Barkat Rice Mills

Renowned Pakistani singer Jawad Ahmad has been arrested and charged with assaulting a team of Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) employees. The incident occurred after LESCO officials discovered electricity meter tampering at a beauty salon owned by Ahmad's wife.



PIA apologises for Eiffel Tower advert

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Meeting on tracking system

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding transit cargo and tracking system on Friday.

Al-Qadir University Project case

Imran Khan gets 14-year, Bushra 7-year jail

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Accountability Court on Friday awarded 14-year jail term to former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan, and seven-year imprisonment to his wife Bushra Bibi after convicting them in £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case.

Pronouncing the verdict inside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, AC Judge Nasir Javed Rana also slapped a fine of Rs1 million on Imran Khan and half a million rupees on Bushra Bibi. In case of non-payment of fines, the convicts will spend further six and three months in jail respectively.

Soon after the verdict's announcement, Bushra Bibi was taken into custody from inside the courtroom.

The court remarked that Bushra Bibi sided with her husband in his "illegal activities",



to take control of the Al-Qadir University and confiscate its land. As per the court's short order, Imran Khan Khan has been convicted for "corrupt practices" and "misuse of authority", while Bushra has been convicted for "involvement in illegal activities".

directing the federal government

Both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were present inside the courtroom. Also present were Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Shoaib Shaheen, Salman Akram Raja, and other lawyers.

The team of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), led by Prosecutor General Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi, was also mentioned that Bushra's role was present at Adiala iail courtroom. limited to aiding and abetting the

According to the verdict, property of the "sham trust 'Al-Qadir University Project Trust' is hereby forfeited to the Federal Government within the meaning of Section 10(a) of the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999".

"Both the convicts are present before the Court, they be taken into custody in this case and be handed over to the Superintendent Jail along with the Committal Warrant to serve the sentences so awarded," it added.

The court convicted Imran under Section 9(a)(ii)(iv)(vi) of the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999, for corruption and corrupt practices. Meanwhile, Bushra has been convicted under Section 9(a)(xii) of the same ordinance for "aiding, assisting, and abetting" corruption and corrupt

148-page

corruption offences, which is considered a mitigating circumstance in her sentencing.

It further said that the prosecution's case was based on documentary evidence, which was found to be credible and coherent, while the defence had been unable to discredit the prosecution's witnesses or create reasonable doubt in the case.

Both accused had filed applications under Section 265-K of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for acquittal, which were dismissed by the court.

The court concluded that the prosecution had successfully proved its case "beyond any shadow of doubt", and the convictions were upheld.

The verdict was announced amid tight security outside Adiala

Continued on Page 7

Launch of EO-1 Satellite marks momentous milestone in Pakistan's space journey

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Launch of Pakistan's Indigenous Electro-Optical (EO-1) Satellite on 17 Jan 25 marks a momentous milestone in Pakistan's space

The EO-1 satellite offers substantial benefits across various sectors in Pakistan. In agriculture, it will enable precision farming by monitoring crops, assessing irrigation needs, predicting yields, and supporting food security initiatives. For urban development planning, the satellite will assist in tracking infrastructure growth and, managing urban

In environmental monitoring and disaster management, it will provide timely updates on floods, landslides,



earthquakes, deforestation, and land erosion. Additionally, it will support monitoring of minerals, oil and gas fields, glacier recession, and water resources.

This achievement is set to position advanced space technology capabilities at the forefront of national progress and development, aligning with the goals of National Space Policy.

PM felicitates nation, scientists on successful launch of EO-1 satellite



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felicitated the entire nation including the scientists and engineers on successful launch of the country's first indigenous Electro-Optical (EO-1) satellite from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, China.

The prime minister, in a social media post on his X timeline, "Soaring higher and higher! Proud moment for the nation as Pakistan proudly launches its first indigenous Electro-Optical (EO-1) satellite from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, China."

PM Shehbaz underscored that from predicting crop yields to tracking urban growth, EO-1 was a leap forward in the nation's journey towards progress.

Acknowledging the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO)'s efforts, the prime minister said that the successful satellite launch spearheaded by SUPARCO demonstrated the nation's growing capabilities in space science and technology.

"Congratulations to our

Ministers term verdict against Imran, Bushra on merit, as per law

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministers and the ruling Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leaders declared the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case an a "fake" institution with only 300 to 400

Addressing a joint press conference, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar termed Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi's sentence on merits according to the law, reported 24NewsHD TV channel on Friday.

Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar emphasised, "The £190 million case was clear-cut, but the PTI founder still has the right to appeal. The money sent abroad illegally belongs to the public.'

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar stated, "The £190 million scandal is a mega-corruption case, and the sentence was delivered on merit according to the law. The PTI founder failed to present substantial evidence, and the case was fought on political grounds and in the

Attaullah Tarar also criticised the use of religion by the opposition leadership and former premier Imran Khan, saying, "If there was nothing to hide, why was a sealed envelope presented in the cabinet?"

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif sepa-"open-and-shut case," alleging that the rately said, "Al-Qadir is not a university; Al-Qadir University is unchartered and it has no charter and is a bogus institution with only 300-400 students. The £190 million belongs to the Pakistani people, yet its approval was sought from the cabinet in a sealed envelope.

Khawaja Asif also accused the PTI founder of misappropriating funds from Shaukat Khanum Hospital, stating, "Even Farah Gogi fled after taking an unknown amount of money. There were fights among them over the stolen wealth. The PTI founder committed fraud in the name of religion, power, and charity too." This verdict can't be overruled: Pervaiz

Former federal minister and PML-N senior leader Pervaiz Rashid commented, "The PTI founder dug a pit for us, but he fell into it himself. The National Crime Agency (NCA) investigated this crime and identified those responsible. This sentence will remain in force no matter which court they appeal to."

PTI founder vowed to play till the last ball, says Faisal Chaudhry

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, Imran Khan, has vowed to keep fighting, saying he will play till the last ball is bowled as he and his wife, Bushra Bibi, were convicted in the £190m Al-Qadir Trust case.

PTI lawver Faisal Chaudhry quoted Imran Khan as saying that he would play till the last ball is bowled and would emerge victorious. Faisal Chaudhry was talking to the

media after the meeting with Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in Adiala Jail. He said that both Imran Khan and

Bushra Bibi are resolute and unwayering in their commitment, adding that the PTI founder has made it clear that he will not bow to the dictatorship no matter how long he remains in jail. PTI lawyer said that Bushra Bibi, in

particular, is in high spirits and standing firmly by Imran Khan's side. Today, the accountability court Judge Nasir Javed Rana pronounced

the verdict at Adiala Jail where accused

Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were present.

The court also imposed fines of Rs. 1 million and Rs. 500,000 on Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi respectively. Both individuals would have to face additional prison time if they fail to pay the fines.

Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi would have to face additional face six-month and three-month imprisonments in case of non-payment. Bushra Bibi was taken into custody from the courtroom in Rawalpindi.

The accountability court also ordered to take Al-Qadir University into government custody.

Meanwhile, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar has announced to challenge the accountability court verdict.

Talking to newsmen after the verdict, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar said his party will challenge the verdict against Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in the high court in few days.

Gohar said Imran Khan was seen smiling when the verdict was being announced.

Judicial Commission nominates 2 names for IHC, 3 for BHC as **Additional Judges**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission, by majority of Commission of Pakistan has finalized nomination of two names for appointment as Additional Judges for Islamabad High Court and three names for Baluchistan High Court in two separate meetings held at the Supreme Court premises here Friday.

The two meetings of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan, one for considering the nominations for the appointment of Additional Judges in the Islamabad High Court and the second for considering the nominations for the appointment of Additional Judges in the High Court of Balochistan, were held in the Conference Room of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, at Islamabad. In the first meeting, the

its total membership, nominated Muhammad Azam Khan, District and Session Judge and Inaam Ameen Minhas, Advocate Supreme Court, for their appointment as Additional Judges of the Islamabad High Court. In the second meeting, the Commission unanimously nominated Muhammad Asif, Advocate Supreme Court, Muhammad Ayub Khan Advocate Supreme Court and by majority of its total membership, nominated Muhammad Najam-ud-Din Mengal, Advocate Supreme Court, for their appointment

as Additional Judges of the

High Court of Balochistan.

India hell bent on changing demography of occupied Kashmir: Barrister Sultan



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD /ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that India was hell bent on changing demography of occupied Kashmir by settling non state subjects in the state. He said this, while talking to former Prime Minister Kashmir Raja Muhammad Faroog Haider Khan, Minister

Waheed, Minister for Power Development Organization Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, former Ministers Chaudhry Magbool and Sardar Naeem Khan who called on him here today. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that India has crossed all limits savagery in Kashmir where innocent people, particularly youths were being killed in fake encounters.

He said that India has strengthened for Law and Justice, Human Rights its illegal control over the territory by and Parliamentary Affairs Mian Abdul committing atrocities on the Kashmiri

people. He said that the India's relentless repression against Kashmiris has intensified following the abrogation of article 370 by the BJP government in 2019, which led to revocation of the region's special status guaranteed to it under the Indian constitution.

Referring to ruthless slaughter of the Kashmiri people and suppression of political dissent in the region, he said being killed day in and day out while on the other hand entire Hurriyat leader-

ship has been imprisoned under draconian laws

He said that it was high time that the world community should take effective notice of the dire situation in the troubled region and make sincere efforts to resolve this lingering dispute that has been the major cause and consequence of unrest and bloodshed in the territory. During the meeting issues of mutual on the one hand innocent civilians were concern and prevailing political situation in the country came under the

Youm-e-Tashakur

LAHORE: Activists of Jamat-e-Islami holds rally to mark "Youm-e-Tashakur" about the ceasefire of Ghaza and Isreal war.



Sardar Attique welcomed the ceasefire agreement in Gaza

Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan welcomed the ceasefire agreement in Gaza and said that the agreement should be implemented immediately. The indiscriminate use of force by the Israeli forces has caused countless lives and property losses, millions of innocent Palestinians have been displaced, and Israel's expansionist ambitions have destabilized the entire region. He expressed these views while talking to the media persons after offering Fatiha on the death of Hurriyat leader Syed Javed Shah's mother



in Islamabad. Hurriyat leaders Seyad Yousaf Naseem Ex Dy. speaker and Secretary General Muslim Conference Madm Mehr-un-Nisa and others were also present on the occasion.

Talking to media persons Sardar Attique said that Netanyahu had announced to wipe out Hamas and Gaza under American patronage. He has been committing the worst genocide against Palestinians for 15 months, but today a ceasefire agreement has had to be signed with the same Hamas. This is not only a defeat for Israel but also

He said that the tireless efforts of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, America, Egypt and other friendly countries to achieve peace are unforgettable.

All Parties Alliance has announced to hold a Kashmir solidarity rally

👺 Bureau Report

LEEPA VALLEY: The All Parties Alliance has announced to hold a Kashmir solidarity rally against the suppression of the Kashmir freedom movement and threats against Pakistan and Azad Kashmir by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and his Army

This was announced after the decisions taken unanimously in the consultative meeting of leaders of all schools of thought of Wadi Leepa yesterday. The Kashmir solidarity rally will start from Tunnel Chowk at 10:30 am and will end in front of the Main Bazaar Complex Court.

It was decided in the

meeting that instead of march will be held to express forces of Pakistan and the

hoisting the flag of any party, solidarity with the ideology of the flags of Pakistan and stability of Pakistan, the home- interests including the mega

demands of collective public Kashmir will be hoisted and a land of Pakistan and the brave project of tunnel construction,

tive Assembly for Wadi Leepa, promotion of tourism and gratitude for the development projects of the government will also be expressed. Shaukat Javed

additional seats in the Legisla-

members of local bodies, Bashir Alam Awan, Tehsildar Leepa Sharif, Allah Akbar Siddique, Sheikh Azhar Mir, Saif-ur-Rehman Awan, Shaukat Ali Mughal, Rana Mushtaq, Rashid Mir, Abbas Mir, Peyzada Shami, Asad Rehman, Arshad Faraz Alvi, Moazzam Shah, Assistant Education Officer Rafiq Mir and prominent educationist Zahoor Lone Press Club former president Rizwan Awan, journalist Riaz Latif and other leaders attended the meeting.

Lady Health Workers KPK termed the news of their boycott of the polio campaign baseless



跨 Tariq khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Lady Health Workers (LHWs) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have termed the news of their boycott of the polio campaign baseless and a conspiracy to create misunderstandings between them and the government. They have demanded that the government immediately approve their upgradation and fulfill their legitimate demands. Addressing an urgent press conference at Takhbhai Press Club, the provincial president of Shaheen Lady Health Workers Association, Akhtar Bibi, and General Secretary Ishrat Bibi said that the government must immediately approve their charter of demands and provide them with financial security. District Mardan President Nasira Bibi, General Secretary Riffat Bibi, and Vice President Safia Bibi were also

They stated that during the sit-in held in October 2024, the government assured them during negotiations that their demands would be accepted. They added that the government had promised to resolve their issues related to salaries and service structure. They emphasized that their demand is for upgradation and the regularization of their services. They highlighted that the salaries of the staff under the Integrated Health Project have been pending for the last five months, and they demanded that these salaries be regularized. They further stated that their rival group, Lady Health Visitors, were upgraded from Scale 5 to Scale 11 and later promoted to Scale 15. Therefore, they demanded that they too should be upgraded from Scale 5 to Scale 9.

Shahbaz Building Hyderabad: A hub of corruption and mismanagement, government officers absent, public suffering

March Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Shahbaz Building, the second-largest administrative center of Sindh, has now turned into a stronghold of corruption, absenteeism, and mismanagement. The public is facing severe difficulties due to complaints of irregularities and bribery in several government departments, including the Commissioner's Office, DIG Office, Revenue, Irrigation, Agriculture, Livestock, and Forestry.

Government officers, including the Commissioner and DIG, are often absent from their offices in Shehbaz Building, forcing citizens to wait for hours. Many people have to visit for weeks just to get their issues resolved, yet no one listens to them.

Bribery has become rampant in the building. Departments such as Revenue, Agriculture, and Forestry refuse to process any work without bribes, while influential individuals get their matters resolved immediately.

Protests to Demand Safe Return of Journalist Fayyaz Solangi

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and Hyderabad Union of Journalists (HUJ) have strongly condemned the abduction of Fayyaz Solangi, a reporter for Daily Kawish, by armed criminals in Hingorja, district of Khairpur. The journalists' bodies have demanded that the Sindh government take immediate notice and ensure the safe release of the abducted journalist.

In a joint press statement issued today, the central leaders of PFUJ, Lala Rehman Samoon, Khalid Kokar, and President of HUJ Iqbal Malah, General Secretary Jai Prakash Morani, Treasurer Jani Khaskheli, and other officials condemned the abduction and release of a video on social media, where criminals were seen torturing Solangi while demanding a ransom.

The statement highlighted that Fayyaz Solangi, a senior journalist, had gone missing while returning home a few days ago. The video, which surfaced online, showed the journalist being severely beaten by the abductors. The press release emphasized that journalists in Sindh have become increasingly unsafe, and the police have failed to take any measures to ensure their protection, leaving the journalistic community vulnerable.

The statement also announced that a series of protests would be held on January 18 across all districts of Hyderabad Division, including Hyderabad itself, against the abduction of Feiyaz Solangi. The leaders called upon Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon, and IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon to take immediate action to rescue the kidnapped journalist and arrest the criminals involved in the abduction.

Commissioner Multan reviews district performance, orders stringent measures

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division, Aamir Kareem Khan, chaired a performance review meeting for Multan district, emphasizing the implementation of KPIs introduced by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for monitoring administrative performance and public service delivery.

He directed the district administration and departments to adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards inefficiencies and stressed strict enforcement of regulated bread and naan

prices, along with decisive action against hoarders and profiteers. To ensure the success of the Clean Punjab campaign, the Commissioner called for urgent measures, including regular inspections of

educational institutions, hospitals, health centers, and development projects. He ordered strict adherence to the Marriage Act, elimination of stray dogs, replacement of broken sewerage covers, and a ban on plastic use. Missing manhole covers leading to any loss of life is unforgivable," he said, urging swift action against encroachments and illegal

constructions. Revenue officers were instructed to identify permanent

encroachments for immediate removal. He also ordered a crackdown

on unauthorized constructions, emphasizing that no construction without official approval would be tolerated. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali Bukhari provided a detailed briefing during the meeting. The session was attended by Additional Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commis-





Namaz Timings

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

ENGLIIDV

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11 .. G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Wasa Water Tank ..0331-5022125

CECOS University Achieves Remarkable *score of 90.5%* in HEC

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: CECOS University of IT & Emerging Sciences has achieved an extraordinary milestone in the Higher Education Commission's (HEC) Yea Performance Report Card, as per the letter issued by HEC Islamabad on January 13, 2025. The university's Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) has secured an impressive score of 90.5%, a reflection of its dedication to quality assurance and academic excellence.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Naseer Ahmad commended this remarkable achievement, highlighting the university's unwavering commitment to quality assurance, academic excellence, and institutional development. He extended special appreciation to the focal person of the Directorate of QEC and their team for their tireless efforts and dedication in elevating the university's performance.

Dr. Ahmad also congratulated all Deans, Heads of Departments, ORIC, faculty members, administrative sectional heads, and the entire academic and administrative family for their collective efforts and commitment to achieving

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Inaugurates Livestock Expo

Marian Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Addressing the inauguration of the Livestock Expo, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah highlighted the opportunities within the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sectors, where there is immense potential for growth and innovation. The event, organized by the Livestock and Fisheries Department in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities Department, KMC, and the Commissioner, is being held from January 17 to 19, 2025.

The ceremony was attended by Provincial Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Muhammad Ali Malkani (host), Culture Minister Zulfiqar Shah, provincial ministers from Balochistan, MPAs, diplomats, Secretary of Livestock Kazim Jatoi, General Directors of various departments, and other officials. The Chief Minister emphasized the significance of the livestock sector in boosting the province's economy and enhancing food security. He stated that there are vast opportunities for growth in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, urging the private sector to invest in these fields to generate substantial profits and improve the national economy.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to increase exports to strengthen the country's foreign exchange reserves. He emphasized that during the promotion of exports, efforts should also focus on improving food security, which is vital for the country's economic stability. Murad Ali Shah announced plans to improve infrastructure, enhance animal health and production, and introduce modern farming techniques.

He added that his government's vision is to empower rural communities, improve farmers' livelihoods, and promote sustainable development in agriculture and livestock sectors, "Our goal is to create an environmental system where farmers, investors, and businesses work together to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for Sindh," he said.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Muhammad Ali Malkani stated that the Sindh Livestock Expo 2025 aims to bring together industrialists and farmers to exchange ideas on new trends and opportunities in livestock, agriculture, and fisheries sectors. The expo features 2,000 animals, over 1,000 birds, 11 types of cattle, 2 types of camels, 17 types of goats, 4 types of sheep, 5 types of horses, 3 types of snakes, and several other animals, including dogs and goats.



Solidarity

ISLAMABAD: Activists of Jamat-e-Islami hold rally outside National Press Club to mark "Youm-e-Tashakur" about the ceasefire of Gaza and Isreal war.



Three-day international conference PSARCHE concluded

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The threeday international conference titled "Promoting South Asia Regional Cooperation in Higher Education (PSARCHE)", concluded at Islamabad. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kamran, Vice Chancellor, Islamia University of Bahawalpur and MNS University of Engineering and Technology Multan, on third day interacted with various national and international delegates participating in the Higher Education Development in Pakistan Project Forum organized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kamran met with Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Vice Chancellor, National Skills University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Saeed Ahmad Buzdar, Vice Chancellor, Thal



University Bhakkar, and Dr. of Technology, Islamabad (a discussed mutual cooperation Shoab A. Khan, Chancel- renowned researcher and innolor, Sir Syed CASE Institute vator in electrical engineering),

and collaboration for academic

Nearly half of children play age-inappropriate computer games: Kaspersky survey

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: According to a recent survey*, almost half of parents surveyed (47%) believe that their children play games that are inappropriate for their age. Based on the survey, boys are more prone to such behaviour than girls -50% and 43% of children respectively have violated age guidelines when play-

ing games on their computers. The survey entitled "Growing Up Online" was conducted by Toluna research agency at the request of Kaspersky in 2023-2024. The study sample included 10000 online interviews (5000 parent-child pairs, with children aged 3 to 17 years) in 5 countries: Türkiye, South Africa, Egypt,

Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. "Parents often worry that their children spend too much time playing



computer games. Of course, it is important to ensure that the child follows a routine, gets enough sleep, takes a break from the screen, and is physically active, however parents should not blame computer games for everything", comments Seifallah Jedidi, Head of Consumer Channel for the META at Kaspersky.

"Parents should take a proactive position in this area, be interested in the latest products offered by the video game industry, and, of course, understand their children's gaming preferences and pay attention to the age limits marking.

It's worth mentioning that today, there is a wide variety of games on offer, many of which include educational materials, and so we recommend not to prohibit this type of leisure, but rather to seek a compromise."

NESPAK MD Zargham Eshaq Khan's father passes away

跨 City Desk



LAHORE: With profound sadness, NESPAK announces the passing of Mr. Muhammad Eshaq Khan, the esteemed father of Mr. Zargham Eshaq Khan, Managing Director of NESPAK.

Mr. Muhammad Eshaq Khan was a man of great honor and wisdom, leaving behind a legacy cherished by all who knew him. His Namaz-e-Janaza will be offered tomorrow at Dar-ul-Quran Mosque, New Garden Town, following Zuhar prayers.

The NESPAK family extends its deepest condolences to Mr. Zargham Eshaq Khan and his family during this time of great sorrow. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they navigate this profound loss.

May Allah bless the departed soul with eternal peace and grant strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Young Pakistani Readers Shine at 9th Oxford Big Read Competition



Example 2 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Oxford University Press (OUP) is thrilled to announce the winners of the 9th Oxford Big Read (OBR), a prestigious global literary competition aimed at instilling a lifelong passion for reading

Our National Winners had the opportunity to compete globally with students from other OUP branches in Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, and India.

The 2023 competition, which began on December 7, witnessed overwhelming participation from 1,142 students across Pakistan. These young readers represented schools from various regions, demonstrating the widespread enthusiasm for reading in the country. The OBR featured three competitive levels tailored to different age groups: Level I (Grades 1-3), Level II (Grades 4-6), and Level III (Grades 7-9).

Droshum Ali, a Grade 9 student from Aga Khan Higher Secondary School, Kharadar, Karachi, has been named Global Runner-Up in Level

Anabia Imtanan, a Grade 6 student from Winnington School, Khewra, was awarded Global Runner-Up in Level II.

These outstanding achievements showcase the incredible talent of Pakistan's young readers on the international stage.

OUP congratulates all participants for their hard work and dedication. The immense support from schools, teachers, and parents has played an integral role in nurturing these literary stars and helping them achieve

Four-Day Writers and Illustrators Workshop' concludes at NBF

ISLAMABAD: The four-day training workshop titled 'Writers and Illustrators Workshop' concluded at the National Book Foundation (NBF) on Friday. NBF, with the collaboration of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi, and Room to Read, organised the extensive workshop.

The event was attended by writers and illustrators focused on children's literature.

At the closing ceremony, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Raja Rashid Ali, who was the chief

guest, addressed the participants. He emphasised the importance of creating quality children's literature

for their education and moral development.

"Storytelling is a highly effective medium for teaching and engaging children, he highlighted.

He expressed hope that the participants would apply their learnings to create quality work and further enhance their writing abilities. Ali appreciated the collaborators efforts in holding the successful event,

stating that the outcomes would be immensely beneficial. "Literature must connect with practical life, and it is essential to provide platforms for writers to develop their skills and create impactful content for children," he added.

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WHO calls for international support to fund relief aid in Gaza after ceasefire deal

mid reports that Israel's security cabinet has given the green light to a ceasefire deal with Hamas, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) expressed cautious optimism on Friday over the potentially major boost to aid relief in the devastated enclave.

"The target is to get between 500 and 600 trucks in per day over the coming weeks," said Dr Rik Peeperkorn, WHO representative in the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT).

This would represent "a huge increase" from the 40 to 50 lorries reaching Gaza in recent months and be similar to the level of aid reaching Gaza before war erupted on 7 October 2023, drastically reducing relief deliveries.

Speaking from Jerusalem, the WHO medic described the ceasefire announcement as "a sign of hope" but warned that the challenge is massive and daunting, because of chronic and severe shortages of food, fuel and medical supplies.

Plans are in place for deliveries to begin on Sunday, the veteran humanitarian said, adding: "We have ordered temporary prefabricated clinics and hospitals which we will integrate into the existing facilities...integrating existing health facilities as part of that, to expand some needed bed capacity, address urgent health needs and health service delivery."

Humanitarians have repeatedly warned that the crisis in Gaza for civilians has reached catastrophic levels.

More than 46,000 people have been killed, according to the authorities and more 110,000 have been injured – often with life-changing injuries – since the conflict began in October 2023.

Disease is spreading and the risk of famine remains high – needs that it is critical to address, Dr Peeperkorn said, especially when more than 12,000 patients – a third of them children – still await evacuation for specialized care.

But the pace of evacuations has been painfully slow. Of 1,200 requests submitted between November and December 2024, only 29 were approved, a rate of just 2.4 per cent, according to WHO.

The WHO and other agencies have stressed the immediate need to provide food, water and medical supplies, but also fuel and spare parts for hospital generators.

Gaza's healthcare system has been shattered, with only half of its 36 hospitals currently operational. Critical health infrastructure continues to be targeted, according to the UN health agency, which pointed to 664 healthcare attacks since October that have caused deaths among civilians and medical workers, also damaging vital health facilities. Despite the dire conditions, WHO aims to implement an ambitious 60-day emergency health response plan, once a ceasefire kicks in.

This includes scaling up existing health efforts, setting up temporary medical clinics and restoring essential healthcare services. Efforts will also focus on combating malnutrition, bolstering disease surveillance and providing medical supplies to areas that have been difficult to access until now.

Will Gaza change the luck of the region?

ended, and it is time to cease the exchanges about it. Much has been said, whether truth or lies... So, what is your excuse for a word already spoken?

Perhaps Gaza, with all the horrors its people endured, may change the luck of Palestinians and the region. It is imperative to support the afflicted land so we can overcome this stage. Such support acts as a catalyst for a better future, enabling a new phase to begin after the repercussions and developments caused by Gaza and those yet to come.

The Gaza war achieved the unexpected: the collapse of a regional system and the emergence of a different geopolitical reality. Without it, Syria, Lebanon, and the region might have continued under authorities that incite further chaos and wars for another decade.

The longest and harshest wars of conflict with Israel have ended, and it is time to provide humanitarian support and assistance to two million people.

One of Gaza's lessons is that no issue can be left unaddressed, leaving others to handle it. There can be no peace for Israel without peace for its neighbors. Signing a partial peace agreement is insufficient, as it leads to partial wars.

he Gaza war has nearly Even the best and fairest peace agreement cannot succeed without being marketed against the prevailing cultural and media hostility.

The Gaza war may have ended, though some sporadic gunfire and clashes are expected to cease soon.

Gaza can first serve as a gateway to peace among Palestinians themselves, leading to an agreement on a central authority and ending the rift between Gaza and Ramallah that has persisted since 2007. It could be

the entry point to initiating the two-state solution, a project Saudi Arabia pledged to work on, while Israel vowed to prevent. Every peace project begins with rejection and ends with reconciliation and handshakes.

What happened in October 2023 might be similar to the October 1973 War. That victory was limited - Egypt regained 20 kilometers beyond the Suez Canal in the war but, through the Camp David Accords, reclaimed all of Sinai, an area three times the size of Israel itself.

The Gaza war has altered the region,

of Bashar Assad's regime, and ending Iran's dream of expansion and dominance over the eastern Arab world. We now face a new and genuine opportunity for regional peace initiatives and an end to major threats and wars.

All eyes are on Iran, which remains in shock from the significant events it has endured and continues to face. What it built over forty years and acquired through force - land, influence, and

proxies – evaporated last year. Today, Iran finds itself in a stage of reassessment, reflected in candid discussions in its media and likely deeper debates in closed chambers about its next steps. Iran has two paths: the first is to Abdulrahman Al-Rashed adapt to the new reality

by pursuing peace and cooperating with Arab states to support Palestinians in their peace project. Such involvement would bolster the Palestinian cause and help its people achieve their aspirations without the need for bloodshed, destruction, and wasted billions.

The second path is to rebuild its milieliminating much of Hezbollah's power tary capabilities and ignite wars across

and leadership, leading to the downfall the region to regain Syria, Lebanon, and Gaza. This scenario would be costly, and Tehran would struggle to find support from its people, who are already burdened by economic sanctions that President-elect Donald Trump and his incoming administration promise to intensify. The survival of the regime itself could be at risk.

> Given the new situation, we must think realistically. This year has begun on a positive note: Lebanon has a new system, Syria has a different leadership, Hamas is set to become part of a unified Palestinian Authority, and there are signs that Iraq is seeking to rein in militias, if not eliminate them.

> These changes have come at a high cost, as seen in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria over two bloody decades. But will this lead to a harvest based on ending unrest, chaos, and occupation while achieving regional consensus?

> Before the Gaza war, such a scenario seemed impossible. Today, it is not

> Abdulrahman Al-Rashed is a Saudi journalist and intellectual. He is the former general manager of Al-Arabiya news channel and former editor-in $chief of Asharq Al ext{-}Awsat, where this$ article was originally published. X: @



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

Beggary: Desperate pleas for alms agitate city's residents

Fakhar-e-Alam

s the dawn of the New Year 2025 emerged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a troubling sight in the form of an influx of beggars resurfaced in Peshawar with begging bowls everywhere.

The streets, bazaars, and public spaces in most parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially in Peshawar are once again dominated by professional and nonprofessional beggars, who are gripping the attention of passers by with outstretched hands and

desperate pleas for alms and charity. The beggars ranging from elderly and sick to young children, swarmed around the busiest areas in hopes of securing a living by exploiting the goodwill of the

city's residents. In Peshawar, the most well-known areas including Qissa Khwani Bazaar, Hashtnagri, Gantagar, Firdus, Nothia, Tehkal, Gulbahar, Faqirabad, Karimpura, Saddar, and beyond — beggars are a common sight. positioned strategically near shopping malls, mosques, road signals, bus terminals, and traffic intersections.

These key points are often teeming with people, making them ideal spots for beggars to appeal to the generosity of the city's shoppers, travellers, and commuters.

With each passing day, the number of beggars, including families with children and elderly people suffering from debilitating conditions, appears to grow in KP due to unemployment, poverty, and social marginalization.

"I started begging after the death of my father Shamas Khan, who died due to lung cancer," said Mustafa Khan, a professional

beggar at Hashtnagri bazaar.

borrowed by my mother for treatment of my father who left me at a very young age," Mustafa told APP with sobbing eyes.

He said the unchecked beggars in Peshawar had made it difficult for people to complete shopping for their children ahead of the end of winter vacations. He urged the government to take instant action against beggars in the city so that people could do their shopping easily.

Asif Yousafzai, Advocate Supreme Court said that beggary has been declared illegal under West Pakistan Loitering Ordinance 1958, adding that unfortunately this law had not been fully implemented in KP, resulting in a substantial increase in the number of beggars, especially children and women at Peshawar.

"In Pakistan, begging is unlawful under the said Ordinance 1958, under which beggars or parents of children begging can be jailed for up to three years," he said, adding the central and provincial laws such as Control of Narcotics Substance Act 1997, West Pakistan Vagrancy Ordinance 1959, Pakistan Employment of Children Act 1991, KP Child Protection and Welfare Act (KPCPWA) 2010 and KP Orphanage Supervision and Control Act 1976 had been promulgated to check drug addiction and streets begging but the dream of begging

free KP was yet to be materialized. Similarly, Asif Yousafzai said that KPCPWA was enacted in 2010 to protect the rights of women and children, but it has not been fully implemented fully, resulting in an increase in the number of beggars.

The senior lawyer said the role of the Child Welfare Commission (CWC) was very important to protect child beggars, urging the KP Government to impose a ban on child beggars on the pattern of Sindh province and direct the social welfare department to pick child beggars from "I was left with no other option but to markets, roads, traffic signals, streets and start begging to repay the huge amount rehabilitate them at their welfare centers.

Habib Afridi, Director Social Welfare Department said that begging was a social problem mostly caused by poverty, unemployment, drug addiction, and social marginalization. He said that an anti-beggary campaign has been started for rehabilitation of beggars, and special children and the empowerment of poor women in the province.

Syed Qasim Ali Shah, KP minister for social welfare said the government was taking steps to eliminate the scourge of begging from society and make beggars a productive part of the community. He said that about Rs. 320 million are allocated for the rehabilitation of 2,000 beggars and drug addicts under Phase III of the Drugs and Beggars Free Peshawar initiative. He said the government has launched special projects to integrate beggars into society as productive members and mentioned that an agreement has been signed with TEVTA to help achieve this key objective.

He said the needy children involved in beggary would be sent to Zamung Kor (own house), adding the action plan against beggary is estimated to cost Rs. 23 million per year. The minister said that authorities were directed to propose necessary amendments in the legal framework to tighten punishments against profes-

The minister said it has been decided to establish a special task force to ensure speedy implementation of an action plan against beggary and drug addiction in the provincial capital and private sector institutions/organizations with expertise in the relevant field were being engaged for speedy rehabilitation of child beggars and drug addicts. He said the KP government has planned to arrange technical and vocational courses for beggars on the pattern of rehabilitated drug addicts to make them useful citizens of society.

HEC-IPFP Program Sets New Standards for Professional Growth

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

he pursuit of academic success is often intertwined with the quest for professional growth. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan's Indigenous PhD Fellowship Program (IPFP) stands a beacon of excellence. In this regard HEC sets new standards for nurturing the next gener ation of scholars. Through its rigorous selection process, comprehensive support on research fellows, the HEC-IPFP program becomes a cornerstone for academic blaze a trail to success in their respective

HEC-IPFP program is designed to provide exceptional scholars with the opportunity to purse professional career in Pakistan's leading universities while receiving financial support and mentorship. The program's selection process is highly competitive, ensuring most promising candidates chosen in this transformative journey. A demonstrated passion for research and a commitment to academic excellence. the HEC-IPFP program sets a high bar for prospective fellows pushing them to strive for greatness in their academic pursuits.

The fellowship program cultivates a culture of respect, professional efficiency and academic rigor that pushing fellows make a meaningful contribution to their fields. HEC-IPFP program equips its fellows with the skills and competencies needed to succeed as academics in a competitive global academic landscape. IPFP program stands as a shining example of how a well- designed fellowship program can set new standards for professional growth and academic success. Offering a supportive environment, rigorous selection process program empowers scholars to reach their full potential and make a lasting impact in their fields. As more scholars benefit from the transformative experience of the HEC-IPFP program, the future of academia in Pakistan looks brighter than ever.

HEC-IPFP program exemplifies the transformative potential of a well-structured fellowship initiative, setting new benchmarks for professional development and academic achievement this holistic approach not only enhances individual capabilities but also fosters

a collaborative learning atmosphere that benefits all members. Moreover, IPFP programs commitment to diversity and inclusion enriches the academic landscape. They attract individuals from varied backgrounds and disciplines, it encourages innovative thinking and diverse perspectives. This multifaceted engagement stimulates critical dialogue among fellows, ultimately leading to groundbreaking ideas

that can influence their respective fields significantly. HEC-IPFP program serves as a paradigm of excellence in fellowship design. Its comprehensive framework not only nurtures personal and professional development but also elevates collective academic standards, making it an invaluable model for future initiatives aiming at fostering talent in academia. HEC emphasizes practical engagement and realworld applications. This distinctive approach not only equips participants with essential skills but also fosters a deeper understanding of the complexities inherent in public policy and governance.

HEC integrates a diverse cohort of professionals, thereby enriching the learning experience through varied perspectives. In contrast, many standard fellowship programs often attract homogenous groups that limit the scope of discourse and innovation. The collaborative environment fostered by HEC-IPFP encourages critical thinking and creativity among its fellows, enhancing their capacity to address multifac-

eted challenges in their respective fields. HEC encourages dynamic exchanges of ideas among diverse cohorts. Such interactions not only stimulate intellectual growth but also inspire creative problem-solving approaches. Fellows learn to appreciate different perspectives, empowering them to devise comprehensive strategies that address realworld problems effectively. In an era marked by rapid change and uncertainty, the capacity to think critically and creatively is paramount. The HEC-IPFP not only prepares its fellows for immediate challenges but also instills a lifelong commitment to intellectual curiosity for future leaders in any discipline.

 $Dr.\,Muhammad\,Shahzad\,Ashfaq, Post-Doctorate$ (Peace Education), International Islamic University, Islamabad. He can be reached at drmsashfaq@ gmail.com

the Spokesman 5

Pakistan Navy hands over Command of **Combined Task Force** 150 to Royal New **Zealand Navy**

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy has successfully relinquished command CTF 150 conducted numerous mariof Combined Task Force (CTF) 150. Commodore Asim Sohail Malik of Pakistan Navy formally handed over 150, ships of Pakistan Navy and Pakicommand to Commodore Rodger stan Maritime Security Agency inde-Ward of Royal New Zealand Navy in pendently interdicted three narcotthe presence of Vice Admiral George ics-laden dhows. Collectively, Pakistan Wikoff, Commander of Combined Navy and CMF intercepted approxi-Maritime Forces (CMF), during a mately 10 tonnes of narcotics, with a change of command ceremony held street value exceeding 50 million US

at Naval Support Activity, Bahrain. During Pakistan Navy's tenure

from July 2024 to January 2025, time security operations. In addition to its active participation in CTF

dollars over the last six months. Under Pakistan Navy's leadership, CTF 150 also actively fostered regional collaboration, securing the participation of ships from Kenya Navy and Royal Navy of Oman in CTF 150 operations.

To further strengthen CMF's objectives, Commodore Asim Sohail Malik engaged with key civil and military leaders of Mauritius, Kenya, and Sri Lanka. He emphasized collaboration, information sharing, and the exchange of best practices to address shared



Reflecting on his tenure as Commander CTF 150, Commodore Asim Sohail Malik shared his thoughts on the invaluable experiences, opportunities, and lasting memories of working with colleagues from around Navy's unwavering commitment to time security.

collaborative maritime security in line with Pakistan's foreign policy and the vision of Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Chief of the Naval Staff of Pakistan. He further stated that Pakistan Navy takes pride in its active participation within CMF, underscoring its steadfast the globe. He highlighted Pakistan dedication to contributing to mari-

The incoming Commander CTF 150, Commodore Rodger Ward, expressed his gratitude to Pakistan Navy for its exemplary leadership and operational successes during its

CTF 150 is one of five task forces under CMF, the world's largest naval



Azerbaijan Ambassador visits NUML to Commemorate Black January

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, visited the National University of Modern Languages today as the Chief Guest at an event organized by the Azerbaijan Language and Culture Center. The event was held in solemn remembrance of the tragic events of January 20, 1990, known as Black January, to honour the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Azerbaijan's independence.

During his visit, Ambassador Khazar Farhadov met with the Honorable Rector NUML, Mai Gen (R) Shahid Mehmood Kayani HI(M). Director General NUML, Brig Shahzad Munir, Dean Faculty of Languages, and other senior officials were also present during the meeting. The Rector warmly welcomed the Ambassador, highlighting the strong and historic broth- Pakistan's unwavering support further enhancing collaborational bonds shared by the two the people of Azerbaijan over Students, faculty, and dignitaries and academic collaborations.



tion in education, particularly through exchanges between the universities of the two nations.

The Ambassador appreciated Azerbaijan, Both dignitaries, and international issues and

interest in initiating joint academic projects and cultural exchanges to strengthen mutual extended heartfelt condo-

countries. The Rector expressed the recent tragic airline crash, praying for the departed souls

and their families. Following the meeting, the ized by the Azerbaijan Language

paid homage to the martyrs of Black January through poetry, speeches, and heartfelt tributes. The Dean of the Faculty of Languages, the Head of the Turkish Language Department, and the Head of the Azerbaijan Department highlighted the significance of the sacrifices made during the fateful events of January 1990.

In his address, Ambassador Farhadov expressed gratitude to NUML for keeping the spirit of Azerbaijan's history alive and underscored the resilience and patriotism of those who laid down their lives for Azerbaijan's sovereignty. He lauded the role of the Azerbaijan Language and Culture Center at NUML in fostering a deeper understanding of Azerbaijan's culture and history among Pakistani

students. The event concluded with the resolve to strengthen the existing understanding and cooperation. Ambassador participated in the partnership between Pakistan erly ties between Pakistan and for Azerbaijan on regional On this occasion, the Rector commemorative event organ- and Azerbaijan, not just at the governmental level but through emphasized the importance of praised the cultural and educa- lences to the Ambassador and and Culture Center at NUML. people-to-people connections

South Waziristan Lower intensifies efforts to eradicate polio

👺 A-K Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: A high-level meeting was convened in Lower South Waziristan (SWL) district to discuss strategies for the upcoming polio campaign, scheduled to commence on February 3. The meeting, presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower finance and planning (F&P) Kashmir Khan, brought together key stakeholders, including health officials, welfare associations, and journalists.

ADC Khan emphasized the importance of making the polio campaign effective, citing the neighboring areas of Tank District, Dera Ismail Khan, and parts of Balochistan province, which have reported 18 polio cases. He stressed the need for a faster and more effective awareness campaign to ensure the success of the polio campaign.



for the campaign includes involving people from different schools of thought to ensure that every child under the age of five receives the polio vaccine. Jour-

ADC Kashmir Khan said the strategy nalists have also been requested to utilize their social media platforms to spread polio campaign and to inform the public about the upcoming vaccination drive.

The meeting provided a platform for stakeholders to present their suggestions and ideas for making the polio campaign effective. The Additional Deputy Commissioner appreciated the feedback and emphasized the need for collective efforts to raise public awareness

and ensure the success of the campaign. According to recent data, Pakistan reported 63 polio cases in 2024, with the majority coming from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The country has been working to eradicate polio, with efforts including nationwide vaccination campaigns and targeted interventions in high-risk areas.

The meeting marked an important step towards a brighter and more secure future for the children of Lower South Waziristan district. With collective efforts awareness about the importance of the and a robust strategy, the region aims to make significant progress in the fight against polio.

ISSI holds event on latest developments in Syria

👺 City Desk

fall of the Al-Assad regime, regionsituation, and Pakistan's current the importance for the researchers

and future outlook on the issue.

In his welcome remarks, ISLAMABAD: The Centre for DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Afghanistan Middle East and Mahmood highlighted the rapid Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of advances made by the opposition Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) forces, and their quick acceptance organised an In-House Meeting by a number of regional and interon the "Latest Developments in national players. He also noted the Syria". Leading academics and impact of these changes on the prominent practitioners joined the engagement of regional coundiscussion, which focused on the tries with Syria - particularly recent developments leading to the Iran, Turkiye, Russia and Israel as well as the U.S. Given Syria's al implications of the emerging strategic salience, he underlined



and academia in Pakistan to keep a close track of these developments and generate inputs for the policy community.

During the discussion, experts analyzed the evolving situation, highlighting the challenges and opportunities faced by Syria, the regional players, and the international community after the recent transition. They examined

and security dynamics shaping Syria's future and their implications for the broader region. A detailed discussion focused on how global power competition is likely to unfold, highlighting the strategic roles of the U.S., China, Russia, and Europe. Experts explored how these powers are positioning themselves in Syria

the complex political, economic, and the Middle East at large and assessed the responses of regional countries to shifting alliances and emerging challenges.

The discussion concluded with the shared understanding that Pakistan should closely monitor these developments, actively engage with key players, and remain involved to safeguard its

British High Commissioner to Pakistan visits NUST



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Ms Jane Marriott, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, paid a visit to the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST). Rector NUST Dr Muhammad Zahid Latif greeted the honourable dignitary upon arrival at the NUST main office. During the meeting, the two sides expressed their commitment to strengthening collaboration between NUST and the leading higher education and research institutions across UK. They particularly examined potential partnerships to enhance knowledge-sharing and drive impactful advancements in various fields.

Earlier, the High Commissioner, along with other members of the delegation, visited the National Science & Technology Park (NSTP) at NUST, and interacted with several startups, including LearnObots, Orbit-Ed and Vyro. She expressed her admiration for the innovation-driven startups making meaningful contributions to sectors such as edu tech, smart tech, energy tech, etc. Later, the delegates visited NUST School of Interdisciplinary Engineering & Sciences (SINES), which houses 10 international laboratories. They also visited the Centre for Emerging Technologies (CEMTECH) at NUST, wherein the briefing highlighted the center's leading work in AI, Chip Design etc. Overall, the visit provided delegates with an opportunity to learn about the university's cutting-edge research capabilities and its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration across various scientific fields.

Sarfraz Malik's meeting with DPO Jhelum Tariq Aziz; Welcome on his new appointment

Example 2 Correspondent

JHELUM: Sarfraz Malik, CEO of the British Council's Gold Partner organization, SLS College, met with the newly appointed DPO Jhelum, Tariq Aziz Sindhu, at his office and extended a warm welcome. Sarfraz Malik commended the DPO's efforts towards public service and assured future cooperation from public sectors and educational institutions.

The residents of Jhelum have welcomed DPO Tariq Aziz Sindhu's transfer. Upon assuming his office, he quickly initiated effective measures to improve the performance of the police department. He visited various police stations and departments to review their operations thoroughly. To ensure the quick resolution of public issues with transparency, he also initiated a system to listen to citizens' concerns in his office.

Under the DPO's directives, a strong emphasis is being placed on addressing the complaints of the poor and underprivileged on a priority basis. Citizens are hopeful that with his leadership, there will be a noticeable decrease in crime rates in Jhelum, and the rule of law will be strengthened.

Sarfraz Malik's meeting with the DPO has been viewed positively by both the public and academic circles, and it is expected to foster enhanced cooperation between the police and the community in the future.

Pakistan urges end to fighting in Ŭkraine as 3rd anniversary of war approaches

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called for an early end to the hostilities in Ukraine, after a top United Nations official told the Security Council that the fighting was escalating — as the third anniversary of the Russian military intervention in that Eastern European country approaches.

We are holding this meeting at a critical juncture," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the 15-member Council on Thursday.

Next month, he said, would mark three years since the outbreak of hostilities in Ukraine, with the situation continuing to be a cause for "grave concern", in particular the disproportionate toll that this

conflict has had on the lives of civilians. $\hbox{``Equally disturbing and deplorable is the considerable material'}\\$ damage and loss of civilian infrastructure," Ambassador Jadoon

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

'`` Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
115,272.08	113,836.74			
Day's High	Day's Low			
115,356.12	113,571.95			
Index Value	Change			
23,122,855,680	+1435.34			
Percentage	Time			
+1.26%	17 Jan, 2025 5:00 pm			
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
8,505.22	+113.32			
Percentage	Time			
+1.35%	17 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT			
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
43,584.23	+431.10			
Percentage	Time			

	GIVI 1-3			
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average				
Index Value	Change			
38,451.46	-121.14			
Percentage	Time			
-0.31%	17 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9			

+1.00%

17 Jan, 12:08 pm

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	174.25	176.00
Bahrain Dinar	739.10	747.10
Canadian Dollar	194.60	197.00
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	37.97	38.37
Euro	288.00	290.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35.41	35.76
Indian Rupee	3.13	3.22
Japanese Yen	1.78	1.84
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.30	905.80
Malaysian Ringgit	61.29	61.89
NewZealand \$	154.23	156.23
Norwegians Krone	24.25	24.55
Omani Riyal	723.40	731.90
Qatari Riyal	75.9	76.60
Saudi Riyal	74.20	74.75
Singapore Dollar	204.5	206.50
Swedish Korona	24.64	24.94
Swiss Franc	303.71	306.51
Thai Bhat	7.86	8.01
U.A.E Dirham	75.85	76.50
UK Pound Sterling	342.00	345.5
US Dollar	279.60	281.10

ICCI President highlights private sector's potential for export-led growth

E Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has highlighted the critical role of the private sector in Pakistan's economic development. He emphasized that the private sector role in reducing unemployment and poverty cannot be ignored. Furthermore, it fosters innovation and entrepreneurship by supporting start-ups and small businesses, thereby driving the creation of new industries and opportunities.

In a statement issued here on Friday, President Qureshi also noted the potential of the private sector in promoting export-led growth, particularly in industries like textiles, pharmaceuticals, mines and minerals, food processing, and IT to boost the foreign exchange earnings. He stressed the importance of public-private partnerships in delivering public services and infrastructure projects, benefiting from the combined strengths of both

Finance Minister chairs meeting of Cabinet Committee on **State-Owned Enterprises**

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) at the Finance Division today

The meeting was attended by Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Minister for Maritime Affairs; Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Housing & Works; Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Economic Affairs; Federal Secretaries: and senior officers from relevant ministries and

The Committee deliberated on the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of Karachi Tools, Dies, and Mould Centre (KTDMC) under the Ministry of Industries and Production. The CCoSOEs approved the appointment of five principal candi-



dates from the private sector, along with ex-officio directors, for a term of three years. Mr. Abdur Razaaq Gauhar was appointed as the Chairman of the Board. This reconstitution aims to improve corporate governance and ensure effective decision-making for the entity.

The reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the Technology Upgradation and Skills Development Company (TUSDEC) was also approved. The Committee appointed six principal candidates from the private sector, along with ex-officio directors, for a term of three years. Mr. Muhammad Noor ud Din Daud was selected as the Chairman of the Board. This reconstitution aligns with the SOEs Ownership and Management Policy, 2023, focusing on enhancing operational efficiency and aligning the company's goals with national priorities.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Ranan Tanveer Hussain meets Iranian Ambassador to strengthen ag-



Telenor Pakistan and TAAP launch travel SIM for international travelers

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan has signed an MoU with the Travel Agents Association of Pakistan (TAAP), the country's foremost body for travel and tour operators, to redefine how travelers experience connectivity outside of Pakistan. This strategic collaboration empowers travel agents to offer Telenor's cutting-edge Travel SIM solutions as part of their travel packages, ensuring a seamless communication experience for travelers going outside Pakistan, while using Telenor's roaming services.

Mr. Naeem Sharif, Chairman of TAAP, expressed enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "This collaboration with Telenor Pakistan marks a new chapter for TAAP as we enhance the value we offer to our clients. By integrating Telenor's Travel SIM into our tour packages,



tional travelers with worldclass connectivity solutions that ensure convenience, reliability, and a worry-free experience. Whether it's a spiritual pilgrimage or an adven- said, "At Telenor Pakistan, we

we aim to provide interna- ensures travelers stay connected

Speaking on behalf of Telenor Pakistan, Mr. Wagas Amanullah, Senior Vice President Sales and Customer Care, turous holiday, this partnership understand the importance of

staying connected while traveling. This collaboration allows us to deliver tailored connectivity solutions that offer exceptional value, ensuring that every traveler can enjoy uninterrupted service, whether for business or leisure."

Dawlance Partners with NED University for CLIMATECH-2025

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The NED University of Engineering and Technology organized 2nd International Conference on Technology Driven Climate Action -2025 (CLIMATECH -2025), on January 16 and 17, 2025. This two-day conference was organized in partnership with Dawlance and REON energy.

During his talk the Chief Guest, Turkish Council General, Mr. Cemal Sangu, emphasized on strengthening collaborative efforts to address the issue of Climate Change. Pro Vice Chancellor, NED University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tufail mentioned that NED University is playing its part by actively promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a keen focus on clean energy, sustainable cities, and climate action.

Chief Marketing of Dawlance, Syed Hasan ecosystems, economies, and Jameel, expressed, "At societies.

Dawlance, we are proud to partner with NED University for CLIMATECH-2025, as we believe that innovation and sustainability go hand in hand. Through initiatives like this, we aim to drive meaningful change and contribute to the global effort in combating climate change. Our commitment to sustainable practices reflects our dedication to a greener and more resilient future."

Conference Chair, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Aslam mentioned that CLIMATECH 2025 is an initiative that aims to bring together experts, policymakers, stakeholders, researchers, and students to address the climate issues. Conference Co-Chair, Dr. Irfan Ahmed expressed that CLIMATECH-2025 comes at a critical juncture as we face the increasingly urgent challenge of climate change, which poses significant risks to our

SECP deliberates development of capital market with key stakeholders

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The top management of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), led by the Chairman, Mr. Akif Saeed, met with the Chairpersons and senior representatives of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited (NCCPL) and Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) to discuss three-year strategic plans of the respective institutions for development of the capital market.

During the meeting with PSX, the senior management of the Exchange presented its strategic plan, focused

on targets relating to effective governance, operational excellence, and market development. The need to develop new products, increase stock market investor base, and attract new IPOs was particularly emphasized by SECP Chairman.

The SECP Chairman, accompanied by the Commissioner and senior officials of the Specialized Companies Division, also convened a meeting with Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP). The meeting focused on role of the mutual funds industry in the capital market and recent regulatory reforms in the Non-Banking Finance Companies Regulations, 2008.

PSX & 1LINK sign agreement to enhance book building process for investors

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited (PSX) is pleased to announce the signing of an Agreement between PSX and 1LINK (Pvt) Limited (1LINK) to revamp the book building system of PSX. This groundbreaking development will allow participants to make payments online in excess of Rs 1 million through the 1LINK 1BILL platform utilising the revamped Book Building System (BBS) developed indigenously

The revamped system features

of catering to multiple Book Buildings simultaneously for all market participants. The upgraded BBS introduces a series of advanced features aimed at improving the overall experience of both institutional and highnet-worth individuals during the bidding process.

The Agreement formalised between PSX and 1LINK was signed by Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari, MD & CEO of PSX, and Mr. Najeeb Agrawalla, CEO of 1LINK. The signing ceremony was also attended by Mr. Imran Inayat Butt, Executive Director, advanced functionalities with a Securities Market Division of

user-friendly interface capable SECP as well as senior management of PSX & 1LINK. Speaking at the signing cere-

mony, Mr. Farrukh Sabzwari stated, "I extend my heartiest congratulations to the teams at PSX and 1LINK for the enhancement of the PSX Book Building System to facilitate investors in an IPO. The revamping of this system is a major step forward for the capital market in terms of payment automation and limit enhancement for book building for an IPO. This Agreement reflects PSX's commitment to modernise the capital markets by making it more accessible for participants and is aimed at

enhancing convenience while ensuring greater transparency

and efficiency". Mr. Sabzwari added, "PSX extends its gratitude to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan and the State Bank of Pakistan for playing an instrumental role in facilitating the development and implementation of this system. We also thank them for offering invaluable guidance for ensuring alignment with global best practices.

Mr. Najeeb Agrawalla, CEO of 1LINK, stated, "This collaboration with PSX represents a major leap forward in transforming Pakistan's capital



online payments during the IPO Book Building process, we are not just enhancing investor experience but also contributing to a

accessible financial ecosystem. We are proud to be part of this

milestone development". The full rollout of the

markets. By enabling seamless more transparent, efficient, and enhanced book building system is expected in the coming weeks, promising a seamless and efficient IPO experience for all stakeholders

₽ Pakistan vs West Indies First Cricket Test Match

Pakistan runs for the loss of 4 wickets with Muhammad Rizwan and Saud Shakeel

unbeaten scoring fifties

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: the first day of the Test match between Pakistan and West Indies at Multan Cricket Stadium, Rizwan and Saud Shakeel played crucial innings to rescue Pakistan after a disastrous start. By the end of Day 1, Pakistan managed to reach 143 runs for the loss of 4 wickets, with both Rizwan and Saud remaining unbeaten after scoring fifties. The first session of the match was delayed due to bad weather, and the West Indies bowlers dominated the second session, putting Pakistan under immense pressure. The batting line-up crumbled early as three players failed to reach double figures. Debutant Muhammad Huraira was dismissed for just 6 runs, caught by Amach off Jayden Seales' delivery at the total score of 16. Shortly after, captain Shan Masood followed, scoring 11 runs before being caught by Amach off Gudakesh Motie's bowling. Kamran Ghulam was trapped LBW by Seales for just 5 runs, leaving Pakistan reeling at 20 for 3.

The situation worsened when Babar balls, was caught by Amach off Seales' deep trouble with four wickets down for just 46 runs. However, Rizwan and Saud Shakeel showed resilience and built a steady partnership, adding Test half-century, while Mohammad innings. Despite this, Rizwan and Saud's



97 runs for the fifth wicket. Saud completed his ninth Test half-century, while Rizwan reached his 11th. Their responsible batting ensured Pakistan stayed in the game despite the Azam, after scoring only 8 runs from 20 challenging conditions. West Indies' bowlers, particularly Jayden Seales, who delivery. At this stage, Pakistan was in took 3 wickets, and Gudakesh Motie, who picked up 1, were instrumental in keeping Pakistan in check.

Saud Shakeel completed his ninth

Rizwan supported him by scoring his 11th Test half-century. At the close of play on Day 1 of the Multan Test, Saud was unbeaten on 56, and Rizwan remained not out on 51. The duo had established a crucial 97-run partnership, helping Pakistan recover after an early collapse. West Indies bowlers, particularly Jayden Seales, who claimed three wickets, and Gudakesh Motie, who took one, had dominated the early part of the

responsible batting ensured Pakistan posted 143 runs by the end of the day.

During a press conference, Mohammad Rizwan addressed the challenging conditions in the Multan Test, emphasizing that the pitch favored spinners from the very first day. Rizwan acknowledged that the match was unlikely to last beyond three days, given the nature of the pitch. However, he defended the idea of creating spinfriendly pitches in home conditions,

stating that other countries also utilize their conditions to their advantage. Citing examples, he mentioned how Australia prepares drop-in pitches and India designs spinning tracks to favor their teams. Rizwan explained that Pakistan must also learn to capitalize on home conditions, as this approach is essential for improving their cricket.

Rizwan further discussed the difficulties faced by Pakistani batsmen on such pitches, highlighting that even scoring 50 runs can be challenging due to the spin and seam movement. He noted that setting a target on this pitch would be impossible, and the team's focus would be on scoring as much as possible. Reflecting on past mistic about improving in the future.

performances, Rizwan mentioned that Pakistan has struggled with conditions abroad, such as in South Africa, where opposition bowlers exploited the seamfriendly tracks. He expressed hope that the team would gradually adapt to such situations and develop strategies to perform better in tough conditions.

He praised Saud Shakeel's ability to handle these challenges, particularly given his experience playing in Karachi, and emphasized that other players would also need to step up. Rizwan concluded by saying that their partnership with Saud was the result of careful planning, and although the conditions were difficult, they were opti-

BK Hockey Club Lahore win 2nd COAS Inter-Club Hockey title

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: BK Hockey Club Lahore defeated Rafiq Hockey Club Farooqabad, Sheikhupura by 3-1 in the final match of Second Chief of Army Staff Inter-Club Hockey Championship Lahore Region at National Hockey Stadium on Friday.

DG Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry was the chief guest of the final match. He awarded medals and trophies to the winners and runners-up teams. He congratulated the organizers for organizing the best hockey event.

tion Olympian Asif Baiwa Olympian Tahir Zaman, Olympian Anjum Saeed, be played".

Director Admin M Kaleem and Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum were also present on this occasion.

While talking to media, DG Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that hockey is our national sport. It is quite popular among people. "That time is not far when we will regain the lost glory in the game of hockey. Our girls and boys teams won gold medals in the recently played Inter-Provincial Quaid-e-Azam Games".

He said hockey players have also been included in the Sports Endowment Fund. "The final phase competitions of Khelta President of Punjab Hockey Associ- Punjab Games are starting from January 30 in which hockey competitions will also



Shakeel and Rizwan shine after top-order collapse as Pakistan reach 143-4 against WI

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Saud Shakeel and Mohammad Rizwan displayed remarkable resilience as they both scored unbeaten half-centuries, steering Pakistan to a strong position at the end of Day 1 in the opening Test against the West Indies in Multan on Friday.

The duo's determined partnership rescued the hosts after a shaky start left them reeling at 46-4.

Shakeel, batting on 56, and Rizwan, on 51, remained composed as Pakistan reached 143-4 when bad light brought an early close to the day's play at the National Stadium. The pair's 97-run partnership revitalized the innings, ensuring Pakistan ended the day in control.

The series opener faced an unusual start as a dense fog delayed the toss. Poor visibility shrouded the city in the morning, pushing the toss to the afternoon under clear skies.

Pakistan opted to bat first after winning the toss, but their decision initially faltered under the disciplined bowling of the West Indies.

West Indies bowlers rattled the Pakistani batting line-up, sending the top four batters back to the pavilion when the score was just 46 runs.

Captain Shan Masood was out after scoring 11 runs, debutant Muhammad Huraira managed to score only six, Babar Azam scored eight and Kamran Ghulam was dismissed when he was on five.

For West Indies, fast bowler Jayden Seales took three wickets for 19 runs while Gudakesh Motie grabbed one wicket.

Seales further compounded Pakistan's woes by dismissing Kamran Ghulam (5) and the prolific Babar Azam (8), leaving the hosts struggling at 46-4.

Then, Shakeel and Rizwan steadied the ship, taking Pakistan to 86-4 by Tea. The pair's flawless technique and patience saw them capitalize on loose deliveries and stabilize the innings in the final session. Both batsmen made their half-centuries, displaying grit and determination against a challenging West Indies attack.

With the match poised delicately, Pakistan will aim to build on their momentum on Day 2, while the West Indies will look to break the partnership early and regain



Earlier, Pakistan won the toss and decided to bat first in the first cricket Test against West Indies, after the first session was lost to bad weather with dense fog engulfing the whole stadium.

After winning the toss, Pakistan captain Shan Masood said they wanted to put up a big first innings score and make it hard in the fourth innings.

He said "We have to think at home conditions and look at a way that we become difficult to beat at home. And ooking at different oppositions we would like to have a variety of pitches ready to use, but unfortunately that hasn't been

West Indian captain Kraigg Brathwaite said they would have batted first if he had won the toss but will take this as an opportunity. He said they needed to be disciplined with the ball and build up dot-ball pressure.

Dense fog which blanketed the Multan city on Friday morning caused delay in the toss ceremony for the first cricket Test between Pakistan and West Indies scheduled to start at Multan Cricket Stadium

today, reported 24NewsHDTV channel. The umpires inspected the weather

twice but there was not enough light to set the ball rolling. Another inspected is expected shortly.

and the West Indies in Multan on Friday was delayed because of poor visibility, as air quality monitors recorded high levels of pollution.

Pakistan regularly suffers from winter smog which has dire health consequences. "The visibility has been affected due to fog so the toss has been delayed," Pakistan Cricket Board said in a state-

"Once the visibility improves the two umpires will inspect the conditions."

The air quality in Multan was "unhealthy for sensitive groups" and set to rise throughout the day, according to monitoring site IQAir.

The two-match Test series is part of the World Test Championship's third cycle (2023-2025) in which Pakistan are eighth and the West Indies ninth and last. The second Test starts from January

25, also in Multan. On Thursday, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had announced the playing XI for the first Test of the two-match series against West Indies.

The home side's line-up features emerging opener Muhammad Huraira, who will be making his Test debut, Toss in the first Test between Pakistan replacing Saim Ayub, who is recovering from an ankle injury.

> Huraira earned his place in the national team on the back of his consistent performance in first-class cricket and half-centuries in each innings of the three-day practice match against West

> The right-handed batter, who has played 44 first-class matches, will open Pakistan's innings alongside skipper Shan Masood, with star batter Babar Azam to follow at number three.

> Kamran Ghulam, vice-captain Saud Shakeel, wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan and all-rounder Salman Ali Agha will form Pakistan's middle order.

> The home side went for a spin-heavy bowling attack for the series opener, featuring the star duo of Sajid Khan and Noman Ali, which forced Pakistan's comeback in their recent home series against England in October.

They will be supported by mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed, while Khurram Shahzad will serve as the sole pacer in the line-up.

Punjab Minister Khokhar orders the officers concerned to complete the under construction Thokar Niaz Baig gymnasium

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar visited the under construction Thokar Niaz Baig gymnasium hall on Friday.

 $Sports\ Coordinator\ Malik\ Anoosh\ Khokhar, Project\ Director$ Project Management Unit (PMU) Qaiser Raza, District Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Shah and other officials were also present

The PMU team of Sports Board Punjab informed Sports Minister Punjab Faisal Ayub Khokhar about the progress of the gymnasium hall building.

Talking on this occasion, Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the Punjab government is rehabilitating the sports fields across the province. "It is vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's to provide all resources for the promotion of positive activities in

Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar instructed the officers concerned to complete the under-construction gymnasium hall within the stipulated period. "The unnecessary delay and complacency in the completion of important project will not be tolerated".

Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar further said that extra-curricular activities are equally important for the establishment of a healthy society. "It is right time for our youth to spend their maximum time in sports and healthy activities".

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that a state-of-the-art sports gymnasium is being constructed at a cost of Rs 320 million. "We are quite upbeat that Thokar Niaz Baig Gymnasium Hall Complex will prove to be very helpful in introducing several talented athletes.

Imran Khan gets 14-year, Bushra 7-year jail

The announcement of the court's decision, reserved on December 18, 2024, had already been postponed thrice.

On December 23, 2024, the original date the verdict was supposed to be made public, the accountability court postponed its decision in the case until January 6, 2025, due to winter

vacations in courts. Then, on January 6, the verdict could not be pronounced as Judge Nasir Javed Rana was on

On January 13, Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana did not make public the decision citing absence of defendants in the case.

On Thursday evening, the Accountability Court staff said that the judgment will be announced on Friday (today -January 17) at 11:30 am. The court staff has also issued notices to Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi through their counsels.

Imran Khan and his wife were indicted in the case on February 27, 2024, shortly after the

general elections. NAB corruption reference The 190 million pounds case

involved a reference filed by

Continued from Page 1 NAB against Imran Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi, and others in December 2023.

The case centred around an alleged settlement between the PTI government and a property tycoon, which reportedly caused a loss of 190 million pounds to Pakistan's national exchequer.

Imran Khan and the other accused were alleged to have misused 190 million pounds sent by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) as part of the settlement. Bushra Bibi was named an accused for her role as a trustee of the Al-Qadir Trust.

Additionally, the couple was accused of receiving undue benefits, including over 458 kanals of land in Mauza Bakrala, Sohawa, for the establishment of Al-Qadir University.

During Imran Khan's tenure, the NCA seized 190 million pounds worth of assets from the tycoon. The assets were meant to be handed to Pakistan, with the settlement deemed a civil matter by the NCA.

However, the details of the confidential agreement were not disclosed when Imran Khan's cabinet approved it in December 2019. Subsequently, the Al-Qadir Trust was established in Islam-

Call on

ISLAMABAD: Lt Gen S M Kamrul Hassan; Principal Staff Officer Armed Forces Division Bangladesh, called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral NBaveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters on Friday.



Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh visits Naval Headquarters and calls on Naval Chief

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of the Armed matters of mutual interest, Forces Division of Bangla- the regional maritime secudesh, Lieutenant General rity environment, and prosabad, and called on the Chief the two countries were Pakistan Navy's initiatives the region.

Naveed Ashraf.

of the Naval Staff, Admiral discussed. Various avenues to ensure maritime secuof cooperation, including During the meeting, training, exchange of visits, and conduct of bilateral naval exercises between the navies of Pakistan and Bangla-SM Kamrul Hassan, visited pects for enhanced bilateral desh, were also highlighted. butions in promoting collab-Naval Headquarters, Islam- naval collaboration between The Naval Chief emphasized orative maritime security in

The visit of Lieutenant rity and peace in the region General SM Kamrul Hassan, through Regional Maritime Principal Staff Officer, is Security Patrols. The visiting expected to further strengthen and expand defence ties dignitary appreciated Pakistan Navy's role and contribetween the two brotherly countries, fostering collaboration and robust relations between their defence forces.

PM's climate aide, FCCI discuss green business strategies

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has urged the business community to adopt environmentally responsible practices and support Pakistan's national climate goals.

During a meeting with two-member delegation of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) led by its president, Rehan Naseem Bharara, Ms. Alam suggested to convene all Pakistan chambers roundtable conference aimed at raising awareness on carbon credit initiatives and engage the private sector about the importance of transitioning to that the government is emissions and promoting requires urgent action from clean energy and integrating business operations.

Ms. Romina highlighted focused on reducing carbon immediate challenge that and added: "We need busi-



sustainable practices into the climate crisis through across industries. policies comprehensive

committed to addressing sustainable development

all sectors of society, including the business community," Ms.

nesses to step up and lead by adopting energy-efficient technologies, reducing waste, and implementing environmentally responsible production processes."

Ms. Romina encouraged the FCCI to consider how the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) policy could be incorporated into local industries, underscoring the need for businesses to be aware of their carbon footprint and take proactive measures to mitigate their environmental impact.

FCCI President, Rehan Naseem Bharara expressed his support for the government's climate initiatives and reiterated the Chamber's commitment to fostering environmental sustainability "Climate change is an Alam said during the meeting in the Faisalabad industrial

With over 10,000 delegates

visiting the Pakistan Pavilion

at FMF 2025, the country's

mining potential was on full

display. Government repre-

sentatives, state-owned enter-

prises, and private sector stake-

holders engaged with investors

and experts, showcasing diverse

opportunities in mineral explo-

A major milestone was

achieved with the signing of

four Memoranda of Under-

standing (MoUs) between

Wah Nobel Group and Saudi

Gold Refinery. The agreements,

witnessed by Dr. Musadik

Malik, will enable Wah Nobel

drilling and blasting services

provide cutting-edge

ration and production.

Pakistan emerges as a premier mining destination at FMF 2025

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: At the Future Minerals Forum (FMF) in Riyadh, Pakistan made a significant impact, showcasing its vast untapped mineral wealth and positioning itself as a global mining powerhouse. The delegation's session opened with the screening of "Beneath the Surface: Pakistan's Mining Renaissance", a compelling film that highlighted the country's abundant reserves of gemstones, non-metallic minerals, industrial minerals, metals, and rare-earth elements.

The session continued with a high-profile panel discussion titled "Pakistan: The Mineral Marvel - Unlocking the Future of Mining", moderated by Mr. Imran Abbasy, Managing Director of Pakistan Petroleum Limited. The esteemed panel featured Dr. Musadik Malik, Minister of Petroleum



Cribb, Project Director at Development Corporation. sector through comprehensive Barrick, Reko Diq; and Mr. Dr. Malik underscored the policy reforms, enhanced insti-Asad Ahmed, Managing government's strategic focus tutional capacity, and alignment

and Water Resources; Timothy Director of Pakistan Mineral on transforming the mining with global shifts toward green of Wah Nobel.

to enhance mining operations in Saudi Arabia. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Ibrahim, Chairman of Saudi Gold Refinery, and Brigadier Shiraz Ullah Choudhry, CEO

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PM hails current account surplus for 3rd consecutive month



E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday welcomed current account surplus posted for added.

the third consecutive month.

The continuous surplus in the current account for October, November, and December 2024 reflected the right direction of economic policies, the prime minister said in a press statement.

He noted that a surplus of \$1.2 billion was recorded in the first six months of the current fiscal year.

We are actively working to further increase the surplus in the current fiscal year, the prime minister added.

He said positive economic indicators reflected the growing trust of the business community in the government and its economic policies.

Programs like "Uraan" will further strengthen the national economy, he

Security forces kill 5 terrorists in Tirah

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed at least five terrorists in an intelligence-based operation in the general area Tirah in Khyber District on Friday.

During the operation, troops effectively engaged the militants and killed leader Abidullah @ Turab. One mili- Kharji in the area.

tant was also arrested.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area against the security forces. They

also killed innocent civilians. Sanitization operation is being five of them, including Kharji ring conducted to eliminate any remaining

Finance Minister Aurangzeb chairs ECC meeting



S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday chaired a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC).

At the meeting, a proposal to do $\,$ the annual electricity rebasing in January instead of July was approved. The Power Division presented its summary to the ECC on the basic power tariff. The ECC approved an extension in enforcement of regulatory duties on steel goods.

Also, the ECC approved Rs936 million for the pending salaries of the Pakistan Steel Mills employees from 2024. The ECC also removed the condition of bank guarantee, which was earlier required for the Afghan transit trade from the Gwadar Port.

The ECC approved Rs940 million for the FC North for the current fiscal year. The ECC approved a grant of Rs910 million for the Ministry of Food and Food Security. The ECC also approved Rs90 million for the Foreign Ministry.

Pakistan needs unity, not anarchy, says CM Maryam



跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that to pick up sticks equipped with nails. after the fitna (chaos) is subsided, our country is back on the path to progress and prosperity.

Maryam Nawaz expressed these views while distributing cheques among students of Honhaar Scholarship Programme at University of Okara on Friday. Maryam Nawaz said that "He (Imran Khan) was calling others thieves but after all he himself was proved to be a professional thief."

burn the uniform of our brave soldiers girls hostel and underpass in Okara. and opened fire on them. They (PTI) CM Maryam Nawaz also announced taught lessons to our youngsters that

media is true, she added.

Maryam Nawaz said that it is easy for her to ask the young generation She said that he (PTI founder) will not succeed in getting peace after diverting the attention of our youngsters. Maryam Nawz said that those children who got training of throwing petrol bombs are now languishing in iail. The Chief Minister said that Pakistan needs unity instead of anarchy. Unity is the need of the hour,

On the occasion, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif announced She asked who allowed them to the construction of medical college, to complete the projects of Univerwhatever is being posted on social sity of Okara under her supervision.