5 overs. Muhammad Talal 81 7x4 1x6, Shayan Ahmed 33. Muhammad Karim 3/26. Jawad Ahmed 2/20. Sagir Ahmed 2/36.

Later Nadeem Khan give the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Muhammad Karim of Zone-II Whites. In the 3rd Quarter Final Zone-III Whites beat Zone-VII Whites by 5 Wickets at Young Fighter Ground. Zone-VII Whites 292 all out in 39.1 overs. Maaz Khan 51 7x4, Ali Sher 48 4x4, Muhammad Sohail 26. Asadullah (ob) 3/34, Aman 2/20, Anas Balouch 2/49.

Zone-III Whites 203/5 in 37.5 overs. Muhammad Hamza 70 6x4 1x6, Haider Ali 39, Daniyal Ali 28. after the end of the Match Hamza Oon Wala give the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Muhammad Hamza of Zone-III Whites.

In the last Quarter Final Zone-V Whites beat Zone-IV Whites by 1 Wicket at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-IV Whites 157 all out in 39.1 overs. Amanullah 36, Rana Areeb Aftab 20. M. Ali Hussain (ob) 3/23, Muhammad Khan (rlb) 3/35.

Zone-V Whites 158/9 in 38.4 overs. Muhammad Ibrahim 57 9x4 1x6, Abu Huraira 23, Farzam Ali (rlb) 4/8, M. Masham 2/26. Arshman Riaz 2/32. Muhammad Saeed Jabbar Secretary Zone-V given the Medicam Man of the Match Award to Muhammad Ibrahim of Zone-V Whites.

Younis Khan appointed mentor of Afghanistan cricket team



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan captain Younis Khan has been appointed as mentor of Afghanistan cricket team.

According to spokesperson for the Afghanistan Cricket Board Syed Naseem Sadat, Younis Khan will work as a mentor with the Afghan team in the Champions Trophy.

Younis Khan was previously the batting coach of the Afghanistan team in 2022.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has appointed Younis Khan as a mentor for the Champions Trophy, Syed Naseem Sadat said. Younis Khan will join the Afghanistan team before the start of the Champions Trophy.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Air Marshal M. Mughees Afzal (Retd) Ambassador (Desig) to Syria called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters on Wednesday.



Govt committed to ensure optimum healthcare facilities to people: PM



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the government was committed to ensure optimum healthcare facilities to people, as these were the foundation for a thriving society and hallmark of clinical excellence, professionalism and ethics.

Addressing at the launching ceremony of the Aga Khan University Manual of Clinical Practice Guidelines AKU Auditorium, the PM said it was an honour and privilege to be here at the Aga Khan University, a beacon of knowledge and innovation with its unwavering commitment to excellence in medical education, research, and patient care.

Aga Khan University (AKU) Manual of Clinical Practice Guidelines—a groundbreaking, US GRADE-endorsed resource providing evidence-based recommendations that are expected to directly improve healthcare outcomes for over 21 million people in Pakistan and avert an estimated 280,000 deaths annually.

Prime Minister said the launch of the AKU Manual of Clinical Practice Guidelines was a landmark achievement that reflected this institution's

resolve to elevate standards of healthcare.

Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the authors, researchers and contributors of this manual and said the AKU team's hard work and dedication to improving clinical practices will have a lasting impact on Pakistan's healthcare system. "These efforts are investments in our nation's future — a future where every citizen, regardless of their background, has access to affordable healthcare."

The launch event was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, State Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khwaja, Coordinator to Prime Minister on National Health Services on Regulation & Coordination Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Chairman of the Aga Khan University Board of Trustees Dr. Sulaiman Shahabuddin, Zakir Mahmood and President Aga Khan University (AKU) Dr. Sulaiman Shahabuddin, President of Aga Khan University (AKU).

Constitution, not parliament, is supreme, remarks SC judge

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A Supreme Court judge remarked that the country's Constitution is supreme and not the Parliament as the apex court's constitutional bench resumed on Wednesday the hearing of the intra-court appeals filed against declaring the trials of civilians in military courts as null and void.

A seven-member bench, headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan, conducted the hearing today.

Khawaja Haris, counsel for the Ministry of Defence, continued his arguments in the case.

Khawaja Haris said that the basis of the apex court's decision was Articles 5 (8) and 3 (8) of the constitution.



"Both articles are completely different. They cannot be coalesced together," he argued.

Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar remarked that Article 233 safeguarded the fundamental rights of citizens.

Haris replied that Article

233 had two parts: one was related to the armed forces, while the other to civilians.

Justice Jamal Mandokhel said that citizens could not be denied their rights even under Article 5.

Haris recalled that it had been settled in the FB Ali

case that civilians too could be tried in military courts. "Whether we agree with you or not remains to be seen," Justice Mandokhel said.

The lawyer went on to say it was on the basis of a wrong interpretation that it was said that the FB Ali case was of a different nature. "Ali was tried after his retirement. At that time, he was a civilian," Haris said, adding, "The judge gave the ruling that the defendant had committed the offence while he was in service; therefore his case was separate."

Justice Mandokhel retorted, "Those convicted in the May 9 cases did not belong to the armed forces."

These days, the judge added, a term of ex-servicemen was used. "These convicts were not ex-ser-

vicemen either."

"Let's only use the term of a citizen," he said.

Justice Musarrat Hilali opined that when there was talk about the trials of civilians in military courts, it concerned those who had carried out an attack on the Army Public School (APS), Peshawar. "Can the same treatment be meted out to all civilians?" she questioned.

She reminded Haris that these days the constitution was not suspended.

Justice Mandokhel remarked that the Pakistan Army personnel were martyred on a daily basis. "Our prayers and sympathies are with them. But the question is, why aren't their cases brought to military courts?"

Continued on Page 7

All facilities for investors under one roof, says A. Aleem Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan visited the Business Facilitation Center built in Islamabad. In this State-of-the-Art Center, all facilities will be provided to the investors under one roof. Talking during the visit, Federal Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan said that the construction of such a magnificent and quality Business Facilitation Center

in four months is commendable where relevant officers will provide services at various counters for the convenience of investors. He added that the remaining finishing work of this Center will be completed and made it functional this month while the Prime Minister will inaugurate this Business Facilitation Center next month. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that we have to provide maximum facilities to our investors in the shortest possible time and making it possible to provide



facilities to investors faster on the model of modern and developed countries. He said that this Business Facilitation Center will have an effective monitoring system, redressal of complaints and customer suggestions.

Federal Minister for Investment Abdul Aleem Khan appreciated the relevant institutions for the timely and quality construction of this project. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

Sindh government's decision to provide electric vehicles taxis to unemployed youth on easy installments

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to provide electric vehicle (EV) taxis to unemployed youth on easy installments, accelerating efforts to introduce eco-friendly EV taxis. Senior Minister of Sindh, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has directed the Transport Secretary to liaise with various banks and develop financial models to facilitate this initiative.

Officials from the company assembling EV taxis in Karachi met with Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon to provide a detailed briefing on the eco-friendly electric taxi. Memon expressed his intention to offer EV taxis to unemployed individuals through easy installment plans, allowing them to



earn an honorable livelihood. He highlighted that the eco-friendly EV taxis align with the Sindh government's commitment to a greener and cleaner province.

Sharjeel Inam Memon further stated that introducing EV taxis will create job opportunities for youth, helping the unemployed stand on their feet while contributing to economic development. This initiative is seen as a significant step towards boosting employment and fostering economic growth in the region.

Skill training for BISP Beneficiaries among top priorities

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid directs BISP officers to ensure the provision of Skill Training and Employment Opportunities aligned with National and International Trends.

Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid and Secretary Amer Ali Ahmad held an important meeting today at the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Headquarters. The meeting focused on reviewing the progress of partnerships between BISP and national and international organizations aimed at providing skill training and employment opportunities to members of deserving families of BISP. Additional Secretary Dr. Tahir Noor and all Director Generals were also in attendance.

Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized that skill training for BISP beneficiaries is among



the program's top priorities. She highlighted the need to implement effective measures through skill training to enhance the income levels of beneficiaries and improve their standard of living. She instructed BISP officers to identify key sectors based on national and international trends for the next meeting, ensuring beneficiaries receive training that leads to better

employment opportunities.

Secretary Amer Ali Ahmad stated that while the Benazir Income Support Programme provides financial assistance to beneficiaries, equipping them with skills is the sustainable path to lift families out of poverty. He stressed the importance of skill training as a means to enable long-term self-sufficiency and economic stability for the beneficiaries.

SECP seeks feedback on improvements in takeover regulations

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a consultation paper to seek feedback on areas of improvement in the Listed Companies (Substantial Acquisition of Voting Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2017. Through these modifications SECP aims to strengthen the regulatory framework governing takeover transactions of listed companies by enhancing transparency and introducing measures for safeguarding rights of minority shareholders.

The key areas of improvement include proposals for streamlining public announcement timelines, revising price determination criteria for frequently and not frequently traded shares, and enhancing disclosure requirements for acquirers and listed companies. Provisions for voluntary offers, obligations of



Manager to the Offer (MTO) and mechanisms for handling indirect or chain acquisitions have also been floated for further deliberations.

The proposals have been developed following an initial round of consultations with various stakeholders including market experts, MTOs, law firms, chartered accountants and listed companies.

The scope of consultations is now being expanded to ensure wider participation in finalizing proposed amendment areas so any amendments can effectively address the evolving needs of the market and its stakeholders.