



Pakistan set to launch another space mission on Friday

The development underscores Pakistan's growing expertise in Advanced Earth Space and Planetary Sciences (AESPS) and represents a leap forward in the nation's self-reliance in space technology. The launch of Electro-Optical One is expected to pave the way for further advancements in scientific research and national development.



Security forces gun down Afghan spy near border

Sources said that the dead spy was trying to escape to Afghanistan. He was later identified as Mohammad Khan Ahmed Khel son of Haji Mohammad Qasim Dawaran Khan. Sources revealed that the 48-year-old terrorist, also known as Abdullah Afghan, was a resident of Paktika Province in Afghanistan. An Afghan ID card was also recovered from the deceased terrorist. He was reportedly working for an Afghan agency in Pakistan.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Briefing on the security environment

PESHAWAR: Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir and other senior military and civil officials are provided a briefing on the security environment.



Photo: ISPR

PM desires implementation of faceless assessment system in other cities



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that after functioning in Karachi, the faceless assessment system should be broadened and implemented in other cities as soon as possible, so that all imports across the country could benefit from this system.

The prime minister chaired a review meeting on the matters related to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazzer Tarar, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervez Malik, and other senior officials, Prime Minister Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister observed that significant

progress had been achieved in the digitization and reforms within the FBR in previous months, adding for the first time in history, a system with a faceless digitization system had been introduced in the customs process, marking a significant milestone in the digitization of the FBR.

The prime minister directed the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication and FBR to work together to further improve the faceless customs assessment system.

The implementation of the track and trace system led to a significant increase in revenue from the tobacco, sugar, cement, and fertilizer industries in the fiscal year 2023-2024 compared to the previous corresponding year. Further improvement in revenue from these industries was expected with the full implementation of the track and trace system this year, it was added.

The meeting was told that under the prime minister's directive, the upgradation of the web-based One Customs began and its design was expected to be completed by the end of March.

War against terrorism will be taken to logical end, says COAS

Army chief briefed on security situation and ongoing counter-terrorism operations

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir visited Peshawar, where he was briefed on the prevailing security situation and the ongoing counter-terrorism operations.

Federal Minister of Interior Mohsin Naqvi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur were also present. The Peshawar corps commander received the COAS on his arrival.

During his visit, the COAS praised the unwavering resolve and unmatched sacrifices of

soldiers and law enforcement agency personnel in the fight against terrorism, saying: "As we stand united against the forces of evil, I am immensely proud of the remarkable achievements of our security forces."

"Through their dedication, courage, and supreme sacrifices, we have successfully destroyed the operational capabilities of terrorist organisations, both within our borders and beyond."

"Our forces have relentlessly pursued and eliminated key terrorist leaders, dismantled their infrastructure, and neutral-

ized their cells, sending a clear message that terror has no place in our land. This war is ongoing and we would take it to its logical conclusion."

He highlighted that every operation has been a testament to the courage, professionalism, and operational readiness of the security forces, who continue to thwart terrorists' evolving threats.

The COAS made it clear that any attempt to disturb the peace would be met with decisive and overwhelming force.

"The enemy may try to sow discord and fear, but we will not

relent. Hostile elements will be dealt with an iron hand. They will continue to suffer heavy losses, and their capacity to inflict harm will be decimated," said the COAS.

He praised the exceptional morale of the troops, who remain steadfast in their commitment to safeguard the sovereignty of the nation.

He affirmed that the armed forces and law enforcement agencies stand as an unbreakable force, resolute in their mission to protect the motherland and its people.

The army chief separately interacted with politicians from different political parties in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The participants resolved to consensus on the need for one political voice and public support against the scourge of terrorism.

The political representatives showed vivid clarity on the unflinching support of the forces in the nation's fight against terror and agreed on the need for a unified front beyond political colours against the extremist philosophy of terrorist groups.

Verdict in £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case deferred once again

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The verdict in £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case against former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi was once again deferred and will now be pronounced on January 17 (Friday).

This was the third time that the announcement of the reserved decision has been postponed.

On Sunday, the accountability court staff had informed PTI founder Imran Khan's counsel and NAB prosecution team that the accountability court judge will announce the reserved verdict at

Adiala Jail.

Judge Nasir Javed Rana was present in courtroom since 9:00 am on Monday but neither of Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi or their lawyers showed up in the courtroom.

The judge waited for them until 10:30 am and later it was

announced that the announcement of the verdict has been delayed once again which will now be pronounced on January 17. The judge then left the Adiala Jail after announcing the fresh deferment.

Judge says signed judgement was ready

On the occasion, AC Judge

Nasir Javed Rana expressed frustration at the continued absence of the accused, his wife Bushra Bibi, and their legal team.

The judge remarked, "I arrived at the [Adiala] jail precisely at 8:30 am, and it is now 10:30 am, yet neither the defendants nor their lawyers are present."

Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi challenge trial court decision in Toshakhana 2 case

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi Monday filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court seeking acquittal in the Toshakhana 2 case.

The petition challenges the trial court's decision to reject their plea for acquittal.

The petition argues that the Special Judge Central's November 14 decision to dismiss

the acquittal plea was unlawful.

The petition, filed on behalf of Khan and Bushra Bibi, requests the Islamabad High Court to overturn the trial court's decision and grant their acquittal in the case.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and other concerned parties have been made respondents in the petition.

The Toshakhana 2.0 case centres on allegations that Khan, as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, and Bushra Bibi

retained state gifts without fulfilling legal obligations.

Bushra Bibi received the Bulgari jewelry set during a visit to Saudi Arabia from May 7 to 10, 2021.

The jewelry set included a ring, a bracelet, a necklace, and a pair of earrings.

During the investigation for the reference, it was found that Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi illegally retained the Bulgari jewelry set.

On May 18, 2021, the Deputy Military Secretary informed the

Section Officer of Toshakhana to assess and declare the value of the jewelry set, but it was not deposited.

According to the reference, Bulgari had sold the necklace to the Saudi Arabian franchise Solgent Trading on May 25, 2018, for 300,000 euros and the earrings for 80,000 euros.

However, the prices of the bracelet and ring were not available. On May 28, 2021, the total value of the Bulgari jewelry set was approximately Rs75,661,600.

The necklace was valued at 56,496,000 Rupees, and the earrings at Rs15,065,600.

According to Toshakhana rules, the jewelry set's value, after paying 50 percent, should be Rs35,765,800.

However, the NAB reference added that by undervaluing the jewelry set, a loss of Rs32,851,300 was incurred to the national treasury.

The PTI founder, along with Bushra Bibi, has violated Section 9 and Subsections 3, 4, 6, and 12 of the NAB Ordinance 1999.

PTI running away from £190 million scam due to involvement in corruption

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Monday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership was running away from mega corruption case of £190 million because they know that their hands were not clean and they were involved in corruption.

Addressing a press conference along with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz senior leader Senator Talal Chaudhry that there was no example in the history of waiving off billions of rupees like this as black money was whitened through creation of a fraudulent trust.

He said the 190 million pounds case was classic example of "robbing Peter to pay Paul".



The minister said that the verdict on 190 million pound case was supposed to be given today, but the accused fail to appear in the court.

The minister said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership had made a habit of not appearing in courts.

He reminded that the PTI had used delaying tactics for six years in foreign funding case. Similarly, he said, the Toshakhana case also, they used delaying tactics and sought adjustments after adjustments.

JUI Chief addressing during the 97th annual gathering of Jamia Khair-ul-Madaris

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: JUI Party Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman Addressing during the 97th annual gathering of Jamia Khair-ul-Madaris— a renowned Islamic, spiritual, and educational institution—he emphasized that while Pakistan was established on the foundations of Islam, the demand for the implementation of an Islamic system has become one of the most challenging tasks. He stated that following the path of their elders, they would continue their peaceful struggle to establish an Islamic system in the country and would never abandon this demand.

He further stressed their unwavering commitment to safeguarding the sanctity of the Aqeedah (belief of Khatm-e-Nubuwwat (finality of Prophethood), the laws protecting the honor of the Prophet (PBUH), and the Islamic identity of Pakistan. For them, the enforcement of an Islamic



system remains the ultimate goal. Highlighting the greatness of Islamic knowledge, he said that the education provided in religious seminaries (madaris) is divinely inspired and free from error, guiding individuals to lead

lives devoid of pitfalls.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman also mentioned that human beings are blessed with the faculties of intellect and speech, which facilitate learning and teaching. The knowledge conveyed

through divine revelation, taught by the Prophets to guide humanity, is imparted in these religious seminaries. He pointed out the irony that while Pakistan was established in the name of La ilaha illallah (There is no God but Allah), demanding the implementation of Islam in the country has become increasingly difficult. He emphasized their role not only in preserving religious seminaries but also in protecting the very purpose of Pakistan's existence.

During this grand gathering in Southern Punjab, Jamia Khair-ul-Madaris's Sheikh-ul-Hadith Maulana Muhammad Hanif Jalandhari delivered the final lesson of Hadith to the students. The event witnessed thousands of participants, including notable scholars. Students from various levels presented speeches in Urdu, Arabic, and English. Some recited Hamd and Naat, while students from Qur'anic studies opened the gathering with beautiful recitations.

All markets of Faisalabad Ghanta Ghar closed for traffic



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The entrances and exits of all the markets of Faisalabad Ghanta Ghar have been closed. The administration has declared all eight markets as no-parking zones and banned parking of vehicles there. This step has been taken to improve traffic flow. All eight markets of Ghanta Ghar have been closed for traffic.

The district administration has closed the markets to eliminate encroachments.

Motorcycles, rickshaws, loader rickshaws and vehicles have been banned. Citizens will be able to park their cars and motorcycles outside the 8 markets and enter on foot. Shopkeepers' cars or motorcycles will also not be able to enter the 8 markets. The 8 markets have been completely cleared of encroachments.

Modi's visit to Kashmir an attempt to mislead the world: DFP

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has termed the Indian premier Narendra Modi's visit to Kashmir yet another attempt to mislead the world.

In a statement issued here today the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal said that on the one hand Indian government was using all means of oppression and suppression to stifle people's aspirations for freedom and justice, while on the other Modi government was shamelessly promoting the so-called development narrative by inaugurating strategically important projects to meet the country's defense needs.

The DFP spokesman said that such initiatives taken by the Indian government every now and then were part of its grand design to strengthen its control over the territory that remains embroiled in a serious conflict and turmoil since the past several decades.

He said that the Indian government was trying to mislead the world by hiding the harsh realities in Kashmir. He said that it was quite unfortunate that the so-called largest democracy takes pride in suppressing legitimate political aspirations and democratic rights of the Kashmiri people rather respecting their fundamental rights and privileges guaranteed to them under the UNSC resolutions.

Sindh government urged to immediately provide possession to allottees of Gulistan-e-Sarmast

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: MQM Hyderabad's elected representative from PS 62, Engineer Sabir Hussain Qaimkhani, raised an attention notice in the Sindh Assembly, highlighting a critical issue faced by the citizens of Hyderabad. He pointed out that the government of Sindh had collected billions of rupees from the allottees of Gulistan-e-Sarmast Housing Scheme, HDA, and Kohsar Extension. A large number of allottees have cleared their outstanding dues, but the Sindh government has not yet made any progress in providing essential services like roads, sewage systems, gas, electricity, and water schemes in these areas.

Engineer Qaimkhani emphasized that these residential schemes, including Kohsar Extension and HDA, have been neglected for a long time, causing significant distress among the allottees. He urged the Sindh government to complete these housing projects without further delay so that they could be beneficial for the citizens of Hyderabad.

In response to the attention notice, Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government, Qasim Soomro, assured that the Sindh government understands the problems faced by the allottees of Gulistan-e-Sarmast Housing Scheme, Kohsar Extension, and HDA and that progress on these issues will be seen soon.

Higher education and training of children is our first duty and we consider it our mission

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Principal of Scholar Public School Ishtiaq Ahmed Shahid has said that higher education and training of children is our first duty and we consider it our mission. No country can develop without education. We are providing higher education with limited resources. Our goal is an educated Pakistan for which we are working day and night. He expressed these views while addressing the annual results and prize distribution ceremony yesterday. Madam Mrs. Nasho Jabeen said at the ceremony that we are starting this year with the best computer lab and Quran recitation translation so that along with worldly education, religious education is also given to children so that they can become an educated nation and play their role in the development and progress of the country. Special guests of the ceremony, Jahanzeb Malik, Nadeem Qadri, Nasir Jamal, Muhammad Altaf, Muhammad Majid, Zafar Mughal and Sikandar Ali said that a good and high-quality school providing high education in an area like Liaquatabad is no less than a blessing for this area.

Rising terrorism linked to NATO's leftover weapons: Anwar ul Haq Kakar

ISLAMABAD: Former Caretaker Prime Minister Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar attributed the rise in terrorism to the proliferation of NATO's leftover weapons and gadgets now in the hands of militants, posing serious security threat to the region.

Senator Anwar Kakar expressed these remarks during the launch of Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile 2024 by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) at the Institute of Regional Studies in Islamabad, said a press release.

The event was attended by diplomats, think tank representatives, policy experts, and business leaders. The report provides a detailed analysis of Pakistan's security landscape, with a focus on the evolving strategies of militant groups.

"We cannot afford to leave this region like the Americans left Afghanistan. If it takes a century to fight terrorism, Pakistan will do so. This is not just a battle against militants; it's a fight for regional stability," Kakar emphasized.

Media Talk

RAWALPINDI: Aleema Khan sister of former prime minister Imran Khan talking with media persons outside Adiala Jail after hearing of Imran Khan, in the city.



Photo: Online

Norway plays its role as a mediator to help resolve the lingering Kashmir issue peacefully

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that being a mutual friend of India and Pakistan, Norway should play its role as a mediator to help the two countries resolve the lingering Kashmir issue peacefully. The AJK President made these assertions while talking to former Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik who called on him here today. Norwegian Ambassador to Pakistan Per Albert Ilsaas, former member of the Norwegian Parliament of Pakistani origin Amir Javed Sheikh and others were also present in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Barrister Chaudhry while stressing the need for third party mediation



to resolve the Kashmir conflict, said that Norway, which had played key role in peace process in middle east, can also contribute significantly to bring India and Pakistan on negotiating table and bring about a just and honourable solution to the issue of

Kashmir.

Barrister Chaudhry said that Norway should also play its due role to help stop ongoing human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. Citing Kashmiri's decades' long struggle for right to self determination, the pres-

ident Azad Kashmir said that there was dire need that influential world governments including Norway should play their much needed role to help Kashmiri people to attain their inalienable right, the right to self-determination guaranteed to them by no less an authority than the United Nations. Briefing the delegation about the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that the rights situation in the region had exacerbated since the RSS influenced regime led by Narendra Modi abrogated article 370. Referring to murder of Sikh activist by the agents of RAW in Canada, he said that India has emerged as a state sponsor of terrorism in the world.

PSF Workers Walk to Garhi Khuda Bakhsh for Benazir Bhutto's 17th Anniversary

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: On the occasion of the 17th death anniversary of Pakistan's first female Prime Minister, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, six workers of the People's Students Federation (PSF) from District Jamshoro traveled on foot to attend the anniversary ceremony in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh. In their honor, a dinner was hosted at Dhamrah House Kotri by Pakistan People's Party Sindh spokesperson Senator Aajiz Dhamrah, MPA Hina Dastagir, and young leader Bazil Aajiz Dhamrah.

The grand event was attended by PSF Sindh General Secretary Lala Murad, Roshan Solangi, Fayaz Shah, Mujeeb Abro, Fayaz Jamali, Imtiaz Abro, Rabel

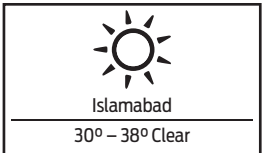


Mallah, Shabbir Baladi, Engineer Sikandar Hayat Khanzada, and a large

number of party workers. Addressing the gathering, Senator

Aajiz Dhamrah reaffirmed Sindh's clear stance on water distribution, emphasizing adherence to the provisions of the IRSA Act, which ensure fair water distribution. He criticized the construction of six canals on the Indus River, warning that this would reduce water supply to over 12 million acres of Sindh's land by 40%, rendering vast areas barren.

He also condemned those staging small-scale protests with a handful of people, attempting to portray themselves as heroes. He warned that if the federal government failed to heed their demands, the PPP would demonstrate what true protest means. He reiterated that the Pakistan People's Party has a firm stance on Sindh's water rights and would never compromise on the province's interests.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5:45 am
Zohr12:16 pm
Asr3:43 pm
Maghrib5:21 pm
Isha6:48 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

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

Chairperson BISP conducts E-Katcheri session to address beneficiaries' concerns

City Desk

KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, held a live e-Katcheri session via BISP's official Facebook account to directly engage with beneficiaries and address their concerns. Over the course of one hour and ten minutes, 32 callers from across the country spoke directly with the Chairperson, sharing their issues and seeking solutions. Senator Rubina Khalid issued immediate directives to BISP officials to resolve the complaints.

Heartwarming Gesture of Honesty from Dera Ismail Khan

A notable moment during the session came when 17-year-old Ayesha, an eighth-grade student from Dera Ismail Khan, called to inform the Chairperson that her family was previously eligible for BISP financial assistance but now their financial situation has improved. She requested that her (Mother) family be removed from the BISP beneficiary list so that another deserving family

could receive the assistance. Senator Rubina Khalid lauded Ayesha's honesty, describing her as an example of integrity. She also promised to visit Ayesha's family to personally acknowledge their noble gesture.

Senator Khalid remarked, "It would greatly benefit our program if more individuals who no longer consider themselves in need would come forward voluntarily to withdraw. This would allow us to extend assistance to other deserving families."

She further advised beneficiaries to refrain from requesting repeated surveys for inclusion in the program before the two-year mark, emphasizing that unnecessary requests could cause unnecessary inconvenience.

The Chairperson highlighted BISP's commitment to promote education through its school enrollment stipend program, ensuring out-of-school children are brought back into the education system. She also clarified that no government employee is eligible for the BISP program under the revised criteria.



Violation

ISLAMABAD: A large number of vehicles are parked along the road side at No-Parking area as authorities now increase the penalty upto 2000 Rupees, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Punjab's Green Tractor Scheme empowers farmers in Nankana Sahib



NANKANA SAHIB, : The Punjab government's Green Tractor Subsidy Scheme is transforming the lives of farmers in District Nankana Sahib.

Under the scheme, 171 lucky farmers from the district were selected through a lottery system, with 121 tractors already distributed among them.

Deputy Commissioner Nankana Sahib Muhammad Taslim Akhtar Rao praised Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for fulfilling her promise to farmers. "The Chief Minister has won our hearts by providing tractors at a low price of 10 lakhs, issuing Kisan Cards and Livestock Cards," he expressed his views while addressing at a ceremony, which was held regarding distribution of keys of tractors among farmers in Nankana Sahib on Monday.

The deputy commissioner said that 171 lucky farmers of Nankana Sahib were successful in the lottery of green tractors scheme. So far, a total of 121 tractors have been distributed among the farmers, a subsidy of one million rupees is being given by the Punjab government on one tractor.

The DC further stated that the Punjab government is taking practical steps to improve the life of the farmers is also the backbone of the country's economy. The chief minister Punjab has won our hearts by providing tractors at a low price of 10 lakhs, issuing Kisan Cards and Livestock Cards, he added.

Farooq Chaudhry meet with Deputy Director Food Authority

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, President Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association, said that only the Islamabad Food Authority should have the authority to issue licenses. Islamabad Food Authority should organize seminars to raise awareness. The association assures full cooperation with the Islamabad Food Authority.

Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, President Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association, said this in a special meeting with Deputy Director Islamabad Food Authority Dr. Tahira Sadeeq. In which a comprehensive discussion was held regarding the Islamabad Food Authority's licenses and the sealing of food points. On this occasion, President Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry said that since the establishment of the Islamabad



Food Authority has been implemented. Therefore, now the authority to issue licenses should be solely with the Islamabad Food Authority. In this regard, the Islamabad Food Authority should organize awareness seminars. When the Islamabad

Food Authority completes the licensing process. So, food points should be regularly checked according to SOPs so that people can get healthy food in strict accordance with hygiene rules.

Al-Waiz Developers launched the another biggest project

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Al-Waiz Developers has launched another biggest project with the name of Al-Waiz Tower at Sector-A, Bahria Town, Lahore. In Al-Waiz Tower there will be one bed and two bed studio apartments that have been kept and starting the booking with 15%. On this occasion Kamran Waiz, Ceo of Al-Waiz Developers, Adil Ahmad Waiz, Director, Amir Shahzad Waiz, Director Marketing and Rehan Tariq, Kashif Bashir, IEEE Vice Chairman, Cricketer Umar Akmal, Actress Nisho Begum, Actors Firdous Jamal and Rashid Mehmood were present. Al-Waiz Developers has already launched a number of projects at Bahria Town Lahore successfully and projects include with the name of Al-Waiz Tower Apartments, and Elegance Tower. The Elegance Tower was born a modern 8-story marvel with basement and ground floors, located in the heart of Bahria Town, Lahore and credit goes to Al-waiz Developers for commitment, innovation, and excellence. Alwaiz Devel-



oper which is the name of Trust 18 years of proven excellence and reliability, innovation, pioneers in high rise development with a focus on sustainability and their

credibility trusted by Bahria Town's leadership and clients alike with excellence and they are delivering world class residential and commercial projects as well.

HABIBMETRO Sponsored the Karachi Eat Food Festival 2025

City Desk

KARACHI: HABIBMETRO brought an unforgettable experience to its customers through an exclusive banking partnership with one of the most anticipated events of the year — the Karachi Eat Food Festival.

At HABIBMETRO, our customers are our top priority, and we are committed to enhancing their banking journey. Through this partnership, we are offering a unique three-day event featuring live food, music and exclusive benefits for both our customers and non-customers. This event will be another outdoor activity for the people of Karachi. With a focus on reaching untapped markets, particularly the younger generation, we are excited to be collaborating with Karachi Eat for the first time ever. This partnership not only strengthens our brand presence but also brings value-added digital banking services to a wider audience, enhancing convenience and accessibility for all." Mr. Khurram Shahzad Khan, President & CEO of HABIBMETRO said.

This partnership underscores HABIBMETRO's ongoing commitment to delivering a world-class experience that extends beyond banking. When customers choose HABIBMETRO, they do not merely choose a bank, they go for a life filled with amazing benefits and opportunities.



CEO Education Aqeela Intkhab Visits Schools

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: After the winter vacation, all the public and private educational institutions of the district reopened today. On this occasion, CEO Education Toba Tek Singh Aqeela Intekhab visited various schools and welcomed the children. She emphasized the importance of education to the students and encouraged them to continue their studies with renewed determination. CEO Education also urged the teachers and staff to pay special attention to the educational and training needs of the children. Children and parents appreciated the steps taken by the government to improve education. Special arrangements for cleanliness and discipline were made in the schools to provide a safe and comfortable learning environment to the students. These measures reflect the commitment of the Punjab Government and the Education Department to improve the future of the students.

NOC Issued New Petrol Pumps

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: District Petrol Pump Committee meeting was held under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Zeeshan Labbah Masih presided over the meeting. Officers of the concerned departments participated in the meeting. In the meeting, 10 applications received regarding the approval of new petrol pumps were reviewed. 2 petrol pumps that meet the merit have been issued immediate NOC. The Additional Deputy Commissioner said that the Government of Punjab has fixed a timeline for issuing NOCs regarding the installation of petrol pumps for the convenience of the business community and to create new employment opportunities and has directed all the departments to issue NOCs. Follow the timeline while issuing any NOC. There should be no undue delay in the issuance of any NOC.

Malala wraps up Pakistan visit on note to advance girls' education

ISLAMABAD:

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai returned home on Monday after wrapping her visit to Pakistan, where she attended the International Conference on Girls' Education in Muslim Communities.

Parliamentary Secretary Farah Naz and Director Home Publicity, Press Information Department Nergis Shazia Chaudhary bid farewell to Malala at the Islamabad International Airport.

As a guest of honour, Malala addressed the concluding session of the conference and emphasized on promoting women's literacy and empowerment.

She highlighted the alarming crisis faced by millions of girls around the world, with 120 million girls currently out of school due to various socio-economic and political factors.

Reflecting on her own journey, Malala, who began her advocacy for education in Pakistan, expressed that the country would always hold a special place in her heart.



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
 pokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Phone: +92 51 2227123,
 WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
 Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390
 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com
 Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.
 pokesmanlahore@gmail.com

California Wildfire: Will Trump Reconsider the Paris Accord?

The American nation consistently demonstrates remarkable resilience and unity in combating natural and man-made disasters. Currently, while Donald Trump advocates reversing global climate change efforts under the Paris Accord and reintroducing coal, gas, and oil as primary energy sources—key contributors to global warming—the state of California is grappling with devastating wildfires. Amidst this crisis, first responders, including firefighters, police, National Guard members, and volunteers, have showcased unparalleled dedication, resilience, and commitment to saving lives, containing fires, and providing relief to victims.

The primary energy source—marked by the rollback of environmental regulations and opposition to renewable energy solutions like wind and solar—poses significant risks for accelerating climate change.

By increasing reliance on coal, oil, and natural gas, such policies would lead to higher greenhouse gas emissions, intensifying global warming and exacerbating extreme weather conditions. This approach undermines efforts to transition to cleaner energy alternatives that could mitigate environmental degradation. The resulting climate impacts, including prolonged droughts, heatwaves, and erratic weather patterns, would create the perfect conditions for more frequent and severe wildfires, similar to those devastating California. These fires not only destroy ecosystems and homes but also release massive amounts of carbon dioxide, creating a feedback loop that further accelerates climate change.

In his latest Press Conference, Mr. Trump mocked wind energy in the most hideous manner. Additionally, he criticized the lifecycle of wind turbines, stating that after 10 years, the structures become obsolete, creating non-biodegradable waste that poses a long-term environmental hazard.

His administration withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accord, arguing that it unfairly burdened the American economy. Key initiatives included repealing the Clean Power Plan, opening federal lands and offshore areas for fossil

fuel extraction, and rolling back methane emission rules. Trump also streamlined permitting processes for energy projects, championed pipelines like Keystone XL and Dakota Access, and reduced funding and incentives for renewable energy programs, prioritizing traditional energy sources over clean alternatives.

Trump's fossil fuel agenda was driven by a focus on economic growth, job creation, and energy independence. He aimed to support blue-collar workers in energy-rich states and rural communities whose livelihoods depended on coal and oil. His policies appealed to key constituencies while emphasizing reduced regulatory oversight to lower costs and accelerate energy projects. Additionally, Trump's skepticism toward climate change and the potential economic impacts of environmental policies reinforced his push for fossil fuel dominance. He framed energy exports as a geopolitical tool, promoting U.S. energy independence as a pillar of national security and global influence.

The United States, long recognized as a global leader in shaping critical decisions on international platforms, appears to be retreating from its leadership role, particularly in addressing one of the most pressing challenges of our time: climate change. Donald Trump's environmental policies reflect a self-centered and short-sighted approach, prioritizing immediate economic gains while ignoring the long-term, devastating consequences for the American people, the United States, and

the global community. These policies not only undermine global climate efforts but also risk encouraging other nations, particularly resource-constrained ones, to follow suit. Such actions could lead to a collective backslide into reliance on fossil fuels, accelerating environmental degradation and exacerbating the severity and frequency of disasters like the ongoing California wildfires.

The implications of these policies are alarming. Increased reliance on fossil fuels contributes to rising global temperatures, which intensify the likelihood of wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, droughts, floods, Glacier melting and other extreme weather events. These disasters wreak havoc on human lives, habitats, and biodiversity, further destabilizing vulnerable ecosystems and exacerbating socio-economic challenges. For instance, the California wildfires are a stark reminder of the destructive potential of climate inaction, costing billions in damages, displacing communities, and devastating natural habitats.

One can only hope that the scale of such disasters will prompt Donald Trump to reconsider his environmental stance and adopt policies that prioritize sustainable development and global cooperation. A renewed commitment to combating climate change could not only restore hope for reversing environmental degradation but also reaffirm the United States' role as a global leader in addressing this existential threat.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia officially sign annual Hajj agreement 2025

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah on Monday officially signed the annual Hajj agreement 2025 between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Under the agreement, 179,210 Pakistani pilgrims will perform Hajj this year. The agreement includes a commitment to provide the best possible facilities for Pakistani pilgrims, who will be offered special accommodation in Mina at reduced rates.

The Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan al-Rabiah assured to provide all possible support for better facilities for Pakistani pilgrims.

Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain will also participate in a four-day international Hajj conference and expo organized by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj in Jeddah, where additional agreements will be made with institutions and companies responsible for providing facilities to pilgrims.

In Addition, to make the Hajj journey more accessible, easier, and comfortable, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has introduced a short Hajj program of 20 to 25 days like the previous year. Pilgrims will have the option to choose their accommodation in Madina for a duration of four to eight days. Each pilgrim will receive a specially designed bag containing the Pakistani flag, a QR code for identification, and relevant information.

A special mobile app will provide all information to the pilgrims on their mobile phones, enabling them to stay updated about their Hajj group's information, training schedule, flight details, accommodations in Saudi Arabia, and live maps and locations of sites during Hajj.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain praised the efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, and Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah in providing excellent facilities for pilgrims.

He said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have historic and fraternal relations, which are founded on a shared faith, history, and culture.

He mentioned that there is further potential to strengthen economic and investment cooperation between the two countries.

This year, he said measures have been taken to provide better facilities for Pakistani pilgrims compared to previous years, and instructions have been given to the Hajj Affairs Office in Jeddah to ensure the best services for the pilgrims.

Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah remarked that a large number of pilgrims come from Pakistan each year, and it is an honor to serve them.

He assured that every possible cooperation would be provided to Pakistani pilgrims, emphasizing the enduring love for Pakistan and the desire to enhance mutual relations.

High-ranking officials from the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, members of the Pakistani delegation, including Secretary of Religious Affairs Zulfiqar Haider and senior officials participated in the meeting.



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

Buddha stupas: a rich historical heritage

Husna Khattak

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where every stone speaks about ancient Gandhara civilization, relics and stupas whisper tales of the Buddhists heritage, attracting tourists and followers of Buddhism.

The visitors, soon after entering the northern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, are amazed to see abundance of archeological sites and ancient stupas reminding them about the lifestyle of Buddha, the founder of Buddhism.

These centuries-old monasteries and stupas had served as a living testament to historical, cultural and religious importance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where leaders and followers of different faiths came for propagation of their religions by establishing dynasties in the subcontinent.

Varying in size and architectural designs, these Buddha stupas offer a fascinating glimpses into the ancient Buddhists past and take tourists to its history with pleasant memories of Pakistan being a land of heritage tourism, said Bakht Muhammad, Assistant Director, Archeology and Museums Department KP.

Highlighting heritage importance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said it was the 26th province of Gandhara civilization in the South Asian region as evident of the Persian inscriptions mentioned by archaeologists and historians Rigveda and Atharvaveda in 2nd Millennium BC.

He said in 7th century BC, three Chinese historians Fahien, Xiuntang and Sanune had exclusively talked about 1,000 stupas found in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where monks and archeologists mostly from east southern countries came for performance of religious obligations.

When Alexander the Great invaded the subcontinent through Khyber Pass, he faced tough resistance while trying to subdue Youafzai tribesmen at Swat and Kunar valleys in 327 BC. Alexander the Great constructed two new cities Wazira (Barikot) and Ora (Odigram) in Swat district in 327BC where stupas were built.

"The White Huns who came from Central Asia in 558 century had inflicted losses to Buddhists stupas and monasteries while the Hindus rulers had destroyed stupas in existing India in different wars," he said.

The archeology expert said the existing Charsadda (Pushkalavati), Peshawar and Hund Swabi were declared the capital cities of Gandhara where Buddha stupas were constructed for propagation of Buddhism.

He said that a large Buddha stupa was also built at Sulthankhel in Khyber district being a gateway of Central Asian Republics via Afghanistan and Indo-Pakistan subcontinent. "I am very impressed to see the large Buddha stupa of Khyber and its preservation by the KP government," said Muhammad Ibrahim, an archeology lover of Peshawar.

"KP is home to Buddhist stupas and we need to highlight it through digital media through short videos to attract foreign investment," he said.

He said these Buddhist stupas draw monks and followers of Buddhism from across the country especially Nepal, Sri Lanka and other countries every year to this part of Pakistan.

Bakht Muhammad disclosed that excavation at Shahgee Kadhari, Peshawar conducted by British archaeologists in 1909 had led to recoveries of bones of Buddha.

"These bones were later gifted to Myanmar while the clay pot where these bones were kept had been preserved at Peshawar Museum being the lone museum of Gandhara art in the world."

Following death of Buddha, he said that five stupas carrying his relics were constructed in existing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Butkara Stupa in Swat built in 2nd century BC was an architectural masterpiece adorned with intricate carvings and motifs reflected the artistry of that ancient time.

"Butkara Stupa stands as a symbol of the region's historical significance and is a must-visit destination for history enthusiasts."

In the serene town of Takht-i-Bahi (Mardan), the ruins of an ancient Buddhist monastery and stupas take visitors on a journey back in time. These struc-

tures, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are remarkably well-preserved by Pakistan, providing a unique opportunity to tourists to explore these architectural wonders and spiritual importance of the region's Buddhist past.

Khushan Stupa, situated near Peshawar, constructed around the 3rd century AD, is a testament to the enduring legacy of Buddhism in the area. The intricate carvings and inscriptions on the stupa narrate stories of the Buddha's life and teachings, offering a window into the spirituality and artistry of ancient Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

As these stupas are historical treasures for many, they are also places of spiritual significance for Buddhists around the world. Pilgrims and tourists alike visit these sites to pay their respects and gain a deeper understanding of Buddhism's roots in the region.

Nawazuddin Khan, Incharge Sub Regional Office Archeology Malakand district told APP that there are a lot of heritage sites in Swat including Bazira, Shigardar Stupa, Ghelegay Buddhist monument, Butkara Stupa 1 and 2, Saidu Stupa and its proper projection through social and digital media can turned KP into a hub of heritage tourism.

Waris Khattak, a tourist of Karak who visited Budha Stupas in Swat said that the KP government should start an awareness campaign and give the opportunity to TikTokers and documentary makers to shoot in these sites.

He said the KP government should end the ticket system and open the sites for all kinds of visitors imperative for promotion of heritage tourism.

Dr Abdul Samad, Director Archeology and Museums KP said that conservation of Buddha Stupa at Sultankel Khyber were almost completed restoring its architectural wonder.

The Archeology Guru said that conservation of stupas at Cheena, Shangal Dagh, Amlok Dara, Abassi Cheena in Swat, Takht Bhai, Jamal Ghari in Mardan, Aziz Dheri and Baja Swabi were also completed, attracting tourists in droves.

He said that small videos of these were prepared for proper protection on digital and social media to attract foreign tourists.

Gurdwara Panja Sahib Hassan Abdal

Standing in the middle of Hassan Abdal, Pakistan the revered Gurdwara Panja Sahib, a place of paramount significance for the Sikh all around the world, reasoning its historical legend of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism. Which traced back to the summer of 1521 CE, when Guru Nanak along with his companion and devotee Bhai Mardana reached Hassan Abdal. As it was a hot day they were sitting under the shade of a tree reciting Kirtan, their divine melodies resonating with their gathered devotees. Amidst this tranquil ambience, a Baba named Shah Wali Qandhari found himself perturbed by their presence.

According to legend, Bhai Mardana approached Shah Wali Qandari 3 times, humbly requesting water to quench his thirst. However, Shah blinded by his ego, responded rudely each time. Undeterred by the saint's arrogance, Bhai Mardana persisted in his request. To this Shah ironically remarked: "Why don't you ask your Master whom you serve?" Mardana went back to the Guru in a miserable state and said, "Oh lord! I prefer death to thirst but will not approach Shah the egoist again." The Guru replied, "Oh Bhai Mardana! Repeat the Name of God, the Almighty and drink the water to your heart's content." The Guru put aside a big stone lying nearby, and a pure fountain of water sprang up and began to flow endlessly. On the other hand, at about the same time, the fountain of Shah dried up.

On watching this, Shah in rage threw a huge rock towards the Guru from the hill top. Guru stopped he hurled rock with his hand leaving his hand print in the rock. Observing the miracle, Shah became his devotee. The sacred imprint stands as a testament to the Guru's compassion, wisdom, and unwavering devotion to the Almighty, which attracts devotees from across the world.

Along with religious significance Gurdwara holds architectural marvels that captivate the eye and tales that transcend time. The Mughal style architecture, attributed to Maharaja Ranjit Singh, adds a regal touch to the Gurdwara's surroundings. The large pool formed by the spring's water with golden fish fluttering, creates a colorful tranquil atmosphere, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in its peaceful aura.

Gurdwara Panja Sahib stands as a living testament to Guru Nana's teachings, offering a place where faith, compassion and unity intertwine. It's captivating legend, marked by a handprint on a boulder, reminds us of the transformative power of humanity and devotion. As you step into the hallowed grounds of this Gurdwara, let the stories and serenity envelops you, and allows yourself to become a part of the rich tapestry of history and spirituality that Gurdwara Panja Sahib embodies.

Munaza Kazmi holds MPhil in Management Sciences. She's a travel writer, a published author, & co-author of scientific contributions.



Analysis

Munaza Kazmi

ECO Calligraphy and Arts Exhibition concluded celebrating regional unity through culture

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The exhibition "Timeless Serenity of Calligraphy and Arts," which showcased the artistic and cultural treasures of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) member states, concluded with a ceremony held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on January 13, 2025. Organized by the ECO Cultural Institute, the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture Division, The Diplomatic Insight, and PNCA, the exhibition celebrated the region's rich cultural diversity, artistic heritage, and the unifying power of art and calligraphy. The concluding ceremony was graced by Hassan Nasir Jami, Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, as the Chief Guest, and Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, as the Guest of Honor. In his address, Hassan Nasir Jami emphasized the transformative role of cultural

diplomacy in strengthening regional harmony and mutual understanding. He praised the exhibition as a reflection of the shared values and artistic brilliance of the ECO member states. "Art and culture provide a universal language that transcends boundaries, fostering connections that are essential for sustainable regional cooperation," he said. Atadjan Movlamov, while addressing the audience, acknowledged the collaborative efforts of the organizers and commended the exhibition for celebrating the diverse yet interconnected cultural identities of the ECO region. He noted that such initiatives contribute significantly to deepening mutual respect and understanding among member states. Dr. Farhat Asif, in her remarks, reflected on the exhibition's journey and its role in promoting dialogue and cultural understanding. She highlighted the participation of visitors who not only admired the artistry but also learnt about the

unique traditions and heritage of the ECO member countries. Dr. Asif emphasized the importance of The Diplomatic Insight and the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies in organizing initiatives that build bridges between nations and advance the goals of cultural diplomacy. The exhibition, which ran from January 7 to 14, featured calligraphic masterpieces by Azeem Iqbal and paintings from ECO member states, including Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan. Visitors had the opportunity to not only admire the art but also deepen their knowledge of the cultural richness of ECO member states through the exhibits and interactive engagements. On the last day of the Exhibition, Azeem Iqbal is hosting a calligraphy workshop on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, from 11 AM to 1 PM, at Gallery #10, PNCA, National Art Gallery, Islamabad. This will offer the attendees to have a hands-on



learning and a deeper appreciation of the art form, enhancing their cultural experience. The event drew wide participation from diplomats, cultural practitioners, and art enthusiasts who praised the exhibition as a platform for fostering unity and celebrating the ECO region's artistic legacy. The sale of calligraphic pieces supported the artist and underscored the importance of preserving traditional art forms.

Japan funded two electricity projects inaugurated in Mandi Bahauddin

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, on Monday, 13th January 2025, inaugurated two projects for installation of electricity facilities in District Mandi Bahauddin, Punjab being managed by Hana Development Council, a non-governmental organization, working to improve health and infrastructure in the region, aim to uplift the quality of life in rural community, especially in Mandi Bahauddin. The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Program, had provided financial assistance of 92,307 USD under two projects. The grant of 42,818 USD was allocated in 2019 for provision of sustainable electricity facility to eight(8) communities, and 49,489 USD granted in 2022 to connect additional seven(7) communities in Mandi Bahauddin. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Japanese Embassy officials, NGO



Board Members and community leaders. It is pertinent to mention here that Hana Development Council has received Japanese grant assistance three times to date, implementing projects in collaboration with the

of people in region, creating new opportunities and stimulate economic growth by ensuring access to modern energy services. His Excellency, Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, while speaking at the inaugural ceremony, congratulated Ms. Hameeda Waheeduddin, a Member of Punjab Assembly, President of the NGO, for successful completion of these important projects. Mr. Akamatsu emphasized the impact of these initiatives that fifteen communities have now access to the sustainable electricity, these projects have brought a real difference to the daily lives of thousands of people. It is not just about installing power lines and electrical grids. It is about empowering communities and improving lives. He also stressed that the Government of Japan would continue to support the people of Pakistan, to improve their living standards and represented his sincere wish that this project would certainly strengthen the existing relations between the people of Japan and Pakistan.

"Foreign Ministry" warns of the dangers of Israeli incitement to transfer genocide and displacement from Gaza

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemns the torrent of official Israeli statements and positions that incite to deepen the violation of the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, whether through calls to consolidate the occupation or expand and fatten the settlements and attract more settlers to them, as the Israeli Minister of Housing said. The Ministry believes that Netanyahu is deliberately preserving his coalition through privileges he provides to his partners in the extreme right at the expense of the West Bank, its land, its citizens, their interests and their rights, and using the cycle of violence as



a political tool to remain in power and prolong the coalition at the expense of achieving calm and a political solution to the conflict in a way that guarantees the security and stability of the region. The Ministry warns the interna-

tional community of the dangers of the occupation escalating its crimes in the West Bank as is happening in Gaza, and calls on all countries and the UN Security Council to curb the Israeli encroachment on our people. The Ministry, while supporting all efforts made to conclude a prisoner and hostage exchange deal and to stop the war of extermination and displacement, calls for real international action and taking the necessary measures in the Security Council to implement the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly that adopted the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice to put an end to the abhorrent and prolonged occupation.

Delegation from Jamiyah Singapore visits IIUI



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from Jamiyah Singapore visited the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) to explore avenues for collaboration and mutual growth. The meeting, chaired by the Rector IIUI, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, and President IIUI, Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, served as a platform for productive dialogue on enhancing academic and cultural ties between the two institutions. It was also attuned by Prof. Dr. Abdul Raheman, Vice President (A&F) IIUI, Director Generals, Deans and senior officials of the university. The delegation members included Prof. Dr. Mohd Hasbi Abu Bakar, President of Jamiyah Singapore, accompanied by his spouse, Mdm. Noraini. Other members included Abdul Malik ABM, Director of International Relations, along with his spouse, Mdm. Noorjehan Isahak. The group also comprised of Mahmud Ahmed, Assistant International Relations; Jufri, Manager of Mass Communication; and Amrull, the photographer. The President of Jamiyah Singapore emphasized shared goals with IIUI and invited its scholars to a Muslim Festival featuring a Seerah exhibition and cultural activities. The IIUI Rector proposed hosting the next festival jointly in Islamabad to enhance collaboration. The Rector IIUI stressed the importance of creating an enabling environment for youth and reiterated IIUI's dedication to working on joint projects. He also highlighted IIUI's strength in theology, where the university ranks among the top 51-100 globally.

"Clean Punjab" campaign has failed miserably in hundreds of residential areas of Attock city

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The "Clean Punjab" campaign has failed miserably in hundreds of residential areas of Attock city. Previously, the TMA (Tehsil Municipal Administration) staff was performing ten times better in keeping the city clean, despite having only 100 workers for the entire city. Results of closed-door meetings have never been fruitful. Under the Clean Punjab campaign, the main roads of Attock are selectively cleaned and shown to officials to satisfy them, while the city's streets remain neglected. The government officials should visit the inner streets of Attock instead. By handing over the contract to Rawalpindi Waste Management Committee, a significant portion of taxpayers' money has been handed to favored individuals. This committee awarded contracts to inexperienced entities under the Clean Punjab initiative, showcasing a failure evident in the condition of Attock. These sentiments were expressed by the residents of People's Colony and other localities, who expressed their deep frustration. They demanded that Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza, the Additional Commissioner, and the Assistant Commissioner take strict notice of the situation. Residents are not in a position to pay monthly fees for this responsibility.

Mach Kacheri: A Spectacular Blend of Music, Culture, and Social Harmony!

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: A memorable Mach Kacheri was held in the open air at Shaikh Farm, Tando Yousuf, hosted by Dr. Lala Jafar Khan, District Health Officer, which proved to be a beautiful combination of music, culture, and social unity. Where Political, Social, and Cultural Leaders Came Together! This colorful evening brought together Hyderabad's prominent political, social figures, doctors, journalists, and young writers, including PPP leader Farheen Moghal, Aajiz Dhamrah, Syed Fayaz Ali Shah, Umair Mola Bux Chandio, PTI Ladies Wing leader Afroz Shoro, Shabana Nawab, Anessa Wali-

ullah, Aqila Jalbani of Qasimabad Business Forum, senior journalist Allah Bux Kumbhar, Bashir Bhatti, Senior Writer Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi, Aftab Zai, and Nasir Shaikh. Dr. Lala Jafar Khan and his team warmly welcomed the guests, while renowned Sindhi artists like Tamir Hussain and Abbas Fakir dazzled the audience with their mesmerizing performances. **The Magic of Music, Energy, and Passion!** When Tamir Hussain presented his timeless ghazal "Mon Jehb Ko Deeyo Jalaayo A", the atmosphere turned into a spiritual experience. Meanwhile, Abbas Faqir's revolutionary song "Natho Jo

Sindh Lai lari, " ignited the passion of the youth, who energetically rushed to the stage and began dancing in exuberance. **A Cultural Feast and Exceptional Hospitality!** At the end of the event, Dr. Lala Jafar Khan presented a traditional and cultural dinner, which was highly appreciated by the guests. The distinguished guests praised the welcoming atmosphere, exemplary discipline, and excellent arrangements, recognizing such cultural activities as the identity of Sindh. The Mach Kacheri was not just an artistic and cultural event but also a magnificent display of unity among the people of Sindh, making it an unforgettable evening!



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
113,247.29	113,247.29
Day's High	Day's Low
114,496.08	113,083.86
Index Value	Change
18,176,606,779	+982.77
Percentage	Time
+0.87%	13 Jan, 2025 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
8,224.19	-24.30
Percentage	Time
-0.29%	13 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
42,099.80	+161.35
Percentage	Time
+0.38%	13 Jan, 12:50 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
39,190.40	-414.69
Percentage	Time
-1.05%	10 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	171.75	174.00
Bahrain Dinar	737.85	745.85
Canadian Dollar	194.10	196.50
China Yuan	37.97	38.37
Danish Krone	38.08	38.48
Euro	285.75	288.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.47	35.82
Indian Rupee	3.19	3.28
Japanese Yen	1.78	1.84
Kuwaiti Dinar	897.25	906.75
Malaysian Ringgit	61.28	61.88
New Zealand \$	152.73	154.73
Norwegians Krone	23.97	24.27
Omani Riyal	722.25	730.75
Qatari Riyal	75.9	76.60
Saudi Riyal	74.05	74.60
Singapore Dollar	204	206.00
Swedish Korona	24.76	25.06
Swiss Franc	303.71	306.51
Thai Bhat	7.93	8.08
U. A. E Dirham	75.70	76.35
UK Pound Sterling	341.50	345
US Dollar	278.95	280.45

Bangladesh, Pakistan joint initiatives stressed to boost bilateral trade

Spokesman Report

DHAKA: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that the Pakistani trade delegation, led by FPCCI, participated in Bangladesh - Pakistan Business Forum in Dhaka; which was organized by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI), on Monday.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between FPCCI and FBCCI in the meeting to form Pakistan - Bangladesh Joint Business Council (JBC) to strengthen, facilitate and enable trade between the two countries.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh added that diverse industries, sectors and verticals like electronics, cars, industrial machinery, carpets, toys, ceramics, sanitary products, handicrafts, fabrics, ready-made garments, leather, home appliances, processed foods, furniture, plastic goods, jute products, cosmetics, sports goods and jewelry, were represented in the business forum.

Mr. Muhammad Hafizur Rahman, Administrator of FBCCI, empha-



size on utilizing the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to strengthen Bangladesh - Pakistan

trade relations. Mr. Muhammad Hafizur Rahman said that there is ample scope for the two countries to work closely in sectors such as energy, education, technology,

human resources development, research and innovation to meet the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh informed that the delegation had a productive meeting with Sheikh Bashiruddin, Advisor / Minister for Commerce, Bangladesh, a day earlier - in which he expressed his government's intent to facilitate Pakistani exporters and Pakistani products. He added that the Bangladesh government has already relaxed visa requirements for Pakistani nationals and Pakistan has also done the same.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, stressed that the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan can achieve substantive milestones for Pakistan through economic diplomacy; which seem to be difficult vis-à-vis political diplomacy. That is how nations and the regions come closer in today's world through forging interdependencies that result in creation of wealth and prosperity for their respective populations.

Mr. Magoon added that the delegation will also visit Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) to explore avenues of mutual cooperation and study international trends in various established and emerging industries.

Renovation

ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in renovation of Melody Food street as the whole Capital is decorating during a joint venture of Pakistan and Azerbaijan "Beatification of Islamabad".



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Cheezious & Mehfilm celebrate independent filmmaking, creativity, and culture

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Cheezious, a leading fast-food chain and proud Pakistani brand, recently hosted an unforgettable event at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), where over 500 attendees gathered to witness "Mehfilm," a unique celebration of short filmmaking.

The event began with a screening of carefully selected short films, followed by a panel discussion with industry leaders like Rehan Sheikh, Muhammad Abdullah, Jawad Sharif, Areeba Naveed, and Huma Jamil. It concluded with live music performances, creating an immersive experience. The evening brought together a diverse

crowd of bureaucrats, journalists, filmmakers, and professionals, emphasizing Mehfilm's role as a key platform for creative dialogue. The event celebrated the talent in Pakistan's filmmaking community, leaving the audience inspired and entertained, while reinforcing Cheezious' commitment to supporting arts and culture.

Head of Marketing Cheezious Zohaib Hassan stated that, "Cheezious is proud to support initiatives that amplify the voices of independent creators and bring people together to celebrate art and culture. Events like these not only inspire but also pave the way for a brighter future in the creative industries."

UNDP joins Unilever Pakistan and SEED Ventures for the 2nd Life waste management initiative

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has partnered with Unilever Pakistan & Seed Ventures for 2nd Life Pakistan 2.0, an effort to bring innovation in waste management in Pakistan.

Building on the success of the first edition, the 2nd Life programme extends beyond plastic to address food waste, e-waste, textiles, paper and more. By supporting innovation and collaboration, 2nd Life Pakistan 2.0 aims to enable Pakistan's leadership in sustainability efforts, creating a platform that connects innovators, entrepreneurs, and industry experts to tackle the country's pressing environmental challenges.

In 2025, the initiative broadens its scope, offering a centralised hub at 2ndlfe.pk for innovators, students, and entrepreneurs to access resources, showcase ideas, and connect with key stakeholders. The platform



facilitates mentorship, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration, fostering scalable solutions to repurpose waste into valuable resources.

Applications are now open for the 2025 programme, designed for entrepreneurs, innovators, and students developing solu-

tions to tackle waste management challenges in Pakistan. Shortlisted teams will participate in a six-week acceleration programme, gaining access to mentors and industry experts who will help refine their solutions and enhance their business models.

SECP and FPCCI Host Awareness Seminar on Corporatization and Digitization in Islamabad

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), in collaboration with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), organized an awareness seminar in Islamabad to promote understanding of benefits of corporatization and the digitization Journey of SECP for the business community.

Officials of SECP, delivered a detailed presentation on the SECP's scope and functions, highlighting the incorporation process and the advantages of corporatization. The seminar provided an opportunity for participants to gain valuable insights into regulatory

processes and the facilitation measures introduced by SECP to support businesses. The event attracted prominent businessmen and entrepreneurs, reflecting the strong interest in SECP's initiatives. During the interactive session, participants raised various practical questions, which were addressed comprehensively.

The General Secretary of FPCCI, along with the participants, commended SECP's ongoing efforts toward digitization, emphasizing the positive impact of these initiatives on ease of doing business. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks, reaffirming SECP's commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment and promoting corporate governance.

EFP, ILO Collaborate to Strengthen Workers' Rights in Cotton Industry

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP), with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO) under the Rise for Impact (Cotton INDITEX Project), organized the fourth awareness-raising session in its series to promote Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in the Cotton Supply Chain in the District of Rahim Yar Khan.

The purpose of the session was to enhance respect for Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) within cotton-growing landlord communities and promote decent working conditions throughout the cotton supply chain.

While providing an overview of the sessions, Syed Nazar Ali, Secretary General of EFP, highlighted the importance of FPRW in ensuring decent work for everyone and pointed out EFP's efforts and achievements in fostering responsible business practices. Mr. Nazar further emphasized that creating decent working conditions is crucial for better cotton production and is a key requirement for maintaining Pakistan's GSP+ status.

Gulfam Nabi, Consultant, gave a detailed presentation on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, covering all five key areas of FPRW. These include the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective



bargaining, ensuring that workers and employers have the right to freely form and join organizations, trade unions, and employers' associations

without fear of retaliation or interference. The elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, which seeks to eradicate any work or service

performed under coercion, threats, or lack of free will, including practices like debt bondage, human trafficking, and slavery.

CCP approves acquisition of 94.8% stake in FINCA Microfinance Bank



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of a 94.8 percent shareholding in FINCA Microfinance Bank Limited by TPL Corp Limited and ABHI (Private) Limited. The bank's current shareholders include FINCA Microfinance Coöperatief U. A., International Finance Corporation (IFC), Triodos Fair Share Fund, and Acumen Pakistan.

Under the Sale and Purchase Agreement, TPL Corp Limited will acquire 33.17%, while ABHI (Private) Limited will acquire 61.61% of the target bank's shares. The CCP, in its competition assessment, focused on the microfinance lending services market in Pakistan. The assessment concluded that the acquisition would not result in a dominant market position for the acquirers.

TPL Corp Limited, a publicly listed investment company, is engaged in strategic investments across various sectors, including insurance, real estate, security, asset tracking, and technology start-ups. ABHI (Private) Limited, a licensed private company, offers investment finance services under Pakistan's non-banking finance company regulations.

FINCA Microfinance Bank Limited is a licensed microfinance bank regulated by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The sellers involved in the transaction—FINCA Microfinance Coöperatief U. A., IFC, Triodos Fair Share Fund, and Acumen Pakistan—are all organizations focused on sustainable investment and development in emerging markets.

Warner, Williamson, Joseph and Mitchell to debut in HBL PSL 2025

Sports Desk

LAHORE: New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell became the first pick of the HBL PSL 2025 player draft as the two-time winners Lahore Qalandars roped him in to bolster their batting order at the Hazori Bagh Lahore Fort, here on Monday afternoon.

Left handed batter David Warner was pounced by 2020 HBL PSL champions Karachi Kings as they made use of the second pick in the first Platinum round. Warner, with his wealth of experience including 12,727 T20 runs in 392 T20 matches, will also be among the list of notable debutants this season.

Peshawar Zalmi used the Right to Match option for Tom Kohler-Cadmore, who was picked by Quetta Gladiators. Kohler-Cadmore has represented Zalmi for the last four HBL PSL seasons. Gladiators then picked up New Zealand's Mark Chapman, who has played 81 T20s in his 10-year-long international career and is a dual international as well.

Michael Bracewell and Matthew Short were the last two picks in the Platinum one round as they were gleamed by Multan Sultans and Islamabad United, respectively. Bracewell, an all-format player for New Zealand has played 149 T20s having scored 2744 runs and taken 66 wickets.

29-year-old Short will add to Islamabad's explosive batting line-up as they look to add a fourth HBL PSL Trophy to their cabinet later this year.

In the Platinum round two, Quetta Gladiators and Karachi Kings had two picks each. Gladiators used their Wild Card pick option to snare all-rounder Faheem Ashraf to their squad.

Aggressive Kiwi opening batter Finn Allen was the other player Quetta picked in this round. Allen, 25, has played 47 T20s for New Zealand and scored 1141 runs with the help of two

centuries and at a strike rate of 158.69. Karachi Kings strengthened their pace arsenal as they went for Adam Milne as their first pick of the Platinum two round and followed it up by using Wild Card on Mohammad Abbas Afridi.

Milne will bring in extra pace to the HBL PSL 2025 along with his experience of 186 T20s in which has bagged 213 wickets at an average of 23.61. On the other hand, Abbas Afridi, who will now ply his trade for the Kings, was the leading wicket taker – 23 wickets, for Multan Sultans in HBL PSL 2023 and also became part of the team of the tournament.

The Diamond round of picks saw Peshawar Zalmi, Islamabad United and Lahore Qalandars bag quality overseas talent in the form of Corbin Bosch, Jason Holder and Kusal Perera. Bosch was picked by Zalmi, Holder by United and Perera by Qalandars.

Peshawar Zalmi topped up their pace stocks by picking Bangladesh's Nahid Rana in the Gold category round one. 22-year-old Rana has impressed one and all with his express pace in his brief international career.

In the same category, Islamabad United picked Aussie left-arm fast bowler Ben Dwarshuis, who has bagged 176 T20 wickets at an average of 22 in 140 games. He will join his fellow countrymen Riley Meredith and Short on the United roster for HBL PSL 2025.

In the Silver category round three Bangladesh leg-spinner Rishad Hossain was picked up by Qalandars. In a first, United States of America's (USA) Andries Gous made it to the HBL PSL 2025 and he will turn up for Islamabad United. Multan Sultans added Irish pacer Josh Little and West Indies' spinner Gudakesh Motie to their side during this round.

In the supplementary round one, Kane Williamson was picked by



Karachi Kings, who will join his New Zealand teammate Milne. He will be one of the notable overseas signings for Kings along with Mohammad Nabi, David Warner and Litton Das.

Johnson Charles, Tom Curran, Kusal Mendis and pacer Alzarri Joseph were bagged by Sultans, Qalandars, Gladiators, and Zalmi, respectively in the supplementary round one. In the round two, Sam Billings was snared by Qalandars who used Right to Match card against defending champions Islamabad United, who later picked up Rassie van der Dussen.

Quetta Gladiators made a strong pick in the Supplementary round two as they bagged Australia's Sean Abbott adding more pace and batting firepower to their line-up. Shai Hope was picked by Sultans while Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi will return to Karachi Kings this year.

Shoaib Malik will feature in his

tenth consecutive HBL PSL edition as he was picked up by Quetta Gladiators in the Supplementary round three. Among the two Emerging rounds of picks, notable selections were, batting prodigy Hasan Nawaz going to Gladiators' roster, while talented Maaz Sadaqat was picked up by Zalmi.

Saad Masood the right-arm leg-spinner, who can bat as well, made headlines in the recent Champions T20 Cup in Rawalpindi, found home in Islamabad United and will be marshalled by Shadab Khan himself. Hunain Shah returns to Islamabad United while Ubaid Shah was picked up by Multan Sultans.

Final Squads:

Islamabad United: Matthew Short, Naseem Shah and Shadab Khan (all Platinum), Imad Wasim (mentor) and Azam Khan, Jason Holder (both Diamond), Ben Dwarshuis, Salman Irshad, Salman Ali Agha (Brand

Ambassador) and Haider Ali (all Gold), Andries Gous, Colin Munro, Muhammad Nawaz and Ruman Raees (all Silver), Hunain Shah, Saad Masood (both Emerging)

Supplementary – Riley Meredith and Rassie van der Dussen

Multan Sultans: Michael Bracewell, Mohammad Rizwan and Usama Mir (all Platinum), David Willey (mentor), Iftikhar Ahmed (Brand Ambassador) and Usman Khan (all Diamond), Chris Jordan, Kamran Ghulam and Mohammad Hasnain (all Gold), Akif Javed, Gudakesh Motie, Josh Little, Faisal Akram and Tayyab Tahir (all Silver), Ubaid Shah and Shahid Aziz (both Emerging)

Supplementary – Johnson Charles, Muhammad Amir Barki, Shai Hope and Yasir Khan

Peshawar Zalmi: Babar Azam, Saim Ayub, Tom Kohler-Cadmore (all Platinum), Corbin Bosch, Mohammad Ali

and Mohammad Haris (all Diamond), Abdul Samad, Hussain Talat and Nahid Rana (all Gold), Arif Yaqoob, Najeebullah Zadrani, Max Bryant, Mehran Mumtaz and Sufyan Moqim (Brand Ambassador) (all silver), Ali Raza and Maaz Sadaqat (both Emerging)

Supplementary – Ahmed Daniyal and Alzarri Joseph

Quetta Gladiators: Faheem Ashraf, Finn Allen and Mark Chapman (Platinum), Abrar Ahmed, Mohammad Amir (mentor) and Rilee Rossouw (all Diamond), Akeal Hosein, Saud Shakeel (Brand Ambassador) and Mohammad Wasim Jnr (all Gold), Haseebullah Khan, Khawaja Muhammad Nafay, Kyle Jamieson, Khuram Shahzad and Usman Tariq (all Silver), Mohammad Zeeshan and Hasan Nawaz (both Emerging)

Supplementary – Danish Aziz, Kusal Mendis, Sean Abbott and Shoaib Malik

Karachi Kings: Adam Milne, David Warner and Mohammad Abbas Afridi (all Platinum), Hasan Ali and James Vince, Khushdil Shah (all Diamond), Aamir Jamal, Muhammad Irfan Khan and Shan Masood (all Gold), Arafat Minhas (Brand Ambassador), Litton Das, Mir Hamza, Tim Seifert and Zahid Mehmood (all Silver), Fawad Ali and Riazullah (Emerging)

Supplementary – Kane Williamson, Mohammad Nabi, Omair Bin Yousuf, Mirza Mamoon

Lahore Qalandars: Daryl Mitchell, Fakhar Zaman and Shaheen Shah Afridi (all Platinum), Haris Rauf (Brand Ambassador), Kusal Perera and Sikandar Raza (all Diamond), Abdullah Shafique, Jahandad Khan and Zaman Khan (all Gold), Asif Afridi, Asif Ali, David Wiese, Muhammad Akhlaq and Rishad Hossain (all Silver), Mohammad Azab and Momin Qamar (both Emerging)

Supplementary – Mohammad Naeem, Sam Billings, Salman Ali Mirza and Tom Curran.

Pakistan vs West Indies Test Match Cricket Series in Multan

Security Arrangements Have Been Completed for the Test Cricket Series Between Pakistan and West Indies

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the instructions of CPO Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar, Multan Police has issued a foolproof security plan for the Test Cricket series between Pakistan and West Indies.

More than 5,000 police officers and personnel will perform their services during the Pakistan vs West Indies Test Cricket Series Matches in Multan During 17 January to 29 January. CPO Multan will personally supervise all the security arrangements, while the police force will be deployed at various locations under the leadership of SSP Operations Kamran Aamir Khan.

Along with the police, officials from Traffic Police, Elite Force, Pakistan Army, Rangers, Special Branch and other law enforcement agencies will be on duty at Multan Cricket Stadium, Multan Airport, routes, parking points and hotels.

Search operations are also underway around the stadium and other important locations to avoid any untoward incident. Modernly trained commandos, lady commandos and teams equipped with modern weapons will patrol around the stadium to deal with emergencies.

Parking has been arranged for cricket fans in Fatima Jinnah Town, from where a special shuttle bus service will take them to the stadium. Fans are required to bring their national identity cards with them.

Firearms, toy guns, explosives,



crackers, cigarettes, matches, lighters, knives and other sharp objects will not be allowed in the stadium. There will be a strict ban on banners, posters or placards with any obscene or hateful content.

In addition, the use of drone cameras is also completely prohibited in the stadium premises. Cricket fans have been appealed to follow the rules and regulations so that this event can be enjoyable and memorable.

SSP Operations Kamran Aamir Khan

gave a special briefing to the police personnel assigned to VVIP security in this regard and inspected the vehicles used for security.

During the briefing, the SSP Operations directed the police personnel to discharge their duties with utmost diligence and professionalism.

He said that the safety of VVIPs and players during the match is the top priority and all personnel should be prepared to deal with any emergency

situation.

SSP Operations Multan inspected the vehicles and checked the security devices and necessary facilities installed in them.

He ensured that all the vehicles were in good condition and their staff were fully proficient in their use.

Moreover, additional police personnel have been deployed around the stadium, and the surveillance system has been made more active through CCTV cameras.

10th Annual Deaf Reach Golf Tournament in Support of Deaf Education

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Deaf Reach proudly hosted its 10th Annual Golf Tournament in support of deaf education at the DHA Country and Golf Club (DACGC) in Karachi on January 12, 2025.

Avid golfers from across the city participated, joining hands in support of the Deaf community in Pakistan. All funds raised will help uplift the lives of deaf students in Deaf Reach's educational institutions across the country, ensuring that they get the chance to learn, regardless of their circumstances.

KFC and Sapphire Group were the key sponsors of the tournament. The event was also supported by Dubai Islamic Bank, Habib Metro Bank, IGI



Life, Jubilee Insurance and Alfalah investments.

CEO KFC Pakistan, Mr Raza Pirbhay said KFC Pakistan is proud to be a long-standing partner of Deaf Reach,

championing education and employment opportunities for the Deaf community. We remain committed to empowering marginalized voices and encourage others to join us in

creating a more inclusive and equitable future.

Winners of the tournament include Mohib Khan, Saad Habib, Hamza Shikoh, Abdullah Ansar, Gen Shahid Abro, Saqib

Ansari, Azadar Hussain and Dr Usman.

Richard Geary, Founder of Deaf Reach program, expressed his gratitude to all the sponsors, players, and supporters, saying, "The success of this event was only possible due to the support of generous people coming together to contribute their time, energy, and efforts in order to make a real difference in the lives of deaf children across the country. A big thank you on behalf of all of us at Deaf Reach!"

Deaf Reach is committed to the empowerment of Deaf children and youth via education and employment. It is the only branch network of schools and training centers in Pakistan, serving both urban and rural deaf students.

15th Iqra University Premier Cricket League, 2025 in Karachi



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The opening ceremony of the 15th Iqra University Premier Cricket League was inaugurated by the Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration, Dr. Zaki Rashdi, who hit the ball to mark the beginning. Dr. Shiraz ul Hassan Mohani, Head of Administration Kamran Kazmi, Director Sports Iqra University Dr. Shiraz ul Hassan Mohani, Furqan Raza, Shah Rukh Khan, President of Sportika Muhammad Osama Khan, Secretary Irtasam Rasool, Ahmed Qureshi, Sufyan Saifdar, Chaudhry Sufyan, Ibad-ur-Rehman, and Media Coordinator Kashif Ahmed Farooqui were also present at the event. The umpiring duties were carried out by Muhammad Rafiq Khan and Zahid Ahmed. Dr. Shiraz ul Hassan Mohani stated that the university not only focuses on education but also encourages children to engage in sports activities. He emphasized that Iqra University's Sports Department remains actively involved in sporting events. In this event, 32 teams from all Iqra University campuses are participating.

Shah Raza, Rana Umer and Ghani hit tons in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Four more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at different venues in Karachi.

The highlights of the days play was thrilling display of batting prowess as Syed Shah Raza, Rana Omer and Ghani Subhan smashed centuries to set the tone for their respective teams.

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

Scores in Brief:

Metropolitan Cricket Club beat Montgomery Gymkhana by 7 Wickets at Abbasi Gymkhana Ground. Montgomery Gymkhana 159 all out in 32.3 overs. Sajjad Rasheed 47 6x4 1x6, Aqib Anwar 46 7x4, M. Moazzam 23, Shayam Ahmed 22. Muaz Bin Salman 3/42, Mehmood Ali 2/18. Hamza Sobail 2/26, Abdul Wahab 2/41. Metropolitan CC 160/3 in 20.1 overs. Hurair Shahid 62 5x4 3x6 not out, Zain Anwar 43, Arbaz Khan 37, Atif Afridi 2/25.

In the 2nd Match Nazimabad Gymkhana Blues beat Eaton Cricket Club by 112 runs at Student Ground. Nazimabad Gymkhana Blues 269/5 in 40 overs. Ghani Subhan 100 10 x4 1x6.

Mehmood Shah 73 3x4 5x6, Abdul Qadir 55 5x4 2x6, Kashif Khan 26. Fahad Anjum 2/61. Eaton CC 157 all out in 23.3 overs. Abdul Basit 63 7x4 4x6. Zafar Ali 3/16, Umer Sultan 2/22, Najeebullah Rehman 2/50. In the 3rd Match Shamil Cricket Club beat Karachi Gymkhana by 7 Wickets at Karachi Gymkhana. Karachi Gymkhana 274/5 in 40 overs. Omair Shaikh 70 5x4 2x6, jam Zain 59.13x4 not out, Umair Usman 58 7x4, Arsalan Malik 47 7x4.

Shamil CC 276/3 in 30.5 overs. Rana Umar 101 10x4 3x6 not out, Salman 77 7x4, Waqas Akbar 50 8x4, Rana Adris 20. Zeeshan Essa 2/37.

In the Fourth Match Landhi Friends beat Super Gymkhana by 57 runs at Pak Star Ground. Landhi Friends 284/4 in 40 overs. Syed Shah Raza 110 12x4 2x6, Zakaullah 86 9x4 1x6, Athirun ul Haq 21. Super Gymkhana 227 all out in 33.2 overs. Irfan Ansari 53 6x4, Irfan Shahbaz 40, Murtlib Shah 30, Mudasar Ali 26, Khurshid 21. Ali Meesum 4/46, Najab Ali 2/54.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding matters related to the Ministry of Housing and Works on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM directs prompt completion of low-cost housing projects

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed completion of ongoing federal government's low-cost housing projects expeditiously, besides asking for collaboration with the private sector to boost investment in the housing projects.

The prime minister also instructed ensuring a third-party validation of construction in the federal government housing projects.

The prime minister chaired a review meeting of the ongoing projects in the Ministry of Housing, Federal Ministers Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Ahsan

Iqbal, Attaullah Tarar and other senior officials attended the meeting, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The ministry of housing informed the prime minister about the progress on the ongoing reforms and policy measures in its various departments.

It was informed that consultations with all the stakeholders for amendments in the National Housing Policy 2001 had been completed and the process for its final approval would be completed by March 2025 as per the prime minister's instruction.

The meeting was further apprised that the system for

allocating houses to the government employees and grant of rents had been digitized, which would help eliminate corruption and bring transparency in the system.

The prime minister was also apprised of the ongoing and future projects under the Pakistan Housing Authority.

The meeting was told that work was progressing rapidly on 630 low-cost residential units in Kuchlak, Quetta and 4,112 residential units in Islamabad.

The prime minister directed for prompt completion of these projects and third-party validation.

It was further informed

that work on 5,728 low-cost residential units in Peshawar would begin soon while work on 5,600 residential units in Rawalpindi and Islamabad would kickstart in the near future.

The prime minister directed seeking of services from the reputable construction companies for all these residential projects.

He said renowned international construction companies should be selected for projects for government employees and the public.

The prime minister said selection process of the construction companies should be conducted through a trans-

parent process and on merit, adding these projects should be completed within the stipulated time frame.

The prime minister was given a detailed briefing on the affairs of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority.

The meeting was briefed on the digitization and reforms of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority, online payments, digital systems for complaint resolution, one-window operations, real-time monitoring, geo-tagging, and other reforms which were being implemented to enhance transparency and efficiency in the system.

President Zardari, PM Shehbaz Sharif appreciates security forces for eliminating terrorists



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari Monday appreciated the security forces for eliminating terrorists during operation in Kacchi, Balochistan.

He lauded the bravery of forces for defeating the nefarious designs of terrorists in Balochistan.

He said the brave armed forces of Pakistan were carrying out operations for complete eradication of terrorism.

The elimination of terrorists during operations was a great success of security forces. He said the nation acknowledged the role of security forces for wiping out terrorists.

He said the nation was determined to completely erase terrorism from

the country.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday appreciated officers and personnel of security forces for their successful operation against terrorists in district Kacchi, Balochistan.

He praised the professional capabilities of officers and personnel of security forces for killing 27 terrorists during operations.

He said the war against terrorism would continue till complete elimination of this menace from the country.

The whole nation stood with its brave armed forces in the war against terrorism, he said adding, "I and the whole nation pay tribute to the security forces for their fight against terrorism without caring for their lives."

NA speaker convenes 'decisive' meeting of govt-PTI negotiators

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday convened the "decisive" third session of the negotiation committees representing the government and the opposition PTI on January 16.

The much-anticipated in-camera session will be held at 11:30am at the Parliament House, during which the former ruling party will likely present its demands in writing to the government.

The development came a day after PTI negotiators met incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan in Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi. The meeting, according to the former ruling party, was arranged in a "controlled envi-



ronment".

Following the meeting with the PTI founder, the former ruling party had announced that they were ready for the third round of talks with the ruling coalition.

The date for the crucial meeting was fixed following a telephonic conversation between PTI leader Asad Qaiser and the NA speaker.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Mr. Jam Kamal, arrives in Baghdad for key talks

Spokesman Report

BAGHDAD: Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce, H. E. Mr. Jam Kamal, arrived in Baghdad today to lead the Pakistani delegation at the 9th Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) session, marking a significant step in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iraq. This session is the first to take place since the previous JMC meeting held in Islamabad in 2001.

Upon his arrival at Baghdad International Airport, Mr. Jam Kamal was warmly received by H. E. Mr. Bangen Rekani, Iraq's Minister for Housing and Construction, Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs; Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmed, Ambassador of Pakistan to Iraq; and officials of Pakistan Embassy to Iraq, who were also present to welcome the distinguished guest.



In a brief meeting held at the airport, the two ministers discussed a range of topics of mutual interest, including enhancing trade ties, boosting economic cooperation, and fostering closer collaboration in key sectors. Both sides expressed optimism about revitalizing bilateral engagements and addressing shared challenges.

The 9th JMC session, scheduled during Mr. Jam Kamal's visit, is expected to open new avenues for economic collaboration and further solidify the longstanding friendship between the two nations. This visit underscores Pakistan's commitment to fostering stronger ties with Iraq in various domains, including trade, infrastructure, and regional development.

The historic nature of the JMC session highlights the mutual determination of both countries to deepen their partnership after a hiatus of over two decades.

1,638 arrests, 458 convictions in human trafficking cases last year: Law Minister

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar informed the National Assembly on Monday that 1,638 arrests were made, and 458 traffickers were convicted in human trafficking cases over the past year.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notice regarding not taking adequate measures against the human trafficking mafia in the country, the minister said that stringent actions are being taken against human trafficking under the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He highlighted that measures were not limited to criminal networks alone but also extended to addressing corruption within the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). "Action has been taken against FIA officials found complicit with traffickers," Tarar said, underscoring the government's zero-tolerance policy toward such practices.

Khalilur Rehman honey trap case; Amna Urooj's bail plea rejected

Bureau Report

Lahore High Court on Monday rejected the bail plea of Amna Urooj, the prime suspect in the kidnapping case of Pakistani drama writer Khalilur Rehman Qamar.

LHC judge also ordered the completion of the trial of case within one month.

Headed by Chief Justice of LHC Aalia Neelum, a two-judge bench also comprising Justice Asjad Javaid Ghural heard the bail plea of accused Amna Urooj. During the hearing, Chief Justice Aliya Neelum remarked that misuse of legal provisions has become a common trend.

Chief Justice questioned accused Amna Urooj's profession to which her lawyer responded that she makes



promotional videos in the property sector and is also associated with showbiz.

Chief Justice observed that only a courageous woman could handle property dealings in such a large city, and asked whether the accused had ever worked in a drama.

The prosecutor argued that Amna Urooj accompanied the kidnappers when they transported the abductee Khalilur Rehman to Nankana Sahab. The prosecutor further informed that a challan had been submitted and the accused had already been indicted in the case.

Pakistan denounces 'increasingly racist, Islamophobic' discourse on Pakistanis in UK



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: FO spokesperson Shafiqat Ali Khan delivered a statement on Monday in response to the growing anti-Pakistani discourse observed in the UK.

"As such, we note with deep concern the increasingly racist and Islamophobic political and media commentary in the UK that is aimed at conflating the reprehensible actions of a few individuals with the entire 1.7 million British Pakistani diaspora."

He added that Pakistan-UK friendship was characterised by warmth, cordiality, robust cooperation and trust. "Nurtured over decades this relationship remains an important priority of Pakistan's foreign policy," Khan said.

He emphasised that the "deep and multifaceted relations" between the two countries cover a wide range of fields, including trade and investment and counter-terrorism.

"The presence of 1.7 million strong

British-Pakistani diaspora provides the strongest link between the two friendly countries," Khan added.

He maintained that British nationals of Pakistani origin have contributed to the United Kingdom's growth and development, with a large number of predominantly Muslim soldiers having served in the British Indian army in both World Wars.

"British Pakistanis today form the backbone of the UK's health, retail and services sectors," Khan continued. "Many British Pakistanis hold high public office, and thousands serve their communities as Members of Parliament, mayors, councillors, and as members of local police and municipal services."

Khan highlighted the contributions of British Pakistanis in sports and arts, noting, "Their cuisine and music enriches British culture."

"To demonise such a large and diverse community on the basis of the actions of a few individuals needs to be condemned," Khan said.