(صیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6035)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Government focusing on long term economic sustainability: Khurram Schehzad

The Advisor to the Federal Finance Minister, Khurram Shehzad, said that key economic indicators have registered a positive growth due to comprehensive measures and we are expecting further improvement in the international credit rating of Pakistan during the current fiscal year.



Vikram Misri to participate in China-India deputy foreign minister-level dialogue

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Meeting on Human Trafficking

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding steps to curb human trafficking in Pa-



PM forms special task force to curb human trafficking groups

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday formed a Special Task Force to combat human trafficking syndicates operating in Pakistan. The task force will be led by the prime minister himself.

"We will bring the perpetrators involved in human trafficking to justice," the prime minister human trafficking in Pakistan.

Stressing to speed up the pace of arrests of those involved in human trafficking, the prime minister directed all the relevant departments including the foreign ministry to play their active role in identifying the human smugglers.

the entire nation, including

meeting regarding steps to curb by the heartbreaking incident of ficking groups had been identi-

The prime minister said that course of action.

resolved while chairing a review himself was deeply saddened

deaths of Pakistanis in the boat of illegal immigrants. During the meeting, the prime

minister was briefed on the groups involved in the deaths of Pakistanis in the illegal immigrant boat incident, arrests made by various institutions in Pakistan, FIRs filed, and the future

The meeting was informed that six organized human traf-

fied, 12 FIRs filed, 25 individuals identified, three key suspects arrested, and the names of 16 individuals had been added to

the passport control list. The meeting was also briefed on the seizure of vehicles, bank accounts, and assets.

The meeting was also updated on the actions taken against suspected FIA personnel and officers. Besides it was also informed

about the report from the overseas investigative committee.

The prime minister instructed to identify the human trafficking groups and exemplary punishment should be given to them.

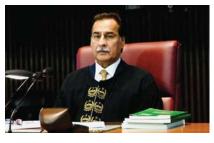
The meeting was attended by federal ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Azam Nazir Tarar, Ahad Khan Cheema, Attaullah Tarar, Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi, and other senior

Come to the table on 28th, NA Speaker calls PTI-govt meeting

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called a meeting of the government and Opposition's negotiation committees while government committee's Senator Irfan Siddiqui on Friday said that they did not halt the negotiations, asking the PTI to return to the talks on January 28.

According to a notification released by the National Assembly Secretariat on Friday, the NA speaker has called the meeting of both the committees on January 28 (Tuesday) at Parliament House's Committee Room 5 at 11:45 am.



This is going to be the fourth round of talks between the two sides. Meanwhile, talking to newsmen outside

the Parliament House in Islamabad on Friday, Irfan Siddiqui maintained "No ifs and buts, the PTI should come to the table on January 28."

He said whom should the government talks as the PTI had called off the talks. "Should we talk to the walls in meeting? A man from Adiala Jail abruptly announced that the PTI was not interested in the dialogue process," he added.

Irfan Siddiqui said the government negotiation committee was still unaware of the latest situation because as on the other side only one man controls the entire negotiations process who lacks moral values.

Three human traffickers involved in Morocco boat accident arrested from Gujranwala

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Police and FIA teams have arrested three human traffickers from Gujranwala region who were reported to be involved in Morocco boat accident.

identified as Waqas Ashraf, Rana M Farhan to Mauritania illegally and later the victims abroad. went to Morocco.

Accused Waqas Ashraf was arrested from

Amir Ali to send him to Spain by boat. During boat accident, many Pakistanis had died and few were rescued by Moroccan authorities.

The name of victim Amir Ali is included According to detail, the accused were in the list issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The accused took 5.3 million and Muhammad Adeel who sent the victims rupees from the family to send the victim

Another accused Rana Muhammad Farhan was arrested from Daska while Sambrial during a raid. The accused along third accused Muhammad Adeel was

with other accomplices trapped victim arrested from Kamonki. Accused Farhan had received 2.7 million form a local Italy for sending him to Italy for employment.

Accused Adeel received more than 5 lakh rupees from a victim for sending him to Muscat for employment. However, both accused failed to send them abroad and resultantly escaped from the area. The accused have been arrested and investigation has been started. FIA Director Gujranwala region Abdul Qadir Qamar said crackdown against accused involved in boat accident was underway.

Bilawal Bhutto to attend Trump's breakfast in Washington

👺 Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has confirmed his plans to attend a breakfast to be hosted by US President Donald Trump.

Talking to the media after holding a meeting with Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani in Islamabad on Friday, Bilawal addressed questions about missing the oath-taking ceremony of newly-elected US President Donald Trump.

Bilawal remarked, "The news about attending the inauguration was reported by the media. You should ask them."

However, Bilawal assured his attendance at the breakfast, stating, "I will, God willing, attend the breakfast as it has been a tradition since my mother's time."

He clarified that the visit would be unofficial as he currently holds no ministerial or government position. During the US visit, he also plans to meet some of his

PTI MNA Junaid Akbar elected **PAC Chairman** unanimously

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: PTI MNA Junaid Akbar has been elected as Chairman of Public Accounts Committee unanimously after government's members voted in favour of him for the key post.

The election for the post of Chairman PAC was held under the supervision of National Assembly Special Secretary Mushtaq Ahmed in NA committee room second. The election was held when the quorum of the committee was completed. All the members raised their hands and voted in support of Junaid Akbar.

PML-N's Tariq Fazal Chaudhry nominated Junaid Akbar and PTI MNA was endorsed by PML-N Senator Afnanullah Khan and Rana Qasim Noon, Vijaya Qamar Opposition member Umar Adil Khan Bazai.



Ayub also supported Junaid Akbar and thus Junaid Akabar was elected PAC Chairman unanimously.

Earlier, PTI had proposed five names and urged the government to nominate among then. PTI names include Opposition Leader MNA Omar Ayub, MNA Junaid Akbar Khan, MNA Amir Dogar, MNA Khawaja and Sardar Muhammad Yusuf. Sheraz Mehmood and MNA

SC reveals special arrangements during hearing of plea against 26th Amendments



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan has announced special arrangements for the hearing of the 26th Constitutional Amendment case scheduled to take place on January

According to an official statement, the hearing on key amendments will be held in Court Room No. 2. with enhanced security measures to ensure the safety of all attendees. To manage the limited capacity of the court room, special passes will be issued to authorised individuals, including lawyers and journalists. For those without passes, alternative arrangements have been made, including audio facilities in Court Rooms No. 6 and 7. The use of mobile phones within the court room will be strictly prohibited.

SC's Constitutional Bench is set to hear a set of pleas challenging the 26th Consti- the three most senior judges.

demanding the top court to strike down the same. The Constitutional Bench headed by Justice Aminud din Khan and comprising Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi Justice Musarrat Hilali will hear the petitions.

The petitioners contest the validity of the constitutional benches, claiming that the SC ought to rule that all revisions that required the votes of members whose election issues were still pending in order to reach the required number under Article 239 were unconstitutional. The federation, government of Sindh, Chairman Senate, Speaker National Assembly, the Election Commission of Pakistan and others have been made respondents in the petitions.

Parliament passed the 26th Amendment on midnight of 20 and 21 under which the term for the Chief Justice of Pakistan has been fixed at three years. A 12-member parliamentary committee will select the new Chief Justice from a panel of

Gilani refuses to chair Senate session until Ejaz Ch is produced in House

跨 Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani has refused to preside over the session till his production orders about Paki-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Senator Ejaz Chaudhry will not be implemented.

According to the channel report, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP)-backed Chairman of the Senate announced boycotting the session after the failure to implement the production orders for Senator Ejaz Chaudhry.



Former premier Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani also informed the federal government about his decision to boycott the session till his orders were obeved.

Talking to the media, the Senate Chairman firmly stated that the boycott would continue until the production orders for Senator Ejaz Chaudhry were implemented.

ISLAMABAD: President, Pakistan Muslim League Chaudhry Shuiaat Hussain Appoints Mr Ehtasham Malik as President Islamabad

Region, During the meeting the newly appointed President has emphasized the need to work on

the Human Rights wing and re-

structuring the Party.

Class boycott continues in

Sindh Universities

HYDERABAD: The Federation of All Pakistan Academic Staff Associa-

tion (FAPUASA) Sindh continued its

protest against the proposed amend-

ments to the Universities Act on Friday.

Faculty members of public universities,

including Karachi University, remain on strike. FAPUASA has demanded the

withdrawal of the proposed amend-

ments concerning the appointment of

Vice-Chancellors. The association has

vowed to continue the protest until their demands are met.

Sindh Governor Takes Notice of Online Classes at Sindh University

the decision to initiate online classes at Sindh University due to a water

shortage. The governor has sought a report from the acting Vice-Chan-

cellor of the university. Expressing concern over the decision, he instructed

immediate steps to mitigate the academic loss of students and suggested

alternative arrangements to ensure the continuation of educational

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has taken serious notice of

Example 2 Correspondent

CM Maryam directs to provide Ramazan Nigehbaan Packages to millions of families in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif decided in-principle to provide Nigehbaan Ramadan packages to millions of families in the province, while chairing a special meeting on the subject. She asked citizens to complete registration for the Nigehbaan Ramadan package by February 15, and directed the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to ensure transparency in the provision of Ramadan Nigehbaan packages to the deserving

Madam Chief Minister said,"Nighthe poor, and a duty of the government." She added,"People should get their rights with respect and dignity."



to seek Allah Almighty's pleasure in

Ramadan." She added,"The admin-

aban Ramadan package is a right of She highlighted,"People should not Sharif said,"People should be served stand in queues to get Nigehbaan Ramadan packages."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz

should perform their duties considering them not as a duty but an act of worship."

Madam Chief Minister reviewed various suggestions and recommendations regarding Ramadan Negahban Package in the meeting. She was briefed by the relevant authorities," Registration in PSER (Punjab Socio-Economic Registry) is a prerequisite to register for Ramadan Negahban Package, for which people can apply from home through the online portal pser.punjab.gov.pk."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was also apprised,"Registration for Ramazan Negahban Package can be done in the Union Councils and Municipality offices. A dedicated helpline 080002345 has also been estabistration and relevant authorities lished for the purpose."

Hashmanis Group 7th Ophthalmology Conference will be hold

Example 2 City Desk

KARACHI: The Hashmanis Group of Hospitals is set to host the 7th edition of the highly anticipated Pioneering Innovations in Ophthalmology (PIO) conference, a premier platform bringing together renowned ophthalmologists from around the world on Sunday 26th January. This year's event, scheduled to take place in Karachi, will focus on groundbreaking "Advancements in Retina & Diagnostics," providing an unparalleled opportunity for ophthalmic professionals to explore the latest trends and innovations in the field.

Led by the legendary Dr. Sharif Hashmani, this year's conference will host speakers from the USA, Saudi Arabia, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Tunisia and the UAE. With an impressive lineup of internationally acclaimed speakers such as Dr. Mohammad Al Hazzazi, Dr. Hugo Hernan Ocampo D., and Dr. Tamer H. Mahmoud the conference promises insightful discussions, hands-on workshops, and thought-provoking case studies. Topics on the agenda include Diabetic Tractional Retinal Detachment, Methotrexate in Complicated PVR Cases, and Innovations in Endophthalmitis Management.

The conference aims to bridge the knowledge gap between experienced and young ophthalmologists, offering a dynamic environment where participants can interact with medical experts and gain valuable insights. Attendees will also witness the prestigious Gold Medal Distribution Ceremony, recognizing the outstanding contributions of distinguished professionals in the field of ophthalmology.

Sindh Government Launches Sindh Solar Energy Project with World Bank Support

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: In a significant move to provide affordable electricity to the people of Sindh, the provincial government has launched the Sindh Solar Energy Project (SSEP) with the support of the World Bank. The project aims to provide solar systems to 2 lac families, using fewer units to make electricity more affordable. In the second phase the 5 lac more families will be provided solar system kits by the Government of Sindh.

Provincial Minister for Energy and Planning and Development Syed Nasir Hussain Shah held a meeting in Shahbaz Hall Shahbaz Building Hyderabad and announced the launch of the project, stating that it is a fulfillment of the promise made by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the election manifesto. The project includes more than seven components, which will be completed over time.

Under the project, the Sindh government will also start a solar system loan for families who use more units. The provincial minister said that the houses being constructed with the support of the World Bank after the floods and rains will also include a solar system kit.

Govt failed to make serious efforts to secure the release of Dr. Äafia Siddiqui: Siraj-ul-Haq

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Former Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Sirajul-Haq, stated that over the past



governments have failed to make serious efforts to secure the release of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, who has been imprisoned in the U.S. since 2003. He criticized the Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League (N), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), four caretaker governments, and the current coalition government of PDM for their negligence. He expressed these views during his Friday sermon at Jamia Masjid Dar-ul-Islam Colony in Attock, media interactions, the inauguration of the operation theater at Al-Khidmat Medical Center, and the graduation ceremony of Quranic studies students at Jamia Tafheemat-e-Islamia. Prominent attendees included Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Attock Sardar Amjad Ali Khan, President Jamia Tafheemat-e-Islamia Maulana Jabir Ali Khan, Principal Maulana Naeemullah, and others. Students from various parts of Pakistan who completed their Quranic education were also honored. Siraj-ul-Haq criticized former U. S. President Joe Biden, who released 800 prisoners before leaving office, stating that even the last Afghan prisoner has been freed, but the Pakistani government has failed to secure Dr. Aafia Siddiqui's release. He mentioned reports that the U.S. seeks the release of Dr. Shakeel Afridi in exchange for Dr. Aafia Siddiqui and stated that if releasing Afridi would free an innocent sister, it should be considered. He emphasized the need to transform Pakistan into a true Islamic state and criticized the law and order situation in the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. He condemned the failure of the government to provide security and expressed concerns about worsening conditions, warning of dire consequences if stability is not restored. He also highlighted the severe economic challenges facing the country, including inflation and unemployment, which have made life unbearable for the common man.

Protest

MUZAFFRABAD: Sanitary workers shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands at Azadi Chowk in the city.

Fun Fair at University of Southern Punjab

👺 Quratul Ain

MULTAN: APWA Multan, Farrukh Mukhtar Vocational Education Center and High School set up stalls at the University of Southern Punjab's Fun Fair. Participants toured the stalls and showed interest in the products produced. APWA executive members welcomed the stall visitors. On the occasion of the annual art fair exhibition organized by the University of Southern Punjab, stalls were set up by All Pakistan Women Association APWA Multan, Farrukh Mukhtar Farrukh Mukhtar Girls High School and College, which were inspected by a large number of visitors and declared the products manufactured as quality and unique. On this occasion, APWA



Qasim, Haniya Mansoor, Mehwish Talking to the visitors, Tahira Najam also informed them about the social

economically and socially independent under the patronage of Begum APWA Multan

Vocational Education Center and Multan executive members Tahi- welfare projects of Begum Farrukh Farrukh Mukhtar and Farah Faisal. ra Najam, Tehmina Munir, Samar Mukhtar, including APWA Multan, In this regard, training is being providand said that UPWA Multan is taking ed in vocational services, beautician, Anjum and APWA staff were present. all possible steps to make women driving lessons for women, yoga, art and craft and other departments at

No compromise will be made on maintaining peace in Malakand division: RPO

Sometime Correspondent

SWAT: Regional Police Officer Malakand Range Sher Akbar Khan has said that there is no place for peace saboteurs and criminal elements in Swat and Malakand divisions.

No compromise will be made on maintaining peace in Malakand division. Enemies of peace and anti-social elements will be dealt with iron hands. Ideal peace has been established in Swat. No one is allowed to take the law into their own hands.

The police have been equipped with modern weapons and all types of weapons according to the



requirements of the present era. The police of Swat and Malakand Division are not

the police of the past. The morale of the police is

high and they are fully capable of dealing with all kinds of situations, he expressed these views while talking to a delegation of traders led by Malakand Division Traders Federation President Abdul Rahim and senior journalists of Swat at his office in Saidu Sharif.

On this occasion, President Abdul Rahim Khan and journalists assured the DIG of sustainable peace and eliminating social evils, for which Sher Akbar Khan thanked him and said that it is not possible to control crimes without the cooperation of the people, business community and jour-

nalists. He said that thanks to the sacrifices made by the people of Swat for the establishment of peace, the peace established in Swat will not be allowed to be sabotaged. He said that the police are determined to completely eradicate

Our goal is to save the new generation from this disaster by eliminating the scourge of drugs. He said that strict instructions have been given their full role in maintaining to the concerned policemen to treat the people coming to all police stations and checkpoints in a friendly manner so that the relationship between the police and the public can be further strengthened and ...5:31 pm



Namaz Timings

...6:57 pm **EMEDGENCY**

Maghrib

EWIERGENCT
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police

Statio	115
Islamabad	922259
Rawalpindi	9270601-2

ENOUIRY

-117	,,,,
Edhi Ambulance	11
PIA Flight Info	11
PIA Cargo	928097
Railway Inquiry	
Railway Exchange	9270831-
WASA Rawalpindi	555548
CAA	928109

HOSPITALS

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
DIMC	0261170-70

DFP welcomes PM Sharif's remarks on Kashmir

Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has welcomed the Pakistan prime minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif's recent statement in which he reiterated his country's continued support to Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for right to self determination.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal, while terming the PM Sharif's remarks on Kashmir as great morale $boaster \, for \, t\bar{h}e \, struggling$ people in Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, said, "We as a nation are indebted of Pakistan that has stood steadfastly with us through every thick and thin"

The DFP spokesman expressed his party's profound gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan for their all out support to Kashmiris' just

cause. Meanwhile, in a separate statement the DFP spokesman condemned the intensified restrictions in Srinagar and other parts of the valley ahead of the

India's so called republic day. He said that the house to house searches, frisking of commuters and passengers at every check points by the Indian troops has made lives of people miserable.

Terming Indian republic day as a black day for Kashmiris, he said that ${\bf a}$ country that has unabashedly usurped the Kashmiris' political and human rights, dismantle the State and stripped it of it's special status has no right to celebrate republic day.

The spokesman also condemned the continued bloodshed and violence in the region and urged the international community to take effective cognisance of the dire situation in the restive region.

Bangladeshi Ambassador visits China Window in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: Bangladesh's Ambassador to Pakistan, H. E Muhammad Iqbal Hussain Khan, has underscored the importance of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a pivotal project for global connectivity and economic prosperity. He stated that the BRI would serve as a milestone in fostering trade and financial development by linking countries through extensive road networks. The ambassador expressed these views during his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural and information center in Peshawar. He was accompanied by senior Bangladeshi diplomats stationed in Pakistan.

During the visit, Ambassador Khan explored various galleries of China Window, where he gained insights into

the cultural, economic, and technological advancements of China. He also signed the Friendship Wall as a symbol of goodwill and recorded his impressions in the center's guestbook.

Addressing students enrolled in Chinese language courses at the center, Ambassador Khan stressed the significance of linguistic skills in today's globalized world. He remarked that nations which embrace multilingualism alongside their native languages are better positioned to progress and compete internationally. "Learning diverse languages is the key to unlocking global job opportunities, and I highly commend the efforts of China Window in providing Chinese language education to the youth of Peshawar," he added.

He also visited the Institute of Manage-



ment Sciences (IMSciences), where he engaged with students and faculty, discussing potential areas of collabora-

tion in education and skill development. During his three-day visit, the ambassador is scheduled to meet with local traders and industrialists to explore business opportunities and further strengthen bilateral trade relations.

Commenting on Bangladesh's recent progress, Ambassador Khan noted that following the youth-driven revolution, the country has achieved remarkable stability and economic growth. "Bangladesh is now on the road to success, and we are committed to strengthening regional cooperation with our neighboring countries," he affirmed.

The visit of the Bangladeshi ambassador to China Window reflects the growing interest in fostering cultural and economic ties between the two nations, further promoting mutual understanding

Hard work

ISLAMABAD: A worker is installing new street lights during newly constructed road of Serena Underpass in the Federal Capital.



Ziauddin University's faculty hosts international conference

跨 City Desk

KARACHI: "In today's rapidly evolving world, we transitioned from traditional therapies to innovative technologies. We had to bridge the gap between where the world was heading and where we were standing. As far as I understood, there was a huge gap. Our Muslim $\,$ researchers in the past had outstanding backgrounds; they provided light to the researchers who came after them. The world we see today was due to the contributions of Muslim scholars and researchers", remarked Mr. Asim Ruf, CEO, Drug Regulatory Authority of

Mr. Asim Rauf urged the participants and aspiring pharmacists to strive for excellence in all aspects of the field. "Today's message is very clear: whatever the role of pharmacists, whether it is traditional therapeutic interventions, manufacturing, or innovative technology, we had to excel,"

he stated. The Guest of Honor, His Excellency Dr. Bakheet Ateeq Ali Alayan Alremethi, Consul General of the UAE in Karachi, shared notable insights, mentioning that approximately



been residing in the Gulf region for many years.

The conference featured two prominent international speakers. Prof. Dr. Trudi Hilton remarks, from the London School of Vice-Chancellor of Ziauddin importance of medication Zafar, stated, "As we navigated and patient safety, while Prof. Dr. Zaheerudin Babar from Both speakers provided valu- to share our knowledge, experi-

1.7 to 2 million Pakistanis had able insights into addressing global healthcare challenges through innovative pharmacy

practices. Earlier in his opening the Acting Hygiene emphasized the University, Prof. Dr. Abbas the complexities of modern healthcare, it was essential that Qatar University discussed we came together as a commupharmacy practice research. nity of pharmacy professionals

ences, and best practices.

While highlighting the conference objectives, the Organizing Secretary of the Conference, Prof. Dr. Mirza Tasawer Baig stated, "This conference serves as a platform for collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange, where we unite to shape the future of pharmaceutical sciences and transform global healthcare through research and progress.

CEO Education Aqeela Intkhab visited various schools

👺 Zafar Chishti

the direction of Chief Ministo improve the quality of educaof the schools is going on. In this regard, CEO Education Toba Tek Singh Aqeela Intkhab visited various schools of Tehsil

Toba Tek Singh. On this Occasion, Deputy District Educa-TOBA TEK SINGH: On tion Officer Mustafa Iqbal Lak, **Assistant Education Officers** ter Punjab Maryam Nawaz Muhammad Zubair and Sharif, the series of measures Shajeeh-ul- Hassan were also with him. The CEO Education tion and the building condition distributed school uniforms satisfaction over the renova-



to the children and expressed of officers, head teachers and need to work together as a team sion of facilities and quality in teachers. AEOs are doing well tion works in the schools and in monitoring. She further said appreciated the performance that all the officers and teachers

to raise the quality of education further. CEO Education Aqeela Intkhab assured that the provi-

educational institutions will be used to create.

PCDMA urges SBP to cut policy rate to single digit as inflation drops



Example 2 City Desk

KARACHI: Salim Valimuhammad, Chairman of the Pakistan Chemicals & Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA), has urged the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan to reduce the policy rate to a single-digit, citing a decrease in the inflation rate. This move, he believes, will boost business activities and have a positive impact on the economy.

In a statement, Chairman PCDMA emphasized that the Monetary Policy Committee should consider the decreasing inflation rate and significantly reduce the interest rate. This reduction will encourage the business community to borrow from banks at a lower cost and address the capital shortage.

Salim Valimuhammad reiterated his demand for a single-digit interest rate, stressing that if the government genuinely wants to promote business and industrial activities, it must take business-friendly measures. Otherwise, all government efforts will be in vain.

Awam Pakistan Party an important meeting held

Example 2 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: An important organizational meeting was held at the Public Secretariat of the Awam Pakistan Party, Murree Road, Rawalpindi, under the chairmanship of central leader Chaudhry Inam Zafar. Where Azhar Ali Qadri, former leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and elected three-time councilor from Union Council 30, Majeed Abbasi, former president of Jamaat-e-Islami Shabab Milli, trader Haji Masood and local businessman Abdul Qadeer Khan of Tehreek-e-Insaf along with dozens of their fellows, left their former parties behind. And announced that from today onwards our loyalty is with the Awam Pakistan Party.

We express full confidence in the leadership of central leaders Shahid Khagan Abbasi, Chaudhry Inam Zafar, Nazir Ahmed Kashmiri, and announce joining the party. On this occasion, the party's central leader Chaudhry Inam Zafar thanked the members for their participation. And he said that the Awam Pakistan Party will always remember everyone according to its manifesto.

The Awam Pakistan Party is not just a party formed on a slogan, but a party that believes in practical measures. He further said that Shahid Khagan Abbasi and Miftah Ismail have brought a system where elections will be held in the party every two years. If anyone wants to submit papers for Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's seat, we are ready.. Rawalpindi City Organizer Nazir Ahmed Kashmiri said that Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has the power to change thinking. Youth are our asset. It is to empower them. Justice will be made public through the platform of the Awam Pakistan Party. I am grateful to Chaudhry Inam Zafar who built the party office. At the end, prayers were offered for the stability of the country, the nation, the Pakistani armed forces, and Awam Pakistan Party.

Serena Hotels sponsored National Readers' Conference (NRC) 2025

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels under the Public Diplomacy initiative sponsored the much-anticipated National Readers' Conference (NRC) 2025. The event brought together a vibrant community of readers, writers, educators, and intellectuals to celebrate and promote the culture of

The NRC 2025 served as a dynamic platform for discussions on the significance of literacy and education in shaping a progressive society. Esteemed speakers, including the Ambassador of Portugal (H. E. Mr. Frederico Silva), the First Secretary of the Embassy of Belgium (Mr. Gillez Hachez), the Director General of the Civil Services Academy Lahore (Mr. Farhan Aziz Khwaja), the national prize winners, author (Dr. Rakshanda Parveen) and (Dr. Sadigullah Khan), Mr. Muneer Ahmad (CEO of DEVCOM). The panel consisted of veterans of their fields, including Ms. Sadaf Raza (Reiki Master), Faisal Malik (Edtech Expert), Ms. Sanobar Nazir (Writer and Activist), and Maya Sofia Hamidi (Principal of RUNG School of Music and Arts), addressed the audience on diverse topics related to literature, education, and the role of books in

fostering critical thinking and creativity. As part of the conference's agenda, Read Pakistan hosted various competitions to encourage young readers and writers to showcase their talents. These included essay writing, poetry recitation, and storytelling competitions. Winners were honored with shields, souvenirs, and cash prizes generously provided through in-kind support from the Embassy of Portugal and Embassy of Belgium.

Speaking at the occasion, Syeda Fatima Hassan Gillani, CEO of Read Pakistan, expressed her gratitude to all attendees and supporters, stating, "The National Readers' Conference is a testament to our collective commitment to fostering a reading culture in Pakistan. We are immensely thankful to our partners, sponsors, and distinguished guests for their invaluable contributions to making this event a success.

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Naveed Ahmad Khan Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi: Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adpluse.pk

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Israel's accountability for 'heinous' crimes in Gaza

top Pakistani diplomat has called for Israel to be held accountable for the crimes committed during its 15-month long war in Gaza, as he highlighted the suffering of Palestinian children that "stands out as a black mark on humanity at large."

"Heinous crimes have been committed in this brutal war, particularly against children in violation of International Humanitarian Law, the Geneva Conventions, the Convention on the Rights of Child and the Convention on Genocide," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, told the UN Security Council meeting on the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza on Thursday.

The meeting was held at the request of Russia, Pakistan, Somalia and Sierra Leone in an effort to focus on the plight of children in Gaza.

"Over 46,000 people killed — most of them women and children. How can this be justified?", the Pakistan envoy asked.

"The suffering of children in Gaza stands out as a black mark on humanity at large, not only on those who caused the sufferings by their bombs and artillery, not only on those who allowed this to happen over 15 months that this Security Council remained frozen because of the positions of certain states, not only on those who continued to supply weapons and ammunition to the attacking forces who were killing children every day but even all of

Ambassador Akram denounced Israel's deliberate policy of targeting civilians, irrespective of the fact that the majority being killed are women and children, attacking hospitals and schools, with snipers targeting children.

'What moral degradation allows something like that to happen?" he posed a question.

"There are complaints about 7th of October but compare that with the devastation that has been visited on the people of Gaza. Does 7th of October justify what has been done to the children of Gaza. Can it ever be justified?"

Welcoming the ceasefire brokered by Egypt, Qatar and the US, Ambassador Akram said it could have been achieved much earlier.

"Now we must ensure that the ceasefire holds and the Israeli threat of to resume the conflict are held back," he said while voicing concern over the developments in the West Bank and urging the Security Council to take cognizance.

The Pakistani envoy underscored the need for accelerating humanitarian aid to the traumatized people.

"There is a risk of disease, water scarcity, scarcity of food, all of these requirements must be addressed. All borders crossings must be opened and UNRWA's continued operation must be ensured by the international community and the Security Council.

"We will need every construction plan to be implemented immediately because the Palestinian people are being asked to return to their homes. But look at the homes, there are no homes. Everything has been devastated. Where will they go for shelter?

China's Growing Power Alarms U. S. Lawmakers (Part-IV)

Relations underscored that China is the most significant longterm threat to U.S. national security. The discussion, led by Senator Marco Rubio, who has been nominated for Secretary of State, emphasized concerns about China's economic, military, and technological ambitions, positioning it as the foremost geopolitical adversary of the United States. Lawmakers pointed to ring Chinese actions in China's alleged aggressive global strategies, including intellectual property matters, cyber warfare, military and economic expansion, as evidence of its intent to challenge U.S. dominance.

The committee identified four key adversaries-China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran—with China at the forefront and accused China of involvement in the fentanyl trade, supporting Russia's invasion of Ukraine, aiding Iran's destabilizing activities in the Middle East, and reinforcing North Korea's aggressive stance in the Asia-Pacific region.

A major concern raised was China's increasing control over global supply chains, including critical industries such as rare earth minerals, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing. Senators emphasized that China's technological advancements pose a significant risk to U.S. economic and national security interests. They discussed strategies to counter China's dominance by restricting Chinese access to advanced U.S. technologies, reinforcing domestic manufacturing capabilities, and securing key partnerships with allied nations.

Additionally, the

he recent U. S. Senate proposed a comprehensive Indo-Pa- arms sales to Taiwan, fortifying its missile during the hearing. cific strategy to counter China's infludefense systems, and expanding diplohearing ence. This included strengthening milimatic backing to counter China's efforts tary alliances with Japan, South Korea, to isolate Taiwan on the global stage. Taiwan, and the Philippines, as well as Senator Rubio and his colleagues empha-

> the AUKUS agreement with Australia and the United Kingdom. The senators stressed that our engagements should be aimed at deterthe South China Sea, where China has allegedly harassed Philippine vessels, conducted

large-scale military exercises aimed at ties such as the Uyghurs. Senator Rubio Taiwan, and simulated a naval blockade of Japan stressing on expanding intelligence-sharing mechanisms and facilitating technology transfers among allies to maintain regional stability.

The hearing also focused on China's alleged cyber warfare activities, including recent cyberattacks on U.S. government institutions such as the Treasury Department. Senators detailed China's alleged involvement in sabotaging undersea communication cables in Asia and Europe, highlighting the broader threat posed by Chinese cyber-espionage. The committee emphasized the need to strengthen U.S. cybersecurity infrastructure and take proactive measures to neutralize cyber threats before

Regarding Taiwan, the committee reaffirmed its support for the "Porcupine Strategy," aimed at making the cost of invading Taiwan prohibitively high for committee China. This strategy includes increasing

increasing military cooperation through sized that defending Taiwan is not just

about regional security but also about maintaining the credibility of U.S. commitments to its allies. A significant portion

of the hearing was dedi-

cated to human rights concerns, particularly China's alleged repres-**Qamar Bashir** sion of ethnic minoricommitted to lobbying against the depor-

tation of Uyghur refugees from Thailand back to China, where they reportedly face persecution. The committee also condemned China's use of forced labor and transnational repression, urging stronger global action to address these human rights abuses.

In terms of global security, the committee emphasized that the world is currently facing its most dangerous geopolitical climate since World War a U. S. territory, yet the U. S. assumes II and argued that the U.S. must shift from a defensive to an offensive posture to secure its interests.

However, for anyone watching the hearing live, it was evident that the committee's accusations were largely theoretical, based on perceived and pre-established views. Despite making several allegations, the committee failed to present any irrefutable evidence to substantiate its claims that China was involved in the illegal activities outlined the U. S.'s own controversial human

The committee overlooked China's perspective that, while pursuing its legitimate rights and responsibilities toward international peace and prosperity, it adheres strictly to peaceful and lawful means to achieve its objectives without jeopardizing any partner or regional and global stability.

Unlike other nations, China asserts that it remains uninvolved in regional and international conflicts, including the war in the Middle East, the Israel-Palestine crisis, and the Russia-Ukraine war. Moreover, China emphasizes that it does not threaten other nations with annexation, such as incorporating Canada as the 51st U.S. state, reclaiming control over the Panama Canal, or occupying Greenland adding that the U. S. forms alliances at both bilateral and multilateral levels specifically to undermine China's legitimate interests. Whereas, China has extended an open invitation to the U.S. and other nations to collaborate in its global efforts to enhance the quality of life for people worldwide.

The most questionable assertion of all was on Taiwan given that Taiwan is not the inherent right to interfere in what is essentially a bilateral territorial dispute between Taiwan and China—one that has no direct connection to the United States. While the U.S. frequently warns, criticizes, and censures other countries for interfering in bilateral matters of other countries, it continues to reserve the right to intervene in conflicts worldwide as though it were an inherent prerogative.

The committee seemed to overlook



World Education Day & The Role of AI in Shaping the Future of Education and Society

ducation is a cornerstone of societal Platforms like Khan Academy and Duolingo development, celebrated annually on January 24th as World Education Day. This day highlights educafostering inclusive, sustainable, and equitable societies, aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 4: "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and In the modern era, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is

a pivotal force revolutionizing education and reshaping societal structures.

AI, a branch of computer science simulating human intelligence, is transforming industries and how people learn and work. From personalized learning to fostering global economic growth, its impact is far-reaching. This article explores AI's profound role in education and its potential to shape a better future.

World Education Day reminds us of education's critical role in eradicating poverty, promoting equality, and creating opportunities. However, challenges like unequal access, outdated teaching methods, and a lack of inclusivity hinder progress. AI offers innovative solutions to these challenges, reshaping education delivery and access. AI-driven tools provide personalized, efficient, and accessible learning experiences, addressing diverse educational needs.

AI-powered tools adapt to individual learning styles and paces. These systems analyze student helping students grasp concepts effectively. mizing processes, predicting market trends, and

use AI algorithms to adjust task difficulty based on learner progress, encouraging self-paced and deeper learning. This personalized approach tion's transformative power in builds confidence and enhances understanding.

Educators also benefit from AI through task automation. Grading exams, tracking attendance, and organizing schedules are streamlined, allowing teachers to focus on instruction promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." and student engagement. AI-powered grading systems evaluate essays and assignments accu-

rately, ensuring consistent evaluation while saving time. AI enhances education accessibility for remote and underserved communities. Language translation apps and speech-to-text tools break linguistic barriers, enabling non-native speakers to access resources. Virtual classrooms powered by AI bring education to students regard-

less of their geographical location. Moreover, AI supports learners with disabilities by providing assistive tools like text-to-speech systems, visual aids, and communication devices. These innovations empower individuals with hearing, vision, or mobility impairments to participate in mainstream education.

Ahsan Ansari

Beyond education, AI influences healthcare, economic growth, and global problem-solving. In healthcare, AI-powered algorithms detect diseases early, recommend treatments, and monitor patient health. Mental health apps offer accessible counseling and stress management tools, promoting emotional well-being. data to create tailored lessons and feedback, In industries, AI drives innovation by opti-

enhancing customer experiences. While automation may replace certain roles, it creates new opportunities in AI development, data analysis, and technology management. AI also supports global collaboration by bridging communication gaps through real-time language translation tools. Social media platforms curate relevant content using AI, enhancing connectivity. Additionally, researchers leverage AI to analyze vast datasets, predict outcomes, and solve complex issues like climate change and sustainable energy.

Despite its potential, AI adoption comes with challenges such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the digital divide. To ensure AI benefits everyone, governments, educators, and developers must establish ethical frameworks and policies promoting equitable access and responsible use. Collaboration is essential to overcome these barriers and ensure that AI advancements serve all communities

AI's integration into education is evolving, with innovations like virtual reality classrooms, intelligent tutoring systems, and advanced analytics for tracking student progress on the horizon. These technologies promise to enhance education quality while bridging gaps in access and

World Education Day emphasizes education's power to transform lives and societies. AI plays a crucial role in realizing this vision by revolutionizing learning, driving innovation, and addressing global challenges. By harnessing AI responsibly, we can ensure quality education for all, fostering a more equitable and sustainable world. As we celebrate the transformative power of education, let us also embrace AI's potential to shape a brighter future for generations to come.

(Email: aahsan210@gmail.com)

Govt takes measures to address power woes of consumers

Khurram Jaffrani

ninterrupted power supply at an affordable rate is considered crucial for the development of the industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors of any country. The incumbent government since its inception through innovative policies, substantial investments, and major structural reforms in the power sector, significant progress has been made towards ensuring energy sustainability by

reducing electricity costs for economic growth. Rising fuel prices and new energy situation after the Ukraine war also necessitated in Pakistan to tap its indigenous resources like hydel, solar, wind and Thar coal to provide maximum relief to the people particularly power

Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari said the power sector has witnessed tariff reductions as the average price of electricity has decreased to Rs44.04 per unit from Rs48.70 per unit in June 2024, marking a reduction of Rs4.66.

"These three entities will be the 'National Grid Company of Pakistan' being established for efficient and reliable transmission, the 'Energy Infrastructure Development and Management Company for project management, and the 'Independent System and Market Operator for a competitive and transparent electricity market," he explained.

Additionally, the South-North transmission corridor was being developed through Public-Private-Partnership, with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) of 1000MWh planned for installation in the South for frequency regulation, he said.

Regarding power sector liberalization, the minister said the Independent System and Market Operator would allow consumers to DISCOs, he added.

purchase electricity from multiple suppliers.

He also revealed that the Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP 2024-34) would be finalized soon, and emphasized that out of the 17,000MW to be added in the next 10 years, only 87MW was based on the least-cost principle. "A review of the IGCEP will ensure that energy is added to the system on a least-cost basis," he added.

Awais Leghari said the government has a plan to introduce special tariffs for electric vehicles (EVs) under a forthcoming EV policy. "This EV policy will reduce dependency on imported fuels, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality," he said and added that it would also foster economic growth through job creation in local manufacturing and the development of charging infrastructure. The minister expressed the hope that the new EV policy would revolutionize Pakistan's transport sector

Regarding the challenges faced by the power sector, including transmission constraints and poor recovery rates, which contribute to Rs 250 billion in losses caused by Discos' inefficiencies, the minister was of the views, "Efforts to manage the Rs2.2 trillion circular debt burden are ongoing, focusing on reducing consumer electricity costs. We are also addressing the impact of dollar-denominated debt as the depreciation of the rupee has exacerbated it".

He said that the circular debt costs were being shifted from electricity bills to the national debt to reduce the consumer burden. "We have eliminated Rs150 billion in cross-subsidies from the industrial sector, a step that has boosted industrial growth and job creation in Pakistan," he explained.

About reforms in power distribution companies (DISCOs), Awais Leghari said the government was pursuing privatization and concession models for electricity distribution. Independent Boards of Directors have been appointed for

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Bangladesh Embassy celebrates 53rd Armed Forces Day in Islamabad

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Bangladesh marked the 53rd Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Bangladesh with a distinguished ceremony hosted in Islamabad. The event, commemorating the achievements and legacy of the Bangladesh armed forces, reflected a spirit of unity and mutual respect between nations.

High Commissioner Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan and Defence Adviser Brigadier General Abu Rubel Md. Shahabuddin extended a warm welcome to the esteemed attendees. The ceremony's chief guest was Lt. Gen. Inayat Hussain, Chief of Logistics Services at the General Headquarters (GHQ).

The event witnessed a gathering of high commissioners, ambassadors, and defense and military attachés, demonstrating the importance of diplomatic and military cooperation. Bangladesh Armed Forces Day, celebrated annually on November 21, holds historical significance in recognizing the establishment and growth of the country's armed forces.

During the proceedings, Brigadier General Abu Rubel Md. Shahabuddin delivered a compelling speech, shedding light on the remarkable evolution of the Bangladesh armed forces since the nation's independence. He highlighted their transformation into a highly professional and modern organization, attributing this success to advanced training programs, qualitative enhancements, and exemplary

also acknowledged the valuable support extended by Pakistan in military training. He emphasized Hussain Khan echoed similar senti-





the armed forces of both countries, reflecting a shared commitment underscored the government's dedito fostering mutual benefits and Brigadier General Shahabuddin addressing regional and global challenges collaboratively.

High Commissioner Md. Iqbal the significance of robust military ments, emphasizing Bangladesh's Division and second-in-command of

cooperation and exchange between foreign policy ethos of "friendship with all, malice towards none." He cation to promoting a culture of peace and international harmony.

Recently Lieutenant General SM Kamr-ul-Hassan, Principal Staff Officer of Bangladesh's Armed Forces

the Bangladesh Army visited to Paki-

During his visit, Lieutenant General Kamr-ul-Hassan held discussions with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Sved Asim Munir and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza. The dialogue focused on emerging security challenges and strengthening bilateral military cooperation, as confirmed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations

Lieutenant General SM Kamrul-Hassan also visited To Pakistan Air Force headquarter and met with Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber

Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, at Air He toured Pakistan Navy ships and Headquarters in Islamabad. Discussions focused on regional security tegic and operational capabilities. dynamics, defense technology, and training initiatives, with Bangladesh expressing interest in the JF-17 Thunder's cost-effective capabilities. The Air Chief reiterated Pakistan's willingness to share expertise and strengthen

aerospace collaboration. The delegation also engaged with senior Pakistan Navy officials during their visit to Karachi. Lt. Gen. Hassan met Rear Admiral Abdul Munib, Rear Admiral Faisal Amin, and Rear Admiral Salman Ilyas, exploring joint opportunities in maritime security,

units, gaining insights into their stra-

The Directorate General Public Relations (DGPR) of the Pakistan Navy described the visit as a pivotal step toward enhancing mutual understanding and collaboration, particularly in maintaining regional maritime security.

Together, these engagements demonstrate the growing depth of defense and strategic ties between Bangladesh and Pakistan, reflecting a shared commitment to regional stability and cooperative progress.

shipbuilding, and naval operations. 👺 Photos by Ramzan Mughal

Ethiopia, Pakistan agree to advance trade relations

跨 Spokesman Report

ADDIS ABABA: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have agreed to work cooperatively for further strengthening the trade and commerce relations between the two

A bilateral meeting to this end as held today in Addis Ababa at the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration of the FDR Ethiopia.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H. E. Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, who is currently in Addis Ababa on a working visit, led the Pakistan side while the Ethiopian side was led by Minister of Trade and Regional Integration, H. E. Kassahun Gofe.

Both sides discussed bilateral trade



during the meeting and explored new avenues to forge strong cooperation noted the longstanding diplomatic

relations between the two countries for enhancing the bilateral trade. On the occasion, the Trade Minister

and trade relations between the two

'We have taken a common understanding that if the two countries work together with their population and production potential, we can achieve better mutual results," he remarked.

The Minister assured the Pakistani side of full cooperation for holding the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa in May, 2025.

On the other hand, H. E. Ambassador Hamid congratulated Ethiopia for the outstanding performance in export trade and agreed to work closely for enhancing the trade relations between the two countries.

A day earlier, the two sides also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Addis Ababa for bilateral political consultation.

Muhammad Afzal Bhatti Appointed MD of OPF

B Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The federal government has appointed Muhammad Afzal Bhatti as the Managing Director (MD) of the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) for a term of three years. His appointment was approved by the federal cabinet.

image0.jpegimage1.jpegAccording to the official notification: "Following the approval of the Federal Cabinet in Case No. 29/Rule 19/2025/66 dated January 23, 2025, read with Rule 5(2) of the Public Sector Compa-

nies (Corporate Governance Rules) 2013. Bhatti has bee as Managing Director, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation. The term shall not exceed three years from the date of appointment as provided in Section 187(1) of the Companies Act, 2017."

A seasoned professional and Chartered Accountant, Bhatti has been a trusted aide of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for nearly two decades. His career includes serving as the Personal Secretary to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Political Secretary to Shehbaz Sharif during their exile to Saudi Arabia and later in London under the regime of General Pervez Musharraf.

Bhatti also served as the Commissioner of the Punjab Overseas Pakistanis Commission during the PML-N government (2013-2018). However, he faced challenges during the tenure of former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar, who ordered a reference against him on allegations related to his British citizenship. His name was placed on the Exit Control List (ECL), and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) launched an inquiry against him.

After being cleared of corruption charges and having his name removed from the ECL, Bhatti relocated to London. The NAB inquiry found no evidence of wrongdoing.

His return to Pakistan and appointment as OPF MD mark a significant comeback, with expectations that his experience and expertise will benefit overseas Pakistanis.

Eight people killed in ordnance factory explosion in India

MUMBAI: At least eight people died and seven more were injured in a blast at an ordnance factory in the western Indian state of Maharashtra on Friday, a senior federal minister said.

The factory is located in Bhandara district of the state, nearly 830 km (515 miles) from India's financial capital of Mumbai, and manufactures propellants and explosives, according to local media.

AIOU celebrates international day of education

ISLAMABAD: "Education is essential for peace and development. Peace is inherent in human nature, and education refines it. All religions, values, and societies in the world are balanced," expressed Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of Allama Igbal Open University, as the chief guest at an event held to mark the International Day of Education.

He remarked, "If hatred begins with words, peace begins with education.



What a person learns in this world changes their perspective, and it is through education that we determine how to interact with others."

The theme for this year's International Day of Education is Artificial Intelligence and Education, and Allama Iqbal Open University, leveraging its

porating contemporary programs into student curricula. This ensures that Pakistani students do not lag behind in the race with developed nations and can contribute to the country's progress.

modern educational system, is incor-

The event was attended by Prof. Dr. Fazal Rahman, Dean of the Faculty of Education, along with all faculty members. A cake-cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the day, and Assistant Professor Dr. Afshan Huma presented her post-doctoral research on the subject of Peace Education.

Salman Khan's 3-month stay in Karachi's Khudadad Colony revealed

跨 Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's surprising stay in Karachi's Khudadad Colony for three months has come to light. During his time in Karachi, Salman reportedly rode a motorbike and was involved in a minor accident. He also purchased vintage jeans from the city's famous Lighthouse market.

According to details, some of Salman Khan's relatives reside in Karachi, and despite the political tensions between India and Pakistan, he still maintains contact of Salman Khan's father, Salim Khan, who lives in Khudadad Colony, revealed in an exclusive conversation that their family migrated from Indore, India, to Karachi after the creation of

grandfather decided to stay in India as he held a senior position in the Indore police.

Gilani added that the Bollywood industry's connection to Indore city, a secondary hub after Mumbai, played a significant role in their family's link to Indian cinema. He explained that due to their grandfather's high-ranking police position, famous actors often visited their residence during film shoots in Indore, which eventually led their family to become part of the Bollywood industry.

Bary Gilani further disclosed with them. Bary Gilani, a relative that Salman Khan affectionately calls him "Bary Mamoo" (Uncle). He shared that he has visited India twice since 1980 and stayed at Salman Khan's house during both visits.

Gilani's son, Nadeem, also Pakistan. However, Salim Khan's shared that Salman Khan, stay in Karachi. Nadeem added



Khan and Sohail Khan, and their sister, visited Karachi in the 1980s and stayed at their house for three months. During their visit, Arbaaz Khan suffered a motorbike accident, which required them to extend their

vintage jeans from Lighthouse during that time.

Nadeem mentioned his visits to Mumbai, where he stayed at Salman Khan's house, and described a more recent meeting with the actor in Dubai. He



fondly recalled Salman's warmth and affection, saying that the superstar exceeded his expectations in their meeting.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

iliuex riuctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close		
114,880.48	114,037.79		
Day's High	Day's Low		
115,779.05	114,383.16		
Index Value	Change		
22,573,761,921	+842.69		
Percentage	Time		
+0.74%	24 Jan, 2025 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
8,502.35	-62.85		
Percentage	Time		
-0.73%	24 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
44,508.50	-56.57		
Percentage	Time		
-0.13%	24 Jan, 11:48 am GMT-5		

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change		
39,931.98	-26.89		
Percentage	Time		
-0.067%	24 Jan, 3:45 pm GMT+9		

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	177.25	179.50
Bahrain Dinar	738.60	746.60
Canadian Dollar	194.60	197.00
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	38.48	38.88
Euro	291.50	294.25
Hong Kong Dollar	35.43	35.78
Indian Rupee	3.14	3.23
Japanese Yen	1.81	1.87
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.30	905.80
Malaysian Ringgit	62.14	62.74
NewZealand \$	155.78	157.78
Norwegians Krone	24.41	24.71
Omani Riyal	722.90	731.40
Qatari Riyal	75.78	76.48
Saudi Riyal	74.25	74.80
Singapore Dollar	206.5	208.50
Swedish Korona	25.01	25.31
Swiss Franc	303.71	306.51
Thai Bhat	8.05	8.20
U. A.E Dirham	75.90	76.55
UK Pound Sterling	346.00	349.5
US Dollar	279.80	281.30

PPLAchieves Significant Increase in Gas Production from Shahdad



KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has successfully increased gas production from its Shahdad X-1 well in the Gambat South Block, Sindh. This significant achievement was made possible through an innovative water shut-off operation, marking a first for the Gambat South Block, as well as the introduction of acid-soluble cement technology—a first

Following the operation, the gas flow rate from Shahdad X-1 has surged from 2.2 MMscfd to 8.4 MMscfd, an increase of over 280%. In addition, water production has been dramatically reduced, from 3,000 bbl/d to a mere 26 bbl/d, demonstrating PPL's expertise in optimizing well performance and resource recovery.

Originally drilled in 2012 and brought into production in 2015, Shahdad X-1 was initially producing 26 MMscfd of gas. However, by 2024, the well experienced a significant decline in production due to an increase in water production, caused by inter-layer crossflow. To address this issue, PPL commissioned a Production Logging Tool (PLT) survey in August 2024, which confirmed the need for remedial action.

In response, PPL worked with a coiled tubing service provider to deploy the acid-soluble cement technology, effectively isolating the water-producing zones and restoring optimal gas flow. This successful operation underscores PPL's technical innovation, operational excellence, and commitment to enhancing production from its mature fields. The company continues to focus on leveraging advanced technologies to maximise the potential of its assets, contributing to Pakistan's energy security."

China play key role in Pakistan's digital transformation: Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb said that China has played a key role in Pakistan's digital transformation, which is necessary for sustainable economic development in the country.

Pakistan has the world's third largest population of freelancers, which would play significant role in future economy of Pakistan, the minister said.

Pakistan and China have a long-term and vibrant partnership, Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb told China Global Television Network (CGTN) on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, said a press $\,$ release issued here on Friday.

During an interview with CGTN at the World Economic Forum, Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb highlighted stan's digital infrastructure.

The Finance minister said that the China will focus on the possibilities of transfer of Pakistan would also play significant role in and transfer of technology and knowledge, AI data centers.



China's significant role in developing Paki- Chinese industries to Pakistan for economic growth and promote export led growth.

He said there will be an effort to make Paki-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Phase-II stan an export hub for Chinese industries and financial assistance, investment in Pakistan, technology zones, fintech opportunities and

Finance Minister said.

He emphasized the necessity of future collaboration, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and discussed how China's GDP growth in 2024 could impact their ongoing partnership.

"We have always learned from the thoughtful Chinese leadership and the fruits of mutual business partnerships will be prominent in the Phase-II of CPEC,"he said.

The government of Pakistan is trying to launch the Panda Bond this year and "We are striving to access the worlds largest and deepest Chinese capital market."

He said the launch of the first 'Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Digital Initiative' for Pakistan is a matter of honor for us and the government to take Pakistan's IT sector forward by learning from the experiences of

The minister said that this is a significant China has always supported Pakistan in development for the successful transition of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology, digital infrastructure, establishment of special

Islamabad: Minister for Defence production, Khawaja Muhamamd Asif, and Azerbaijan's Minister for Defence Industry, H.E. Vugar Mustafayev, signing protocols in Pakistan-Azerbaijan 8th Joint Commission Meeting on Friday.



Falak Fries Masala of **Matco Foods Earns Prestigious Superior Taste Award**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Falak Fries Masala of Matco Foods has been honored with the internationally acclaimed Superior Taste Award by the International Taste Institute in Brussels. This recognition, judged by a panel of 200 culinary experts, including Michelin-starred chefs, underscores the exceptional quality and flavor of Falak prod-

The Superior Taste Award is a testament to the meticulous care and dedication that goes into crafting each a star from world-retion in flavor that delights joy to dining tables acre consumers worldwide.

"This award celebrates our unwavering passion for delivering exceptional taste and quality," said a representative from Matco Foods, the company behind the Falak brand. "It reflects the hard work and creativity of our dedicated teams who strive to craft products that inspire and satisfy."

Falak Fries Masala, a signature seasoning designed to elevate everyday fries into a gourmet treat, has quickly gained popularity among food enthusiasts for its bold and unique flavor profile.

This achievement not product at Falak. Receiving only enhances Falak's reputation in the global culinary nowned culinary masters arena but also reinforces its reaffirms the commitment promise to continue delivto excellence and innova- ering products that bring the world.

Google and local partner Tech Valley to Drive Digital Transformation in Punjab Classrooms

S Commerce Desk

KARACHI: This International Education Day at British Educational Training and Technology Show (BETT UK 2025), Google for Education along with its local partner Tech Valley, signed an agreement with the Punjab Government, including the Punjab School Education Department and the Punjab Education Foundation, to transform Puniab's primary and secondary schools by laying down foundations for AI interventions in the education system.

Previously, Google for Education has been working with the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training in Pakistan with Chromebooks being a center of providing quality and secure education and opening up paths for students to explore more global digital tools. Seeing the success in the federal public school, Punjab will now be a focus province for latest Google for Education initiatives.

"This partnership signifies our commitment to leveraging technology for positive



Punjab, Rana Sikander Hayat. "By equipping students and educators with worldclass digital tools and data-driven insights, we aim to empower future generations in Punjab and beyond."

We are excited to collaborate with Google social impact," said Minister of Education for Education and Punjab Government to said CEO Tech Valley, Umar Farooq.

empower students and teachers by utilizing digital tools and resources. Tech Valley along with Google for Education's Adoption team will ensure effective deployment of tools, hands-on teacher training, and support throughout the implementation phase."

ICCI-Riphah University to host conference on "business challenges, opportunities"

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Riphah International University have announced a joint effort to organize a major conference aimed at strengthening the link between industry and academia. This conference will involve collaboration with other universities in the region, focusing on finding practical solutions to align academic research with the needs of the industry, particularly in developing market-driven and export-oriented products.

The decision to organize the conference was made during a meeting between Hassan Mohammad Khan, Chancellor of Riphah International University, and Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President and economic growth.

of ICCI, at the Chamber House in Islamabad. The event seeks to address key challenges faced by the business community and to create a robust platform for youth involvement in economic and business activities.

Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of ICCI, reaffirmed the Chamber's dedication to fostering strong industry-university relationships. He explained that ICCI, in collaboration with universities, will gather researchbased projects from graduates, select promising products, and present them to the business community for financial support and investment, helping bring these ideas to market. This initiative aims to resolve issues faced by businesses while contributing to job creation

Ogra's mobile app 'Rahguzar' to help consumers locate petrol pumps

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) have launched mobile application 'Rahguzar' in order to help

consumers locate petrol pumps. This app will enable consumers to identify legal petrol pumps and outlets across the country using Geographic Information System tech-

The launch of the latest representatives from OCAC. mobile application is a major step in the digitalization of Paki-

stan's oil supply chain. The launch ceremony of the app was held at OGRA's head office in Islamabad.

The event was presided over by Chairman OGRA consumers will be able to use Masroor Khan, Member Oil and Finance.

The event was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), FBR, Customs, Explosives Department and

'Rahguzar' will provide a platform for

consumers, district governments and law enforcement agencies to identify illegal shops or "box stations".

Furthermore, the app to identify illegal outlets, overcharging, or quality-related concerns, ensure transparency and holders will be able to use it to register complaints related

to empowerment. Chairman OGRA said that



Chairman OGRA further this journey began with the talks between OGRA and FBR said that the launch of in August 2024. 'Rahguzar' is the first phase of a he concluded.

broader track and trace system aimed at promoting accountability, preventing illegal activities and enhancing the integrity of the oil industry, Chairman OGRA said. The OGRA Chairman said

this initiative will act as a game changer in addressing the challenges posed by illegal petrol pumps and corruption. The launch of 'Rahguzar' app

reflects OGRA's effective governance and transparent and accountable energy ecosystem,

CM Punjab inaugurate the third phase competitions of Khelta Punjab Games

15 Tahir Amin Malik.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry while addressing a press conference at the National Hockey Stadium on Thursday revealed that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will inaugurate the third phase competitions of Khelta Punjab Games at a colourful opening ceremony on January 30 at Punjab Stadium.

Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Chief Sports Consultant Hafeez Bhatti and other officials were also present on

Addressing the press conference, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that more than 2,000 athletes from all divisions of the province will feature in 15 sports disciplines during the third phase of Khelta Punjab Games scheduled to be staged at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex from January 30 to February 3, 2025.



Answering a question, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry clarified that the date and schedule of Khelta Punjab Games will have no Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry be handed over their cash prizes as soon clash with cricket Champions Trophy tournament. "Sports Board Punjab is biggest games in the history of Punjab on February 3," he added.

ting manner".

Director General Sports and Youth

making excellent arrangements for in which a total of 120,000 players organizing the mega event in a befit- were registered. Prizes of Rs 10 crore will be distributed among the top position holder players. "All the toppers will said that Khelta Punjab Games are the as the Khelta Punjab Games concluded

Saud says Pakistan cricket team will also perform brilliantly in the second test match against West Indies

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Voice Captain Of Pakistan Cricket Team Saud Said Pakistan cricket team will also perform brilliantly in the second test match against West Indies in Multan Cricket Stadium.

Saud Shakeel recently shared his views regarding the upcoming second Test match against the West Indies, which is set to take place at the Multan International Cricket Stadium. He emphasized that the current pitches being produced in Pakistan are of high quality. He drew comparisons to legendary players like Wasim Akram, Inzamam-ul-Haq, and Shoaib Akhtar, asserting that if they could become legendary cricketers on such pitches, then current players should also strive to perform well and aspire to be considered levends themselves

domestic cricket. He pointed out that players face similar conditions when resilience and capability.

starting out in club cricket, which prepares them for tougher challenges in higher levels of play.

When concerns were raised about the struggles of senior players like Babar Azam and the overall performance of the Pakistani batting lineup, Saud acknowledged that challenging conditions can lead to difficulties. However, he emphasized the importance of focus on match outcomes, proudly noting that the team has recently defeated England and the West Indies. He argued that when victories are achieved, the quality of the pitches doesn't come into question, but if matches end in draws or losses, criticism arises regarding the pitch quality.

Overall, Saud Shakeel's statements reflect an understanding of the importance of playing on challenging pitches in developing a player's skills and the necessity for Pakistani players to reduces the likelihood of significant During a press conference at the improve their performance in tough changes. stadium, Saud defended the spin- conditions, especially in Test cricket. friendly pitches, stating that there is no The upcoming Test match in Multan need for creating different pitches in presents an opportunity for the Pakistani batting lineup to demonstrate their



Saud Shakil, in response to a question, stated that there is no need for any major changes in the team for the second Test against the West Indies at Multan International Cricket Stadium, as when the team is winning, maintaining the winning combination is essential.

In response to another question, he If they perform well, their ranking will

improve as well, and rankings do hold a certain importance.

Saud Shakil further mentioned that the Pakistan cricket team is currently on an upward trajectory, with the spinners showing good performances and a solid combination in place. He noted that openers often face difficulties with the new ball. Sadiq Khan managed to dismiss West Indies players early with the new ball, which has posed challenges for the openers and their partners, but he remains hopeful that they will deliver an excellent performance in the second Test.

The pitch for the second Test has taken on a factory-like shape, which could serve as an idea for the Champions Trophy as well. He suggested giving Sajad Khan and Nauman Ali a chance to play.

The second Test match between Pakian and West Indies is set to begin tomorrow, with only one day remaining before the match starts. Today, both expressed that being ranked highly in teams held a joint practice session at the Tests is a personal honor, but the team's Multan International Cricket Stadium. focus is primarily on their performance. Pakistan won the first match of this Test

Pak Korangi and Landhi Friends secure victories in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament

₿ Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two more matches were decided in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various Grounds

of the City. highlights of the days



bowling by Muhammad Khan 5/28 and Muhammad Zohaib

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

Pak Korangi defeated Ever Green Cricket Club by 7 Wickets at Asghar Ali Shah Stadium. Ever Green CC 128 all out in 26.2 overs. Shahzar Ali 36, Bacha Khan 26. Muhammad Zohaib

(rob) 4/10, Usama Basharat (sla) 3/29, Waseem Ahmed 2/34. Pak Korangi 131/3 in 15.5 overs. Afsar Nawaz 36 2x4 2x6 not out, Ashar Qureshi 27, Arsalan Basheer 23. Khairullah 2/38. In the 2nd Match of the day Landhi Friends beat Qamar Abbas

Cricket Club by 8 wickets at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Qamar Abbas CC 117 all out in 26.1 overs. Sabih Agha 32, Shuja 24. Muhammad Khan 5/28, Ali Meesum 2/17, Hanif Malik 2/33. Landhi Friends 120/2 in 10.3 overs. Zakaullah 53 8x4 2xy not out, Ali Meesum 23 not out.

Khushhal Khan's Big Boxing Debut at Knock Out Night on January 25th in Lahore



KARACHI: Get ready for a night full of punches, power, and passion! Knock Out Night, happening at DHA Sports Complex, Lahore, is set to bring boxing back to life in Pakistan.

The highlight of the night? Khushhal Khan Khattak, the heartthrob of millions, is stepping into the boxing ring for the very first time. Known for his hit dramas and incredible fashion sense, Khushhal is ready to take on this bold new challenge. Fans have seen him act, but now they'll see him fight!

Khushhal's journey has been nothing short of amazing from winning the HUM Award for Best Actor Popular in 2023 to being a Gen-Z icon. Now, he's adding boxing to his list of achievements, making this event a must-watch for his fans and

The main event will feature Usman Wazeer, Pakistan's boxing star, alongside top international fighters from Thailand, Ind nesia, and Iran. With 12 fights and 24 fighters, this night will be packed with action, drama, and energy.

Mark your calendars for January 25, 2025. Be there to cheer for Khushhal Khan & Usman Wazeer and witness history in

World Test Cricket Championship

Pakistan vs West Indies Second Cricket Test Match will start on 25th January at Multan Cricket Stadium

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan vs West Indies Second Cricket Test Match Will Start on 25th January at Multan Cricket Stadium

at the Multan International Cricket Stadium. If Pakistan wins, it will be their second consecutive Test series win at home, following their victory in 2021 in back-to-back series on home grounds. Pakistan currently leads the series 1-0. This will also be Pakistan's final Test match in the 2023-25 ICC World Test Championship cycle, and for Shan Masood, it will be his last assignment as captain. After this, there will be a long nine-month break, and the PCB could make any decisions for the next cricket season. Pakistan vs. West Indies, second Test, will take place from January 25 to January 29, 2025, at Multan International Cricket Stadium, starting live at 9:30 AM with the toss at 9:00 AM. When contacted, the PCB media manager stated that there are no changes to the Pakistan Test team as of now.

A decision will be made regarding the playing XI after assessing the pitch before the toss. It is possible that Pakistan might bench their lone pacer, Khurram Shahzad, and opt for an additional batter, potentially Imam-ul-Haq. However, it is also possible that Pakistan will stick to the same team that played the first Test without any changes.

On Friday, the Pakistan team rested while the West Indies team held a practice session.



West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite addressed the media during a press conference, while Pakistan's interim head coach, Aagib Javed, took on the responsibility of interacting with the

Kraigg Brathwaite stated that although the pitch is challenging, his players are highly motivated and confident. He mentioned that the West Indies team will likely field four spinners for the match. Senior player Kemar Roach will return to the squad. Speaking at the press conference at Multan International Cricket Stadium, Brathwaite emphasized the importance of scoring big and acknowledged the difficulty of the pitch in the previous match. He encouraged his players to be brave and self-assured, expressing their aim to win the match and level

Brathwaite added that every

and they plan to adapt to the conditions. He also remarked that Pakistan is taking advantage of their home conditions by preparing spin-friendly pitches.

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite stated that this approach suits them well, as Warrican bowled brilliantly in the first Test and is expected to perform well again. It is anticipated that the pitch for this match will be similar to the first Test. The team has practiced against spinners in their training sessions and will finalize their plans before the match. However, the pitch is challenging, and batters will need to develop individual strategies to perform on it. The team will rely heavily on their spinners as the pitch is favorable for spin. Changes in the toss strategy might also occur due to pitch conditions. Brathwaite acknowledged Pakistan's

batter has a different approach, right to prepare the kind of pitch they prefer, stating that if they consider spin-friendly conditions to be beneficial, it is their decision. It will be up to them to evaluate whether such pitches are good or bad for their players in the context of Test matches. He highlighted how individual performances in the first match, such as Warrican's bowling and Alec Athanaze's batting, positively impacted the team overall, and they expect similar contributions in this game. Meanwhile, Pakistan's interim head coach Aaqib Javed took a firm stance in favor of spin-friendly pitches during a press conference at Multan International Cricket Stadium. He questioned the criticism of preparing spin tracks, asking, "What's the issue if we are making spin-friendly pitches?" He also defended the policy, despite suggestions that it has sidelined players like Shaheen





Afridi from Test cricket.

Aaqib Javed addressed tough and pointed questions during a press conference at Multan International Cricket Stadium, a day before Pakistan's second Test against the West Indies. He stated, "Tell me, what wrong have we done? We had to prepare a spin-friendly pitch against the West Indies because they are weak against spin. Now people are questioning where Test cricket is headed. It's an absurd question. The essence of Test cricket is that you create take wickets, they claim Test harder to regain that skill."

pitches suited to your strengths at home and win. Winning two matches abroad can make you a contender for the final. The principle is simple: conditions dictate the team strategy.

"In the future, our Test team's goal will be to win at home. Matches in Australia and South Javed, and Shoaib Akhtar on Africa rarely last five days. In South Africa, games often amazed that when spinners take wickets, people say Test cricket is declining, but when fast bowlers

cricket is improving. Someone needs to explain this logic to me."

Aaqib emphasized that these decisions should have been made much earlier. He added, "The real focus should be on how to win Tests. We can now create such pitches at every center to challenge foreign teams and make it difficult for them to win here. Although our own batters face challenges on these tracks, discussions are underway to help them improve against spin. By adapting, they will perform better. On such pitches, it's not guaranteed how long fast bowlers or batters will last, as the pitch keeps changing until the final day."

In response to a question about the balance between formats, Aaqib said, "There is One-Day cricket and then there is Test cricket. With so much cricket being played, bowlers often end up bowling 30 overs in Tests and then can't play for four months. For instance, in Cape Town, Shaheen Afridi couldn't play due to Mohammad Abbas. Bowlers will now need to play four-day cricket to prepare themselves better for Tests. Regarding Shaheen, he is now practically limited to white-ball cricket, and his Test career is over."

When asked how Pakistan will produce bowlers like Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aaqib such pitches, or how batters will score double centuries, Aaqib end within three days. I am replied, "We used to take wickets with reverse swing. Now, we've fallen behind in reverse swing as well. Bowlers will need to work

The Spokesman

Visit Students from Pakistan School Muscat visiting Pakistan Navy Ship in Oman. Photo: PID

Pakistan Navy Ships Visit Oman during Overseas **Deployment**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ships TABUK and RAH stan Navy ships were warmly received by Omani author-

Commanding Officers, held meetings with naval leadership of Oman. He called on Ambassadors,

Commander, along with the Navy-to-Navy engagements, and cooperation in maritime security were discussed. diplomats NAWARD visited Port Sultan Director General Ops and and Military Attaches of Qaboos, Muscat, Oman. Plans Royal Navy of Oman, various countries also visited Upon arrival at the port, Paki- Commander Maritime Secu- the ships. Pakistan Navy SHAMIKH. The exercise at rity Centre and Commandant Ships were opened for visi-Said Bin Sultan Naval Base. tors, wherein large number During these interactions, of Pakistani community navies and promote shared

stan School, Muscat visited

onboard PN ships. Following the port call, PNS TABUK conducted a Passage Exercise with a Royal Oman Navy ship AL sea aimed to enhance interoperability between the two During the visit, Mission matters of mutual interest, including students from Paki- learning through coordinated between the two navies.

Pakistan and Oman are maritime neighbours and frequent visits of dignitaries, port calls by ships, joint exercises and coordinated patrols are regular feature. The visit of PNS TABUK and RAH NAWARD will strengthen bilateral relations

Climate Ministry, ICESCO to host girls' green education conference in Pakistan

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Climate Change and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) have announced their collaboration to hold a conference focusing on climate education with an emphasis on green skills for girls in Pakistan

The decision was made during a meeting between the Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, and Dr. Haddy Jatou Sey, the head of ICESCO, who met her on Friday to discuss key actions for the event.

During the meeting, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam underscored the significance of empowering girls through education that integrates



Islam advocates for the right tion and inheritance. She conference will be held under Educational Framework for

green skills, highlighting that of women to access educa- expressed that the upcoming the theme "National Climate

Girls in the Islamic World," and will bring together federal and provincial government representatives, as well as stakeholders, to participate in the event.

"The primary aim of climate education is to prepare citizens for the future and actively involve them in building a climate-resilient nation with a special focus on strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of women, especially young girls," Ms. Romina said.

The Prime Minister's aide revealed that she is working on the Africa House initiative in collaboration with Rwanda, which will serve as a gateway for Pakistan to connect with African countries. This partnership will focus on shared efforts to tackle climate change, resilience, and adaptation, she

Death sentence awarded to four for spreading religious hatred on social media

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Session Court has awarded death sentence to four convicts for spreading religious hatred on social media.

The four criminals identified as Rana Usman, Ashfaq Ali, Salman Sajjad, Wajid Ali were capital punishment after being found them guilty of crime under PECA Act. Additional Session Judge M Tariq Ayub pronounced the judgment. The Court also ordered imposed one million fine to each convict and ten years in prison.

A case was registered against the culprits in October 2022 under Section XI of PECA Act. Prosecutor Malik Sikandar appeared on behalf of FIA and Advocate Raja Imran Khalil appeared on behalf of plaintiff Shiraz

Four bills passed in brief joint parliamentary sitting amid opposition's protest

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The joint session of Parliament quickly concluded on Friday after more than one hour delay amid the opposition's protest over the recently passed amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes law.

A live telecast from the Pakistan Television Network showed lawmakers who presented the bills and National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq wearing headphones to avoid noise.

The opposition started protesting after the NA speaker denied Leader of Opposition Omar Ayub's request to speak on the floor of the House.

The agenda for the session comprised 17 points.

the joint session on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

President Zardari convened the session at the Parliament House in Islamabad while utilising the powers granted under Article 54(1) of the Constitution. The government is expected to present pending bills for legislative consideration. Moreover, bills returned by former president Arif Alvi would be discussed and reviewed in the joint

Special security arrangements were made for the joint session, said a statement from the National Assembly spokesperson. Access for guests has been restricted to ensure

order during the proceedings. Despite the noise and disrup-

President Asif Ali Zardari called tions, the NA speaker continued the proceedings of the House and initiated the process of government

legislation on the agenda. Commerce Minister Jam Kamal presented the Trade Organizations (Amendment) Bill 2021 and the Import and Export Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2023, both of which were approved by the House.

Senator Manzoor Kakar introduced the National Excellence Institute Bill 2024, which was also passed. The National Technology Institute Bill 2024 was also approved by a majority vote.

The joint session of Parliament was adjourned until February 12. The meeting lasted 18 minutes, during which four bills were passed by a majority vote in just 9 minutes.

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Azerbaijani Defence Industry Minister calls on PM



ISLAMABAD: Minister of Defence Industry of Republic of Azerbaijan, Vugar Mustafayev called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Friday.

During the meeting, both sides expressed their shared commitment to strengthen and diversify relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

satisfaction at the current trajec- 23-24 January 2025 in Islamabad.

tory of their bilateral cooperation, in all areas of mutual interest. particularly in trade, energy,

investment and defence sectors. Minister for Defence Industry thanked the Prime Minister for the warm hospitality extended by Pakistan to him and his delega-

Vugar Mustafayev is visiting Pakistan to Co-Chair the 8th Session of Joint Ministerial Commission between Pakistan The prime minister expressed and Azerbaijan, being held on

Chinses investors reach SHC against corruption, mistreatment of Sindh police



have reached Sindh High Court Chief. constitutional bench seeking help against mistreatment from the hands of Sindh police, reported 24NewsH-DTV channel. Six Chinses investors moved SHC through their counsel Mehsud Advocate demanded justice and protection from the harassment and extortion by Sindh police. Sindh High Court has sought reply from concerned departments within four

The Chinses investors told the court to provide them safety otherwise they will shift to Lahore or move back to China.

Federal Interior Ministry, Chief Secretary Sindh, IG, Home Secretary Sindh and Head of Special Unit of CPEC Security have been made parties in the petition. Malir police officials, Chinese embassy and others have also been made parties in the

The Chinses investors contended

that they came here to make investment in Pakistan on the invitation of Pakistan's Prime Minister, Arn

The told the court that bribe is demanded during their movement from airport to their residence. Moreover, at airport, the investors are compelled to wait for hours in the name of bulletproof vehicles.

The applicant contended that their residences are also cordoned off in the name of security and their residences were locked put outside. The Chinese claimed that they were deprived of the right to free movement and cannot hold business meetings.

The counsel told the court that after payment of Rs50,000 as bribe they are allowed to move and meet

The applicant contended that three Chinses women investors had gone back to China after they were insulted at Expo centre in Karachi. He said seven factories of Chinses investors have been sealed in Sukkah Police

Pakpattan man arrested for insulting Maryam



News Desk

PAKPATTAN: A man in Pakpattan, Punjab province, was arrested on Friday, for allegedly violating the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) of 2016. He is accused of failing to remove an offensive post targeting Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz from a WhatsApp group he administered.

According to the First Information Report (FIR), the post contained "dirty language"

insulting the Chief Minister. The FIR alleges the administrator, despite knowing the post was offensive and illegal, allowed it to remain visible to other group members, potentially inciting public unrest.

The arrest comes a day after the National Assembly passed amendments to PECA, introducing stricter penalties for spreading false information online, including potential imprisonment of up to three years and fines of up to Rs2