Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Petrol, diesel prices set to increase once again

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rajabul Murajjab 29, Thursday, January 30, 2025

🤐 www.dailyspokesman.net 🚺 @daily spokesman

US President Donald Trump will take a victory lap Wednesday as he signs a bill cracking down on migrant criminal suspects - his first piece of legislation since he returned to power vowing a blitz on



illegal immigration.



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Called on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of leading US investors led by Mr. Gentry Beach called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on



President enacts PECA Amendment Bill 2025 into law

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari has approved the 'controversial' Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Amendments Bill,

According to reports, in addition to the PECA Amendment Bill, the President has also granted approval to the Digital Nation Pakistan Bill 2025. This bill is seen as a key initiative to modernise Pakistan's digital infrastructure and promote technological advancements.

Furthermore, the President has endorsed the National Commission on the Status of Women Bill, which aims to women's rights and addressing strengthen the institutional framework for promoting country.



gender-based issues in the

On January 28, the Senate Tuesday passed the PECA Amendments Bill, 2025.

The bill was moved in the sition was also engaged on the upper House of the Parliament after the Senate Standing Committee on Interior Monday approved the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act Bill, despite strong opposition from journalist organizations.

Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain moved the bill on behalf of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

In his remarks, Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain said the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Amendment Bill, 2025 is aimed at dealing with the issues on social media.

He assured it is not directed against the journalists of televi-

sion and newspapers. The minister said the oppobill through the platforms of standing committees of both the National Assembly and the Senate.

PECA Amendment Bill 2025 challenged in LHC

In a related news, the PECA Bill, has been challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC).

As per details, the petitioner said in his plea that the PECA bill which deprives people of freedom of speech was approved without any consultation with the stakeholders and unions of journalists

The petition stated that the bill would result in severe punishment, including three years' imprisonment and a fine. The court is urged to declare the PECA Amendment Bill 2025 null and void.

US billionaire says Pakistan visit is for 'business' not talks

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A leading US billionaire investor, Gentry Beach, heading a delegation of American investors in Islamabad, has declared his intention to invest billions of dollars in Pakistan, dismissing misunderstandings about the country and criticizing the Biden administration's policies toward Pakistan.

Speaking to journalists, Beach emphasized that his visit was purely for business, not negotiations. He highlighted numerous investment opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in minerals, energy, and real estate. He expressed confidence in a new era of global peace and prosperity, praising Donald Trump's approach to economic diplomacy and asserting alignment between the Pakistani government and the new American leadership.

Beach also addressed the controversial involvement of these contributions.



Richard Grenell, an aide to Donald Trump, stating that he believed Grenell had been misled by a deepfake video related to the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. He expressed respect for Pakistan's judicial system and highlighted the historical ties between Pakistan and the United States.

Beach stressed his visit was independent of the US government's economic diplomacy, emphasizing a desire to improve housing accessibility for Pakistanis. He acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and stated that the US recognizes

PM assures conducive environment, smooth processes to facilitate investors

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reaffirmed his government's unwavering commitment to facilitating foreign investors by ensuring a conducive business environment, streamlined processes, and robust institutional support.

The prime minister, in a meeting with an international investors delegation, led by leading US investor Gentry Beach, underscored the country's unique appeal as a global investment destination, highlighting its strategic geographical location, skilled and youthful workforce, and rapidly expanding consumer market.

Discussing Pakistan's dynamic investment land-

scape and promising economic potential, he expressed gratitude for the delegation's keen interest in exploring business opportunities in Pakistan. Gentry Beach commended

Pakistan's immense economic potential and conveyed his delegation's enthusiasm to explore diverse investment opportunities across key sectors, including mining and minerals, renewable energy, infrastructure development, and technology.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Abdul Aleem Khan, Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State Ali Prevaiz Malik and SAPM Tariq Fatemi were also present in the meeting.

FIA director general, KP police chief removed from their posts



👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: In an important development, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday ordered the removal of FIA Director General (DG) Ishaq Jahangir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) IGP Akhtar Hayat from their posts.

While Jahangir was made an OSD in the Establishment Division, Hayat was directed to report to the Establishment Division.

Zulfigar Hameed replaced Hayat as the provincial IGP instead. Hameed was earlier serving in the Punjab government.

All three grade-21 officers belong to the Police Service of Pakistan.

Record of military trial of a May 9 convict presented in SC

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel of the constitutional bench (CB) of the Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday asked whether a suspect was also considered a 'favourite child' in military courts as was usually the case in ordinary courts.

During the hearing of intra-court appeals filed against declaring the trial of civilians in military courts null and void, Khawaja Haris, the counsel for the Ministry of Defence, informed that the suspect was provided complete protection under the rules of the Army Act.

A seven-member bench, headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan, heard the appeals. Justice Mandokhel asked Khawaja Haris on what basis a trial in a military court could be challenged.

Haris replied that the trial could be challenged if the court was not relevant or there was a bad intention on the part of the judge.

Haris went on to say that the law was explicit on the difference between a trial and a fair trial.



Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi asked whether a suspect, undergoing a military trial, who could not hire a lawyer due to his meager financial resources was provided a lawyer at the government's expense.

Haris replied, "Yes my lord! The suspect is provided a lawyer."

The lawyer argued that the bench could not review each and every case that was heard by a military court. "The bench is not hearing the case covered by clause III of Article 184 of the constitution."

Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan remarked that he, as a chief justice of the Balochistan High Court (BHC), had heard appeals against the verdicts given by military courts. "When a high court hears such appeals, the GHQ provides a complete record of such cases," the judge added.

Head of Missing Persons Commission Faqir Khokhar passes away



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Justice ® Faqir Muhammad Khokhar who was recently appointed as head of Missing Persons Commission breathed his last in Lahore on Wednesday.

His Namaz-e-Janaza was offered in DHA Lahore on Wednesday which was attended for former Chief Justices Sagib Nisar, Umer Ata Bandial and others members of legal fraternity. Additional Attorney-General of

Pakistan Malik Javed Iqbal appointed Justice ® Faqir Mohammad Khokhar in place of Justice [®] Javed Iqbal.

It is necessary to mention here that Justice [®] Javed Iqbal former chairman of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was appointed as head of Missing Persons Commission in 2011.

IHC returns Imran, Bushra's appeals in Al-Qadir Trust case with objections

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The registrar of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday returned the appeals filed by the former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi against their conviction in 190 million Pound case (Al-Qadir Trust case) by raising objections to them.

The registrar directed the appellants' lawyers to remove these objections and file the appeals again.

that the certificate that the case adjourned the hearing of the was not pending in any other case until February 10.

court had not been attached. He also said that some of the pages did

not bear the signatures of the appellants. Also on Wednesday,

the IHC rejected the petition filed by Imran and his wife Bushra Bibi for the immediate transfer of the Toshakhana-II case to another court.

The couple had objected to the bench headed by Justice Raja Inam Amin Minhas. Omar Ayub, Shibli, Kanwal indicted

An anti-terrorism court in Faisalabad on Wednesday indicted senior PTI leaders Omar Ayub Khan, Shibli Faraz and Kanwal Shozaib in May 9 riots case.

After pronouncing the The registrar pointed out charge-sheet, the court



Ombudsman Regional Office in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Public Expectations

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: After a long time, the people of Azad Kashmir have got a judicial forum for redress and justice from the government and private institutions of Pakistan.

Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmed Qureshi inaugurated a regional office in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. On this occasion, Director General Ombudsman Secretariat Ashfaq Ahmed Khan Islamabad, Commissioner IRD Regional Azad Kashmir Mansoor Qadir Dar, secretaries to the government and officers working under the federation in Azad Kashmir and city elits were also present. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmed Qureshi said that after the establishment of two new offices in Muzaffarabad Azad Kashmir and Gilgit, this institution is providing facilities to the public in 24 cities across the country.

More new offices will be opened in remote areas this year. Federal



working in Azad Kashmir to ensure prompt redressal of the grievances of the poor people.

He said that the redressal of public grievances is continuously increasing in his institution every year. Due to the continuous increase in the reach and accessibility of the Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmed Qureshi Ombudsman institution, there was urged the federal government officers a record increase in the redressal of

public grievances during the year

The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior officials of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, local heads of federal government institutions, as well as a large number of media and civil society members. Addressing the ceremony, the Federal Ombudsman said that during the year 2024, 226,371

complaints were received by the Federal Ombudsman, while decisions were made on 223,171 complaints, which is 16 percent more than last year. 93 percent of the decisions have also been implemented. He said that our investigation officers are providing justice to the common people by going to remote areas of the country and holding open courts themselves.

The Federal Ombudsman Secretariat is a court of the poor, which aims to redress the grievances of the poor and backward classes. Earlier, Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmed Qureshi chaired a meeting with the heads of federal government institutions in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Director General Ombudsman Secretariat Ashfaq Ahmed Khan, Commissioner IRD Regional Azad Kashmir Mansoor Qadir Dar and senior officers of government institutions under the purview of the Federal Ombudsman.

On this occasion, Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmed Qureshi urged the government officers to make every effort to redress the grievances of the poor people.

Under training officers of NIPA Peshawar visited Faisalabad



FAISALABAD: Under training officers of 42nd Mid Career Management Course at the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) Peshawar visited Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) in connection with their study tour.

Addressing the participants, President FCCI Mr. Rehan Naseem Bharara briefed them about the economic importance of Faisalabad and FCCI. He emphasized consultative strategies and continuation of policies to attain sustained economic goals.

Faculty Member of NIPA Peshawar, Mr. Shabid Ullah introduced the participants and said that the private sector must play its role for economic progress while the government's job was to provide an enabling environment, improve law & order situation and ensure justice to every citizen. The participants asked diverse questions which were responded to by the President FCCI. Later Senior Vice President Qaisar Shams Gucha offered a vote of thanks while shields were also exchanged by the two sides.

Art Exhibition at Punjab College Multan Marks World Education Day 2025



MULTAN: Punjab College Multan held a vibrant and thought-provoking art exhibition to commemorate World Education Day on Friday. The event, which showcased an impressive array of paintings, posters, and sketches created by students, celebrated the power of education and its role in transforming lives.

The exhibition, aptly titled "Pegham Pakistan-Education for All" highlighted the creativity and awareness of the young artists regarding global education challenges. With over 100 artworks on display, students from various disciplines visually expressed their thoughts on the significance of inclusive education, the need for gender equality in schools, and the role of education in fostering peace and progress.

Inaugurating the event, Director of Punjab Colleges Multan Region, Mr. Usama Bashir Qureshi, emphasized the importance of creativity in education. "Art is a universal language, and through their paintings and posters, our students have beautifully captured the essence of this year's theme-inclusive and equitable quality education.

The event was attended by students, faculty, parents, and local dignitaries, all of whom appreciated the depth and message behind the art pieces. A panel of judges also awarded three outstanding works, recognizing their creativity and relevance to the theme of World Educa-

Speaking to the media, Director of Colleges, Higher Education department Prof. Tahir Sultan shared his views "The exhibition highlighted how education breaks the cycle of poverty and ignorance. It is not just about classrooms but about the opportunities it creates for individuals to achieve their dreams," he said.

The exhibition concluded with a pledge by the students and staff to promote education for all and continue raising awareness about the barriers many children face in accessing quality education.

Strong Protest by Employees against the Decision to Turn Sindh Textbook Board into a Company



跨 🛮 Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

 $HYDERABAD: Employees\ of\ the\ Sindh\ Textbook\ Board, Jamshoro,$ have filed a petition in the Sindh High Court against the decision to turn the board into a company and announced protests in various cities of Sindh, as well as in front of MPAs and MNAs.

Following the decision to convert the Sindh Textbook Board into a company, the employees have raised their voices in protest. After internal protests and submitting a letter of complaint to the District and Session Judge, the employees held a meeting and decided to launch a movement against this step.

Speaking at the meeting, Hadi Bux Kokar, Muhammad Ali Shah, Maqsood Sangi, Taimoor Khaskheli, Abdul Rahman Andhar, Saddam Panhwar, Rabia Jamali, Muhammad Khan Gopang, Yaseen Gopang, and others stated, "We will not accept under any circumstances the decision to turn the Sindh Textbook Board, Jamshoro, into a company, a legacy of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. We will resist this decision at all levels.

They announced that on the coming Sunday, a rally would be taken out from Old Campus to Hyderabad Press Club, followed by a sit-in. Subsequently, every Sunday, protests will be held in different cities of Sindh. Additionally, the board's employees will also protest in front of their respective MNAs and MPAs.

They further stated, "Against the decision to turn the legacy of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto into a company, a petition will be filed in the Sindh High Court on Monday."

The employees of the board added that millions of children in Sindh are still deprived of education, and government schools lack basic facilities. However, instead of addressing these issues, the Education Minister, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, is involved in a conspiracy to close down a national heritage and historical institution like the Sindh Textbook Board, Jamshoro.

They called upon President Asif Ali Zardari and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to take immediate notice of the situation.

Appreciation

MULTAN: Mrs Farrukh Mukhtar Chairperson Girls Guide Association Award and Certificate Distributing at girls guide Office



Decline of Global Funds: Sindh's Development Dreams Sacrificed to Corruption

recipient of international aid, has tragically sunk into the quagmire of corruption. Every year, billions of rupees in global funds are allocated for developmental projects, but a large portion of these funds is swallowed by a corrupt system and incompetent officials. As a cines ended up in black markets. result, vital sectors such as education, health, irrigation, agriculture, and livestock are deteriorating instead of progressing.

Despite numerous projects funded by international organizations, the state of education in Sindh remains dismal.

School Rehabilitation Program: Billions were allocated through World Bank support to repair and construct schools, but the results are limited to paperwork. Reports indicate that out of 20,000 schools targeted for rehabilitation, most remain in deplorable conditions

Teacher Recruitment Corruption: Recruitment of teachers using yet they largely failed. global funds was riddled with corruption, leading to unqualified individuals being appointed. Many of these at home.

Educational Material Supply: UNICEF and other agencies funded the distribution of books and mate-

indh, a land of abundant rials, yet much of this was either compromising project quality. resources and a major sold in markets or never reached the schools.

The health sector receives substantial international aid, but the public sees little benefit.

Shortage of Medicines: Billions were allocated to supply medicines to hospitals, but most of these medi-

Rural Health Centers: Thousands of rural health centers funded by international aid either lack staff or have been shut down.

Faulty Equipment: Expensive medical machinery, purchased

global funds, often remains non-functional due to lack of expertise or poor depriving deserving individuals. maintenance.

Irrigation projects funded by global organizations aimed to improve Sindh's agricultural water system,

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

Substandard Construction: Repairs to canals and embankments were carried out with low-quality "teachers" draw salaries while staying materials, leading to collapses during even minor rains.

> Flawed Contracting System: Contracts were awarded based on political affiliations rather than merit,

Farmers' Struggles: Promises of improved water distribution for farmers remain unfulfilled, leaving many without access to irrigation water.

Agriculture, a cornerstone of Sindh's economy, continues to suffer despite significant international assis-

Supply of Agricultural Equipment: Modern farming

equipment, funded by global aid, never reached farmers and was instead hoarded by corrupt officials. Agricultural Loans

Misused: Funds meant for farmers distributed were based on favoritism,

Failure of RO Plants: Projects to install RO plants to combat water shortages were largely restricted to documents, with no real implementation on the ground.

Sindh's livestock sector, critical to its economy, shows little improvement despite global funding. Animal Health Programs: Projects

aimed at eradicating animal diseases failed to deliver results. Development of Livestock Farms:

remains an unfulfilled promise, with funds either embezzled or wasted.

1. Corrupt Officials: The primary issue is the rampant corruption among government officials. 2. Negligence by Global Organi-

zations: International agencies fail to enforce strict monitoring of fund

3. Contractors' Monopoly: Politically influenced contractors prioritize personal gain over project quality. Independent Oversight Commis-

sion: Establish an autonomous commission to monitor the use of global funds transparently. Accountability for Corruption:

Take strict action against corrupt officials and contractors. Public Awareness: Educate citizens

about global aid projects and involve them in monitoring. Active Role of Global Organizations: International donors must

implement stringent policies and actively oversee fund utilization. The misuse of global aid in Sindh is a tragedy depriving the public of basic

necessities. If the current situation persists, the province's resource-rich sectors will face irreversible damage. It is imperative for citizens to raise their voices and challenge the corrupt system. The future of Sindh depends on collective efforts, accountability, The establishment of modern farms and ethical leadership.



Namaz Timings Maghrib . 5:36 pm ...7:02 pm

EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCY
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Ctations

Stations		
Islamabad	922259	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	

walpindi	927060
ENQU	JIRY

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

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316

ICT Police ensure foolproof security for CAYA Youth Summit 2025

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have implemented comprehensive security measures for the Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance (CAYA) Summit 2025, ensuring the safety of participants, including foreign delegations.

An official told APP on Wednesday that following the special directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, senior police officers have inspected security arrangements at the residences and venues

of foreign delegates. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Security Division, Captain (R) Muhammad Zeeshan Haider, said that ICT Police is deploying all available resources to ensure the highest level of security for the Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance Summit

Additionally, other law enforcement agencies, traffic police, and special branch officers are performing their duties to ensure the security arrangements are fully implemented. Additionally, security for all foreign delegations and guests has been ensured.

Skill Training and Employment Opportunities under Benazir **Hunarmand Program**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: BISP, NAVTTC, and WHH Collaborate to Enhance Skill Training, International level Certifications, and Employment for Deserving

Agreement reached on the inclusion of semi-skilled BISP beneficiaries in the program across 14 districts; Identification of individuals based on required skill sets and formulation of a future action

Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, met today with Chairperson National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), Ms. Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, and Country Director WELT HUNGER HILFE (WHH), Ms. Aisha Jamshed, at the BISP Headquarters. The meeting aimed to explore measures for providing skill training, international standard certifications, and overseas job opportunities to deserving BISP women and their family members under the Benazir Hunarmand Program.

Chairperson BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid, emphasized that BISP and tunities.

NAVTTC are working together to uplift economically disadvantaged individuals. She highlighted the need to identify semi-skilled individuals in high-demand international sectors such as home care, nursing, and hospitality using the BISP database. This would allow targeted skill enhancement and ensure their linkage with relevant industries and technical training institutes. She further underscored the importance of leveraging all available resources to empower BISP beneficiaries.

Chairperson NAVTTC, Ms. Gulmina Bilal, reaffirmed NAVTTC's full support in providing skill training and international standard certifications to BISP beneficiaries. Under the WHH Scale-up Program, discussions were held on providing training to the poorest semiskilled individuals of BISP in 14 districts based on their interests.

It was agreed that in the next meeting, BISP, NAVTTC, and WHH will identify deserving individuals based on the required skill sets and formulate a comprehensive action plan for their skill development and employment oppor-



Happy Chinese new year

ISLAMABAD: A view of the Pakistan Monument illuminated with Red color in connection with Chinese New Year, which has started on 29 January according to the Chinese Lunar New Year also called (Snow Moon).

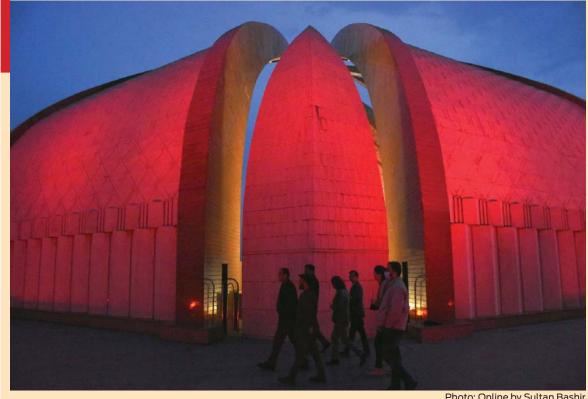


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

After a long period commercial market elections will be held

E City Desk

RAWALPINDI: After a long period of ten years, the commercial market elections will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025, for which candidates submitted their nomination papers in the presence of the twenty-six-member General Executive Council. In the commercial market elections, fourteen members will perform the duties of the Election Commission, which will be headed by Chairman Election Commission Javed Ahmed Chaudhry.



The nomination papers for the elections. will be scrutinized today after which the final list will be displayed. So far, two presidengroup and Malik Sohail Akhtar tial candidates have emerged Awan from the Hamdard busi-

Among them, Raja Tawheed Ahmed from the Dost business

ness group will participate in the elections. These elections are the center of attention across the city.

The excitement of the elections is at its peak in the market. The supporters of their respective candidates came in the form of a procession.

In their presence, their nominated candidates submitted their nomination papers. In this regard, trader leader Mumtaz Ahmed said that the General Executive Council will fully support the group that is successful in the

Sindh govt to fully assist launching of EVs, charging facilities: Nasir Hussain Shah

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Sindh Energy and Planning and Development Minister, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, has said the provincial government will extend maximum assistance to the private sector willing to invest in the country to introduce electric vehicles and EV charging stations to curtail the fossil fuel

consumption in the transport sector.

The Sindh Energy Minister stated this on Wednesday while talking to the media persons after he held a meeting with Yasir Bhambani, CEO of ADM Group, who have plans to launch electric vehicles and EV charging stations in Sindh and other parts of the country.

Nasir Hussain Shah told the journalists that the transport sector should transition away from fossil fuels to the maximum possible extent to curtail Pakistan's oil import bill and safeguard



the environment.

He said the Sindh government would utilize its successful public-private partnership mode of development to provide suitable sites and other facil-

ities to set up EV charging stations in cities and main highways.

He said that provincial authorities had the fullest realization that EV charging facilities were not only available in all parts of Karachi but also on main highways and motorways to facilitate inter-city travel.

He said the promotion of EVs, electric bikes, electric taxis, and buses and their charging facilities in Sindh were fully in line with the directives by Pakistan Peoples Party Chair Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to effectively tackle the issue of climate change.

Bhambani said that his business group was fully willing to work with local investors who were keen to set up EV charging facilities in urban centres.

Malik Khuda Baksh Chairman Malik Group offers 10 free charging stations to sindh government to facilitate owners

Business leaders Arif Habib A Sami Khan khalid Tawab Zubair Tufail Ishtiaq Baig Naeem Qureshi Managing Editor Energy Update and others were also attended this event.

LUMS develops case study on JazzCash's remarkable turnaround

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Continuing its efforts towards academia-industry collaboration, the Suleman Dawood School of Business (SDSB) at LUMS has developed another case study for its academic and executive programmes, focused on the successful turnaround of JazzCash. This case study highlights the power of disruption and innovation in today's rapidly evolving business landscape.

SDSB has pioneered the use of the case method of teaching in Pakistan. Students engage with real-world business challenges, assuming the role of decision-makers to analyse and develop practical solutions in an interactive classroom setting. Authored by SDSB faculty, Dr. M. Adeel Zaffar, Dr. Adnan Zahid and Dr. M. Shehryar Shahid, the case titled, JazzCash: Successful Fintech in an Emerging Market explores how the company navigated uncertainty and embraced disruption to transform into a leader in Pakistan's fintech sector. Students will examine JazzCash's journey from a period of significant challenges to becoming the country's largest fintech platform, focusing on the adaptability, innovation, and resilience that drove its success.

Murtaza Ali, President of JazzCash, expressed his appreciation for LUMS, stating, "Our transformation was fueled by a commitment to creating a sustainable business that offers real value to customers and

TDAP Invites Companies to Display their Products at Algiers 56th Int'l Trade Fair

Example 2 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Trade Development Authority Pakistan TDAP will hold Pakistan Expo at Algiers 56th International Trade Fair that is being held from 23rd to 28th of June this year. This fair is held annually in the capital port city of Northern African country Algeria.

This expo and fair offers excellent opportunities to showcase the products and develop business with international buyers. TDAP is accepting applications from the aspiring companies that are registered with Pakistan Trade Portal www.pakistantradeportal.gov.pk.

Deputy Director TDAP Ali Mardan shared the details of the products in focus to be displayed in this fair. They include Food, Herbal products, Pharma, Cosmetics, Surgical, Dental, instruments, Motorcycles, auto parts, Chemicals, Construction Materials, Sports items, Footballs and related products, Boxing gloves, Textile and Clothing, Women, Children wear, Working gloves, Sports gloves, Cutlery, Kitchen, Cookware products, Hair products, Oils, Perfumes etc.

Beaconhouse Int'l Student Convention held in Manila



E City Desk

LAHORE: The Beaconhouse International Student Convention (BISC) was hosted by the Philippines in January this year. This annual event brings together Beaconhouse students from Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Thailand, the Philippines, and the UAE, to compete, celebrate global citizenship, and forge new connections. As Beaconhouse celebrates its 50th year, the BISC 2025 theme 'Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future, paid homage to Beaconhouse's rich legacy as well as its spirit of innovation and global responsibility.

Team Oman won the overall E-STEAM trophy with categories including art, 3D art, film-making, entrepreneurship in the form of SparkTank @ BISC, quiz competitions, and Robotics, which encouraged students to present ideas, develop creative solutions, and engage in problem-solving. The Philippines retained the prestigious BISC Icon award for the second consecutive year, leaving audiences in awe with a mesmerizing singing performance.

Since its inception in 2016, BISC has been successfully hosted in Malaysia, Oman, Thailand (twice), and now the Philippines. Over the years, it has evolved into a vibrant platform, uniting students from diverse backgrounds to build collaboration, healthy competition, and a global perspective. Through initiatives like BISC, Beaconhouse reaffirms its commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals and shaping a brighter future for generations to come.

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amendment bill

Amendment Bill.

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PFUJ vows to continue

protest against PECA

Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

he Secretary General of the Pakistan Federal Union

President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari has approved the

'controversial' Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA)

Amendments Bill, 2025 and Digital Nation Pakistan Bill

2025, sparking strong opposition from the journalist commu-

provincial assemblies' sessions and government events as part

of their protest. He also vowed to stage demonstrations out-

side the Presidency and Prime Minister's House.

strong opposition from journalist organizations.

2025 is aimed at dealing with the issues on social media.

PECA Amendment Bill 2025 challenged in LHC

that PFUJ would challenge the law in court.

of combating fake news.

Amendments Bill, 2025.

vision and newspapers.

Lahore High Court (LHC).

National Assembly and the Senate.

information.

the PECA Act.

Naqvi.

Arshad Ansari announced that journalists would boycott all

Calling it a matter of civil liberties, Arshad Ansari stated

Secretary General PFUJ warned that the government could

"The real factory of lies is the government itself," he add-

misuse the legislation to suppress journalists under the pretext

ed, accusing politicians of being the primary spreaders of mis-

of Journalists (PFUJ), Arshad Ansari, has pledged to

continue their protest against the controversial PECA

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com) Thursday, January 30, 2025

Will Trump Succeed in Obliterating the Deep State?

his potential inauguration in 2025, has opened multiple contentious fronts both domestically and internationally. Each of these fronts is serious, radical, and aggressive, carrying significant risks and consequences if not handled with extreme care. However, the most perilous and far-reaching of these battles is his direct confrontation with the so-called "deep state." His perception of the deep state arises from the significant resistance he faced from federal agencies during his first term, as well as his belief that the Biden administration has used government machinery as a political tool to intimidate and suppress him, his associates, and his party.

Trump's anti-deep state policy is based on the premise that the "deep state" is a network of entrenched bureaucrats and intelligence officials working to undermine the elected authority. He has vowed to "obliterate" this institutional opposition by purging government agencies, dismantling bureaucratic strongholds, reducing administrative power, and imposing stricter political loyalty tests within federal institutions with the objective to shift decision-making power away from unelected officials back to the duly elected representatives of the people.

Additionally, the Heritage Foundation's "Project 2025" aligns with these objectives and has launched a comprehensive plan to reshape federal agencies and implement policies consistent with the administration's goals. On January 24, 2025, the administration terminated at least 17 inspectors general across thousands of federal civil service roles nance, making entire nations subser-

onald Trump, even before are reclassified as political appointments, aiming to replace existing personnel with individuals loyal to the administration.

A program has been offered to buyouts equivalent to seven months' salary, encouraging federal employees to resign voluntarily by February 6, 2025. Estimations suggest that between 5% to 10% of federal employees may accept

up to 200,000 workers. given the federal civilian workforce of approximately 2 million.

President Donald Trump has not solely focused on civil bureaucracy, but he has implemented significant reforms in the U.S. armed forces to better

align them with his administration's policies and strengthen civilian oversight. On January 27, 2025, he signed an executive order to prohibit the use of raceor sex-based preferences in recruitment and advancement, aiming to refocus the military on traditional merit-based criteria. He has signed another executive order prohibiting transgender individuals from serving in the U.S. military. He has appointed individuals aligned with his vision for the military to key defense

Trump has demonstrated to leaders worldwide how to free elected representatives and their constituents from the control of entrenched bureaucrats who, through sheer force and administrative manipulation, usurp the powers of elected officials. Under the guise of regulations, laws, and procedural rules, various federal agencies, while tens of these unelected entities assert domi-

vient to their authority. He has shown aspect of governance, from the lowest that decision-making power can and must be returned to the duly elected representatives of the people, ensuring government, imposing its own policies that governance reflects the will of the electorate rather than the dictates of an unaccountable bureaucracy.

His actions resonate with millions, particularly in nations where fragile the buyout offer, potentially affecting democratic institutions allow deep

state elements to operate unchecked. In these countries, the deep state is often far more oppressive, using military power to suppress fundamental human rights. Despite being funded by taxpayer money, these entities dominate national insti-

tutions, including the judiciary, parliament, and executive branches, ensuring an unyielding grip on power.

In such regimes, deep state actors exploit their positions for illicit activities such as smuggling, blackmail, and seizing national assets through sheer force. They impose tyranny and fascism on their own citizens, silencing opposition by means of extrajudicial killings, destruction of businesses, and illegal detentions. Political dissidents are often abducted without judicial oversight, imprisoned under fabricated charges, or forced into exile. This unchecked power structure devastates economies, stifles free speech, gags and defaces the media, imposes curbs on the internet and social media, and undermines the democratic aspirations of the people.

The deep state in these countries has established a parallel government structure that exerts control over nearly every

levels to the highest. This shadow system overrides decisions made by the civilian and directives. Additionally, a parallel industrial network has been created operated by serving military officials who use illicit funds, tax revenues, and illegally diverted national resources to sustain and shield their operations from taxation or legal scrutiny.

Any business entity posing a challenge to their financial interests is swiftly eliminated through coercion, intimidation, or outright force. Business leaders and industrialists are frequently blackmailed, while legislators are pressured into passing laws that further consolidate deep state influence, and the judiciary is given written orders to issue. These tactics ensure that the deep state remains beyond accountability, leveraging illegal and unethical methods to maintain and expand its power.

By challenging these entrenched power structures, Trump has positioning himself as a force against global deep state influences and a role model for other democratically elected leaders around the world. His actions have the potential to inspire movements in other nations to resist undemocratic rule and reclaim their sovereignty. If successful, his reforms could mark a significant shift in the governance of not only the United States but also serve as a beacon of hope for oppressed populations around the

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



Transforming Punjab's Education: A Year of Milestones and Reforms

ducation is the bedrock of progress, empowerment and equity in any society. Over the past one year, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has demonstrated a solid commitment to transforming the education sector in the province. Through holistic reforms, innovative initiatives and an unrelenting focus on merit and transparency, she has redefined leadership and governance. Her initiatives reflect a

and a determination to create a more inclusive and equitable education system for all.

The Honhaar Scholarship Program stands as a landmark achievement of the Maryam Nawaz Sharif government. This initiative, the largest scholarship program in Pakistan's history, has paved the way for thousands of deserving

students to access higher education. In its first year, the program has benefitted 30,000 students from households earning less than three lakh rupees annually.

For countless families in Punjab, financial constraints have long been a barrier to higher education. Maryam Nawaz Sharif's government has introduced a scholarship program worth Rs.25 billion to change this narrative. Under this initiative, students admitted to public or private universities on merit but unable to afford tuition fees will have their fees covered by the government. This policy has opened the doors of prestigious institutions like FAST, NUST, LUMS, COMSATS and others to students belonging to the impecunious strata. The program ensures that talented students are not deprived of opportunities due to financial hardships, creating a pathway for upward social mobility and national development.

(PSRP) is another visionary initiative aimed at tion in bridging societal divides. "Whether optimizing resources and improving the quality of education. This program is projected to save Rs.40 billion which will be redirected to other critical development projects. Furthermore, it is set to create 70,000 new employment opportunities, providing a dual benefit of job creation and educational reform. Early Childhood Education (ECE) has also been significantly boosted under the Chief Minister's leadership. Plans to build kinderdeep understanding of the barriers students face garten schools in districts beyond Lahore demon-

strate a commitment to laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning. These investments in early education will shape the cognitive and social development of Punjab's youngest learners.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision for education extends beyond textbooks and classrooms. To nurture well-rounded students, her

government has introduced spoken English and character-building classes in schools. These initiatives will equip students with critical communication skills and ethical values, preparing them for success in a globalized world.

Moreover, her government's commitment to child welfare and empowerment is evident in her statement: "Children should be given laptops, not nailed sticks." This philosophy underscores her dedication to fostering a positive and supportive learning environment where children can thrive. A defining feature of Maryam Nawaz Sharif's stint in power is her commitment to meritocracy and social equality. By ensuring that scholarships, laptops and other resources are distributed solely on merit, her government has set a new benchmark for transparency and fairness in governance and public service.

The Chief Minister Punjab has frequently The Public Schools Reorganization Program emphasized the transformative power of educa-

someone is rich or poor, education establishes social equality," she remarked. Her policies reflect a vision of an equitable society where every child, regardless of their background, has equal access to opportunities that enable them to succeed.

With youth comprising a significant proportion of Pakistan's population, Maryam Nawaz Sharif's focus on education is a strategic investment in the nation's future. Her policies are designed to harness the potential of young people, transforming them into a driving force for progress and development.

From scholarships to technological support, every initiative reflects her belief in the importance of human capital. "Youth are in the majority in Pakistan; let's make human resources our strength," she stated, highlighting her vision of an empowered, educated, and prosperous Pakistan.

In her first year as Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz Sharif has redefined Punjab's education landscape. Through innovative programs like the Honhaar Scholarship, free laptops and tuition support, she has broken barriers and created opportunities for thousands of students. Her government's focus on quality education, technological advancement and meritocracy has set a new standard for public-centric governance in he education sector.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif's leadership goes beyond addressing immediate challenges-it lays the foundation for a more equitable, inclusive and prosperous society. Her policies reflect a deep belief in the transformative power of education to shape the future of individuals and nations alike. As Punjab charts this transformative course, the ripple effects of its educational revolution will resonate for generations, cementing its role as a beacon of progress in Pakistan.

(The writer is a senior public information specialist who can be reached at qudratulla@ gmail.com)

Eradication of Encroachments in Punjab - A Bold Step by CM Maryam Nawaz

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, a special meeting was held on sures. December 20 last year. During stated that all policies and projects of the (MDA) who are using delaying tactics and

Punjab government are dedicated to serving humanity and the welfare of the underprivileged. She emphasized that by including every segment of society in the development process, the principles of unity, brotherhood, and social justice are being promoted. In this meeting, the performance review report of the Rawal-

Performance Indicators," and the commissioners of Sargodha and Rawalpindi were commended for their excellent performance. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif highlighted that the foundation of a better and peaceful society lies in unity, compassion, and equality. During the meeting, she issued directives to take action against encroachments across Punjab. She stated that the public should clearly see improvements in governance. The bureaucracy must bring daily improvements in public affairs, and special attention should be given to the beautification of cities.

The Deputy Commissioners of Multan and Layyah are successfully leading the mission to eliminate encroachments. However, several private colonies in Multan have illegal gates installed on public roads, which are not for security purposes but for blackmailing and harassing the public. These gates cause difficulties for pedestrians and should be removed. The Chief Minister of Punjab should issue clear directives again to eliminate such obstacles, ensuring that

nder the leadership of Punjab the encroachment mafia is eradicated without succumbing to political or administrative pres-

It is also essential to hold accountable the the meeting, the Chief Minister officers of the Multan Development Authority

supporting the mafia in the removal of encroachments. A few days ago, when discussing Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's courage in eradicating encroachments with senior officials of an important institution, they also remarked, "Well done, Chief Minister of Punjab." Many of our colleagues, including lawyers and journal-

pindi Division was presented based on the "Key" ists, praised Maryam Nawaz, stating that she has surpassed everyone in adopting a zero-tolerance policy against the encroachment mafia. In the New Shah Shams Colony under the control of the MDA, government plots have been occupied. There are seven quarters here that belong to the MDA and are recorded as sealed, but physically, illegal occupants reside there. If these quarters are sold, the MDA could earn millions of rupees. In Block A's commercial market, encroachments are rampant, with shopkeepers having installed iron sheds extending more than 15 feet. These individuals have occupied footpaths, causing difficulties for women and children to walk. The DG MDA should, in light of the Chief Minister's directives, reclaim government-owned plots, evict the occupants, and auction the seven quarters. The encroachment mafia should be removed from the

> ter's vision and ensure the safety of pedestrians. The writer is a senior analyst. He can be reached at zakhanmultan@yahoo.com

colony's footpaths, and the sheds in front of shops

should be dismantled to realize the Chief Minis-

Pakistan's Key Role in Regional Peace Highlighted at Thai Armed Forces Day

Thai Ambassador Commends Pakistan's Strategic Importance in South Asia



Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan, Rongvudhi Virabutr, lauded Pakistan's crucial role in ensuring regional peace and security, particularly amidst the current global volatility. He made these remarks while addressing a distinguished gathering at the Thai Armed Forces Day celebration in Islamabad.

The event was attended by Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Shakil Ghazanfar, as the chief guest. Also in attendance were ambassadors, high commissioners, defense attachés, media representatives, and other digni-

Ambassador Virabutr highlighted the strong diplomatic ties which span over 71 years since the establishment of relations in

1951. He emphasized the deepening cooperation in defense and security, underscoring Pakistan's role as a pivotal player in South

Colonel Thanaei Permpul, the Defence and Military Attaché of Thailand outlined the growing defense collaboration between the two nations. He recalled the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Cooperation in 2021, which covers joint military training, intelligence exchange, and research in defense tech-

"Thailand continues to send military officers to the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)," Colonel Permpul between Thailand and Pakistan, noted. He further highlighted joint military exercises, including 'Trisul'—a counterterrorism exer-





cise between both countries' armed forces—as well as participation in the Pakistan Army Team Spirit (PATS) competitions in 2023 and 2024.

Naval cooperation has also been expanding, with senior naval commanders from both sides exchanging visits. Thai observers have participated in Pakistan's AMAN naval exer-

cise, and Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff has taken part in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium hosted by Thailand.

"In the field of air defense, we continue to strengthen engagements, including high-level exchanges between the Royal Thai Air Force and the Pakistan Air Force," Colonel Permpul



In a significant move, Thailand and Pakistan recently signed a joint venture agreement for the production of the Hissar 4x4 Armored Carrier, a collaboration between the Thai defense industry and Pakistan's Heavy Industries Taxila. This marks a new chapter in defense-industrial cooperation between the two nations.

The event also showcased Thailand's cultural diversity, with a traditional "Dikir Hulu" performance by Thai students from the International Islamic University Islamabad. Ambassador Virabutr underscored Thailand's commitment to preserving local arts and promoting cultural



Thailand is a Muslim-friendly ties between the two countries, country that values its multicul-

As the evening concluded, the Pakistan. Thai envoy expressed optimism 📙 Photos by Imtiaz Ahmad about further strengthening Faizi

harmony, emphasizing that diplomatic, defense, and cultural reaffirming Thailand's commitment to mutual cooperation with

Fashion icon, Hasnain Lehri joins Sonraj as creative head and brand ambassador

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Renowned fashion icon, model, and social media personality, Hasnain Lehri has joined luxury brand, Sonraj as Creative head and Executive brand ambassador. The development signifies an important milestone in the evolving journey of Sonraj, which is synonymous with watches, perfumery, and accessories.

Hasnain Lehri has remained a longanding patron of Sonraj product and he now brings his unparalleled expertise and distinctive style to this new role. Widely celebrated as a trailblazer in Pakistan's fashion industry, Lehri has worked with top national and international brands, both at the national and global platforms and is the only Pakistani fashion model to win the Lux Style Award for Five consecu-



Rameez Sattar, Group CEO of Sonraj, expressed his views, "At Sonraj, we are a team of passionate people, known for our creative and innovative approach, and Hasnain's deep understanding of luxury and creative brilliance make him the perfect fit to expand brand marketing vision and

Lehri also added, "I am honored to join Sonraj, a brand synonymous with luxury in Pakistan, I am grateful to Rameez Sattar for placing his trust | Masih on Government Girls in me and providing an opportunity to contribute to Sonraj future ventures. Sonraj's portfolio of niche brands offers immense creative potential. My mission is to forge a profound connection between the brand and its customers, whether through watches, perfumes,

ADCG Zeeshan Labbah Masih **Visits Govt Schools**

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's education friendly measures, monitoring of public educational institutions are underway. Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek High School 319 JB and Tek Singh During the Visited, the Additional Deputy Commissioner meet with the students of the school. teachers staff and members the field of education.

of the school council. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Reviewed the performance of the students. He appreciated the presence of cleaning of schools and the presence of basic facilities and called for further improvement of the quality Singh Muhammad Naeem of education under govern-Sandhu on directed, Addi- ment policy. Monitoring of tional Deputy Commission- educational institutions is er General Zeeshan Labbha proof of the Chief Minister's commitment that quality education in the province Government Boys Elemen- is the right of every child. tary School 319 JB Toba The purpose of these visits is to make public schools in accordance with public expectations and to ensure the goals of development in

Capacity Building Workshop organized for Health Beat Journalists

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: A training workshop was organized in Hyderabad to educate journalists covering health-related topics. The workshop was conducted under the supervision of Sindh Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Health Secretary Rehan Igbal Baloch, and EPI Project Director Dr. Muhammad Hussain Khan from Hyder-Naeem, with the support of abad shared insights on UNICEE. The primary objective of the workshop was to enhance journalists' awareness of key immunization challenges, including multidose vial management, fixedsite vaccination strategy, and vaccine storage protocols.

During the workshop, EPI Director Dr. Muhammad

Naeem and EPI trainer Sunil Raja highlighted that children in Sindh are being vaccinated against 12 different diseases. They urged parents to ensure their children receive complete vaccinations for their protection.

During the workshop, Abdullah Sarohi, Bureau Chief of APP Karachi, and senior journalist Muhammad health reporting. They emphasized that health journalism often lacks the necessary depth and accuracy required for effective public awareness. They urged journalists to ensure the accuracy of health-related data, as such information has profound societal impacts.

OICCI hosts inaugural Climate Excellence Awards at 3rd Pakistan Climate Conference

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OICCI) successfully concluded the 3rd Pakistan Climate Conference today, marking the event with the inaugural OICCI Climate Excellence

The two-day conference brought together key policymakers from federal and provincial governments, climate experts, business leaders, and advocates to discuss and promote sustainable climate action in Pakistan.

Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah speaking at the conference as the Chief Guest appreciated the OICCI initiatives in focusing on a real threat of changing climate dynamics, which Sindh Government to build 2 million



in mid-2022 caused massive flooding houses for flood affectees and many in Pakistan. The CM highlighted the other measures being taken to prevent with inputs from global and national monumental efforts being made by the any future such occurrences.

CM landed the OICCI initiative for organising the 3rd Climate Conference experts on sustainability and environ-

ment to reduce carbon emission and

improve life and property of population. This year, the OICCI Climate Excellence Awards have also been introduced to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions of companies driving climate resilience, sustainability, and green innovation. Winners across six categories included industry leaders who demonstrated exceptional commitment to environmental stew-

- Climate Champion Award Nestlé Pakistan Limited
- Climate Resilience Award -Winner: Unilever Pakistan Limited | Runner-up: Attock Refinery Limited | Special Recognition: Lotte Chemicals Pakistan Limited
- Renewable Energy & Conservation Award - Winner: Reckitt Benckiser Pakistan Limited | Runner-up: Indus Motor Company Limited, Haleon

Pakistan Limited

- Water Stewardship & Management Award - Winner: Abbott Laboratories (Pakistan) Limited | Runner-up: Dawlance (Private) Limited | Special Recognition: Archroma Pakistan Limited
- Promoting Circular Economy Award - Winner: Pepsi-Cola International (Private) Limited | 1st Runner-up: Total Parco Pakistan Ltd 2nd Runner-up: Pakistan Mobile Communications Limited (JAZZ)
- Green Finance & Investment Award - Winner: Saudi Pak Industrial & Agricultural Investment Co. Ltd | 1st Runner-up: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited | 2nd Runner-up: Standard Chartered Bank (Pakistan) Limited

Speaking at the event, OICCI Secretary-General M. Abdul Aleem expressed his gratitude to all participants, part-

ners, and stakeholders for making the conference a success. He stated: "The 3rd Pakistan Climate Conference has underscored the urgency of climate action and the pivotal role businesses must play in driving sustainable solutions. The OICCI Climate Excellence Awards recognize industry leaders who have set a benchmark for environmental responsibility. We thank all our partners, sponsors, and attendees for their valuable contributions in making this event a platform for meaningful dialogue and action."

The 3rd Pakistan Climate Conference 2025 served as a vital forum for exchanging ideas and strategies to tackle climate change. OICCI reaffirmed its commitment to enabling sustainable business practices and will continue to champion initiatives that promote environmental stewardship

Pakistan and the UK deeply rooted in robust economic and cultural ties: Ahsan Iqbal

S Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom are deeply rooted in robust economic and cultural ties, stated and Special Initiatives, during his interaction with British Parliamentarians at Portcullis House, Westminster, today.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal underscored Pakistan's pioneering role in the development trajectory of the 1960s, inspiring other nations to adopt its development model.

of Balochistan and the upliftment of its local communities.

Notably, the government has completed numerous projects in Gwadar, including the establishment of a hospital, solarization of residential units, scholarships for local students, a university, a technical and vocational center, water plants, a road network, and the operationalization of Gwadar

Airport. Furthermore, Mr. Iqbal emphasized the influx of substan-He highlighted the government's tial investments in mining

poised to transform the province's destiny and the lives of its people.

Highlighting a few key achievements of his government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Mr. Iqbal said that inflation has been reduced from 38% to 4%, the policy rate has decreased from 23% to 13%, Pakistan's stock market has experienced unprecedented growth, exports and remittances have both increased by 30%, and IT exports have risen by 34%.

The Minister elucidated

current focus on the development projects in Balochistan, which are that during the PML-N tenure commencing after 2013, despite the formidable challenges posed by terrorism, the government successfully implemented Vision 2025. This visionary initiative resulted in a remarkable 6% growth rate, with international rating agencies predicting Pakistan's economy to attain a position within the top 15 of the world. Regrettably, all these commendable policies were abruptly discontinued by the incoming government in 2018.

Earlier, Mohammad Yasin,

welcomed Mr. Ahsan Iqbal to the British Parliament and expressed gratitude for his dedication to undertaking development projects in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir region.

a Member of Parliament, Mr. Iqbal was accompanied by Dr. Mohammad Faisal, the High Commissioner for Pakistan to the United Kingdom.

The Minister for Planning congratulated Mr. Yasin on his appointment as the United King-

dom's Trade Envoy for Pakistan by the British Government. He underscored the mutual benefits that Pakistan and the United Kingdom will derive from Mr. Yasin's expertise and experience in this role.



Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
111,487.36	112,030.36		
Day's High	Day's Low		
112,569.89	111,157.18		
Index Value	Change		
17,316,182,016	-543.00		
Percentage	Time		
-0.48%	29 Jan, 2025 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
8,555.49	+21.62		
Percentage	Time		
+0.25%	29 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
44,871.68	+21.33		
Percentage	Time		
+0.048%	29 Jan, 11:32 am GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change		
39,414.78	+397.91		

Open	Market	Forex	Rates

Time

29 Jan, 3:45 pm

GMT+9

Percentage

+1.02%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	174.75	177.00
Bahrain Dinar	738.60	746.60
Canadian Dollar	194.10	196.50
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	38.48	38.88
Euro	291.00	293.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35.41	35.76
Indian Rupee	3.14	3.23
Japanese Yen	1.81	1.87
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.30	905.80
Malaysian Ringgit	63.04	63.64
NewZealand \$	156.31	158.31
Norwegians Krone	24.46	24.76
Omani Riyal	722.90	731.40
Qatari Riyal	75.84	76.54
Saudi Riyal	74.20	74.75
Singapore Dollar	207.25	209.25
Swedish Korona	25.01	25.31
Swiss Franc	303.71	306.51
Thai Bhat	8.09	8.24
U.A.E Dirham	75.90	76.55
UK Pound Sterling	347.50	351
US Dollar	279.30	280.80

FFCAnnounces Annual Financial Results for the Year 2024



Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) has announced its financial results for the year ended December 31, 2024 in its Board of Directors meeting held on January 29, 2025.

This year Company took a major step forward in expansion through merger of Fauji Fertilizer Bin Qasim Limited (FFBL) into Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC), by way of a Scheme of Arrangement as sanctioned by the Lahore High Court, Rawalpindi

Bench, effective July 01, 2024. FFBL Board stands dissolved and the Board of FFC continues its oversight role as the Board of the merged entity.

Combined Urea production stood at 2,842 thousand tonnes, which also includes 287 thousand tonnes by Bin Qasim Plant during the second half of the year. Aggregate Urea off-take recorded at 2,942 thousand tonnes. Total DAP sales stood at 653 thousand tonnes.

The merged entity recorded a profitability of Rs. 64.7 Billion. This increase is attributable to the combination of FFBL's financial results for the second half of 2024, in addition to record investment income and dividends from strategic investments, besides effective cost controls by the Company.

Consolidated profitability of Rs 85.5 billion was earned during the year, on account of improved earnings of subsidiaries and associated companies.

The Company contributed a substantial Rs 94.11 billion towards the Government treasury through taxes and levies in 2024. The combined import substitution saved the Country precious foreign exchange

worth USD 1.4 billion for the year 2024. The Board declared a final dividend of Rs 21.00 per share. This is in addition to interim dividends already paid at Rs. 15.50 per share (revised to Rs. 13.86 per share post merger).

Special Prayer Ceremony Held in Quetta for the Soul of SM Munir (Bhaijan)'s Wife and UBG Patron-in-Chief SM Tanveer's Mother

ISLAMABAD: Special Prayer Ceremony Held in Quetta for the Soul of SM Munir (Bhaijan)'s Wife and UBG Patron-in-Chief SM Tanveer's

A special prayer ceremony for the Esaal-e-Sawab of SM Munir (Bhaijan)'s wife and the mother of UBG Patron-in-Chief, SM Tanveer, was organized at the residence of former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Alauddin Marri, in Quetta. The ceremony was attended by distinguished business personalities from across the

On this occasion, the host sacrificed a bull for the Esaal-e-Sawab of the late lady and distributed its meat among the underprivileged. Special attendees from Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad included SM Tanveer, Zafar Bakhtawari, Hanif Gohar, Ahmed Chinoy, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, and Furqan Abdul Qadir. From Balochistan, notable participants included former FPCCI President Daroo Khan, Ghulam Farooq, Jumma Khan, Wali Khan, Muhammad Ayub Marwani, Asfandyar, Alauddin Khan, Muhammad Idrees, Muhammad Yousuf, Faroog Khilji, M. Ayub, Ahad Agha, Haji Khojal, Taru Khan, Haji



Bilal, Akbar Shah, Waleed Baloch, Abdullah Achakzai, Salahuddin, Sarwar Agha, Abdul Wahab, Haji Ashraf, Jahangir Kakar, Sardar Raheem, Naseem Achakzai, Ahmed Gul, Ajmal Khan, Azizullah, Amanullah Gorgage**, and

other esteemed personalities. During the ceremony, prayers were offered for the forgiveness and elevation of the ranks of the deceased. Speaking on the occasion, SM Tanveer expressed his gratitude to Alauddin deceased, remarked that SM Munir (Bhaijan)'s late mother.

Marri and other distinguished personalities for organizing the event. He emphasized that such gatherings are a symbol of love, unity, and brotherhood, which are the core principles of UBG. He also highlighted the importance colleagues during difficult times and sincerely thanked all attendees for their presence.

contributions to the business community will never be forgotten, and the passing of his wife was a great loss for the entire community. He stressed that such occasions bring people closer and that this spirit of unity should always be maintained**

Hanif Gohar also expressed his condolences, stating that SM Tanveer's mother was a pious and noble woman, whose prayers and upbringing are reflected in the success of her sons. He prayed that Allah grants her the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

Ahmed Chinov highlighted that shared grief and joy strengthen any community, and today's gathering was a reflection of that very senti-

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari reaffirmed that the business community stands united with SM

Tanveer in his moment of grief. The host of the ceremony, Alauddin Marri,

thanked all the attendees and stated that it is of support and condolences from friends and our religious and moral duty to stand with our brothers in their time of sorrow. He prayed for patience and strength for SM Tanveer and Zafar Bakhtawari, while praying for the his family and a high place in Jannah for his

Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan presents a commemorative souvenir to US Charge d'Affaires Natalie A Baker at the conclusion of their meeting, highlighting the strengthening of Pakistan-US trade and investment ties.



Sustainable Tourism Forum to boost Pakistan's tourism industry: Atif Ikram

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: A two-day Sustainable Tourism Forum, jointly organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), and the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), is all set to take place on January 30, 2025, in Karachi. The forum will be graced by the Governor of Sindh as the Chief Guest.

The forum has attracted a large number of foreign participants from countries such as Turkey, Iran, Jordan, Singapore, Indonesia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iraq and Burkina Faso. The Iranian delegation, led by the Governor of Iran, will also participate in the forum. Pakistan's tourism industry boasts immense potential, with a rich cultural heritage, breathtaking natural beauty, and warm hospitality.

As a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Pakistan shares a significant portion of the world's



OIC countries

According to the President of FPCCI, "It is imperative that we develop sustainable tourism practices that prioritize envi-

cultural and natural heritage with other ronmental conservation, social responsibility, and economic benefits for local communities. We must work together to promote cultural heritage preservation

CDC Share Registrar launches Industry-First WhatsApp **E-Voting Solution**

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: CDC Share Registrar Services Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Central Depositoto redefine the electron- of its corporate clients. ic voting process, making shareholders/members.

rity and transparency. in introducing various

technology-based services, including the launch of its web-based system in 2017. This platform, which allows shareholders/members to register and vote electroniry Company of Pakistan cally was widely appreciated Limited, proudly announc- across the industry. Over the es the launch of its latest years, CDCSR has continu-E-Voting ously enhanced the system through WhatsApp. This with value-added features revolutionary feature is set to meet the evolving needs

The WhatsApp E-Voting it more accessible, effi- feature has already cient, and user-friendly for demonstrated success in recent polls conducted By seamlessly integrating for esteemed clients and WhatsApp with the E-vot- is gradually widespread ing platform, CDCSR aims recognition. This innovato enhance participation tion reinforces CDCSR's while maintaining the position as Pakistan's highest standards of secu- leading Share Registrar, consistently setting bench-Since its inception, marks in the Capital Market CDCSR has been a pioneer through its commitment to innovation.

Zahir Shah takes charge of Regional Office Peshawar

跨 Tariq khan Yousafzai

MARDAN: A meeting of the executive and general body members was held at the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Peshawar Regional Office, which was presided over by the Vice President of Peshawar Regional Office, ment bodies. Aun Ali Syed.

Former governor Haji Ghulam Ali, member-executive, general body members and group leaders of various chambers participated in the meeting in large numbers.

The problems faced by the business community and their solutions were discussed in detail in the meeting. Apart from this, a and community-based tourism projects." formed to resolve various

issues and it is headed by executive committee member Zahir Shah and general body member Mehnaj ud Din Bacha.

The Regional Committee will present solutions to the problems of the business community with relevant stakeholders and govern-

From the meeting, Mardan Chamber Group Zahir Leader Shah thanked the officials of the Regional Office and said that convening this type of meeting will help the business community to bring out the problems faced and solve them unanimously. Apart from this, the problems of the business community can regional committee has been also be reduced by bringing the problems

Nestlé Pakistan wins top Climate Champion Award

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Nestlé Pakistan's efforts towards climate action, sustainability, renewable energy and regenerathe two-day 3rd Pakistan Climate Conference 2025.

Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad committed to be a force for good, and Ali Shah, emphasized the impor- our efforts underscores our committance of climate change and urged ment to sustainability and creating

organizations to step forward and play a greater role with the government to mitigate this challenge. Acknowledging Nestlé's role, the chief minister said, "While visiting tive agriculture were recognized at the conference stalls I was glad to the 1st OICCI Climate Excellence see how organisations like Nestlé are Awards, as it won the top Climate already supporting efficient irriga-Champion Award, held during tion technologies like drip irrigation in regenerative agriculture practices."

Jason Avanceña Chief Executive Chief guest at the conference Officer, Nestlé Pakistan said, "We are



shared value for the people of Pakistan, as we take significant strides towards a cleaner environment and a more sustainable future."

Speaking at the event, OICCI Secretary-General M. Abdul Aleem said, "The 3rd Pakistan Climate Conference has underscored the urgency of climate action and the pivotal role businesses must play in driving sustainable solutions. Our first ÖICCI Climate Excellence Awards have recognized industry leaders who have set a benchmark for environmental responsibility."

Pakistan, Kazakhstan foster closer ties

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A significant meeting took place between Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah and Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin on Wednesday.

Parliamentary Secretary for Inter Provincial Coordination Kiran Imran Dar, also attended the meeting, said a press release.

The discussion centered around bilateral issues of mutual interest and cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, with a focus on sports, tourism, regional cooperation, and culture.

Rana Sanaullah, who also holds the



portfolio of Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination, appreciated the efforts of Kazakhstan government in strengthening bilateral relations between both the countries.

Cooperation in tourism and sports is expected to further solidify relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in sports is currently being worked on, with plans to sign the MoU during the Joint Inter Government Commission meeting.

The Ambassador also highlighted the importance of the two countries' strategic partnership, announcing plans for Kazakhstan to send international coaches to Pakistan to train players

Full dress rehearsal for the preparation of grand opening ceremony of Khelta Punjab Games

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Punjab Sports Department, on the directions of Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar, conducted full dress rehearsal for the preparation of grand opening ceremony of Khelta Punjab Games at Punjab Stadium on Wednes-

The sports contingents of all divisions including over 2,000 male and female athletes and team officials participated in the full dress rehearsal held under the supervision of Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial and Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial and Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry also inspected all the arrangements of Inter-Division phase competitions of Khelta Punjab Games to be conducted from January 30 to

Meanwhile, Director General Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that well-organized food points have



been established on the eve of Inter-Division phase competitions of Khelta Punjab Games. "This food street will be a big facility for the participating added. athletes, team officials and sports

fans as well. Now the athletes will find several eatables of their choice in Nishtar Park Sports Complex," he

Director General Sports Punjab

Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the sports contingents of all divisions comprising over 2,000 male and female athletes and team officials have reached Nishtar Park Sports Complex.

Punjab Minister for Sports inspects arrangements of Khelta Punjab Games' opening ceremony

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar visited Punjab Stadium to review the arrangements of grand opening ceremony of Khelta Punjab Games' Inter-Division phase competitions on Wednesdav.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar was accompanied by Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry, Sports Coordinator Malik Anoosh Khokhar, Manzoor Khokhar, Nadeem Anjum during his inspection visit.

Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal and directed the officers Ayub Khokhar said that Punjab



Punjab Minister for Sports ments in the Punjab Stadium

and Director Sports Rana Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry on different parts of Punjab this occasion briefed the sports Stadium, including VVIP minister about all the arrange- enclosure, players' enclosure, Secretary Sports and Youth ments made for the grand event. fan sitting and security arrange-

Director Admin Dr M Kaleem and Youth Affairs Punjab Ayub Khokhar inspected concerned to make excellent seating arrangements for the mega inaugural ceremony.

While talking on this occasion, Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif will inaugurate the third and final phase competitions of Khelta Punjab Games at a grand colourful opening ceremony at the Punjab Stadium on January 30 (Thursday). "Holding Khelta Punjab Games at such a wide level is a major step of Punjab Sports Department towards reviving sports culture among the younger generation of the province. The sports culture is being revived on the direction of Punjab Chief Minister".

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that Khelta Punjab Games are no less than a festival for the sports enthusiasts of the province. "Several Punjab Cabinet members, MPAs, national sports heroes, Olympians, sports dignitaries and other notable figures will attend the mega opening cere-

Two new VVIP enclosures added to Gaddafi Stadium



LAHORE: Two new VVIP enclosures have been added at the base of the newly constructed pavilion building and named after two legendary cricketers — Zaheer Abbas and Majid Khan — at the upgraded Gaddafi Stadium Lahore.

Though quite small in size as compared to other enclosures, players will pass through these enclosures and provide a vantage point to the spectators perched at these enclosures to watch their cricketing heroes in quite close proximity. The ticket price for these enclosures is expected to be Rs. 25,000 and above for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 fixtures.

Gaddafi Stadium Lahore will host at least four matches of the ICC Champions Trophy including the second semi-final. The final may also be played at the venue if India do not qualify for the final and, in that scenario, the final of the ICC Champions Trophy will be played at the Dubai Cricket Stadium, UAE.

With the installation of new chairs, LED lights and SMD screens for cricketing action for the spectators, the stadium is ready to be presented to the global audiences although small adjustment still need to be made to the fabulous new structure. The Gaddafi stadium is all set to host the tri-nation featuring Pakistan, South Africa and New Zealand.

The moat, with small sized iron grill, around the playing field is an innovation which is meant to check intrusion of the spectators to the pitch besides serving as a reservoir to store water in case of rain and make the playing field ready for action in the shortest possible time. The moat is to be covered with a net so that the ball does not fall into the moat and disrupt action.

The more satisfying fact about the Gaddafi Stadium's preparations for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is the readiness of the turf and the pitches at the stadium. The pitches are in pristine shape and ready to host the matches at the stadium.

Champions Trophy: Tickets for three matches sold out

Cricket fans exhibited extraordinary enthusiasm for the upcoming ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 as tickets for three highly-anticipated matches have been sold out.

The ticket sale for the Pakistan-hosted matches of the eightteam tournament went live on Tuesday at 2pm and drew unusual

As a result, the tickets for the curtain-raiser between the home side and New Zealand as well as the group-stage matches between Australia and England and Pakistan and Bangladesh, were sold out, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) shared on Wednesday.

Record of military trial of a May 9 convict presented in SC

Continued from Page 1

Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi asked whether a military court judge had the experience of hearing cases or any novice was made to sit in the courtroom.

Justice Mandokhel remarked that it took 20 years for a judge to become a sessions judge.

Haris informed that experience was not necessary for a military court judge. "But he should have complete knowledge of the Army Act," he said, adding, "It is not necessary that a judge has undergone training. The only thing he has to see is whether the suspect is guilty or not on the basis of the evidence presented before him."

Justice Hilali said that the question was, what would be the impact of the trial of civilians in military courts on their minds? "We are living in a society in which there are no checks."

Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar asked whether a convict got the benefit when he appealed a military court's decision on the basis of any error left in it.

Haris informed that the convict had the right to appeal.

Justice Mandokhel remarked that there was a sanctity of the life of each and every person.

Justice Rizvi asked whether the appellant was the given the right to defend himself.

Justice Mandokhel said what a pity that these days a handful of people had the audacity to declared the decision given by an eightmember bench as flawed.

Later Haris presented in the court the record of military trial of one of the convicts in the May 9 case. "All legal requirements were met in the case," the counsel

He said it was for the court to now see whether the trial in this particular case was 'fair' or not.

Before the trial commenced, Haris added, the suspect was asked whether he had any objection to Lt Colonel Ammar Ahmad as a military court judge. "But the suspect replied he had no objections."

Some of the judges, on the occasion, read the files containing the record and then returned them, while Justice Mazhar and Justice Hilali kept the files with them.

Justice Mandokhel remarked that this record was to be examined by the court hearing the suspect's appeal. "It is not appropriate for us to go through it.

The constitutional bench later adjourned the hearing of the case

AJK Information Secretary Sardar Adnan Khursheed chaired a meeting for Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A meeting was held at the PID Complex under the chairmanship of Secretary Information, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Adnan Khurshid to review the arrangements for media coverage of Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5.

by Director Public Relations Director Social and Digital Media Muhammad Bashir Mirza, Producer of Pakistan Ghazanfar Abdullah, Senior

The meeting was attended the Information Department. effective channels from PTV and It was decided in the meeting Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas, that a full-fledged social media campaign will be launched from February 1 in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day, in which Television Muzaffarabad Center interviews/messages of people from all walks of life will be taken Producer Khalid Mahmood and advertised on social and elec-

AJ Radio and other officers of also be sent to them through

On the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, full coverage of rallies and events at all divisional and district headquarters, including human chains at all entry points connecting Pakistan with Azad Kashmir, will be Chaudhry, Representative of tronic media, while materials will ensured. In the meeting, various

divisional and district officers in this regard. Public Relations Minhas briefed the Information 5. Secretary on the steps taken for Kashmir Solidarity Day.

The Information Secretary directed that full media coverage of the activities related to Kashmir Solidarity Day should

should share the progress report Director Raja Amjad Hussain on a daily basis before February

Speaking on the occasion, Information Secretary Sardar Adnan Khurshid said that February 5 is a day of recognition of the eternal relationship and religious, cultural and social

responsibilities were assigned to be ensured. All district officers harmony between the people of Solidarity Day, the people of of the Information Department Pakistan and Kashmiris. Kash- Pakistan and the people of miri Muslims had ideologically linked their future with Pakistan even before the establishment of Pakistan. Pakistan and Kashmiri people in every hour of

trial and difficulty. On the occasion of Kashmir occupied Kashmir.

Kashmir will send a message to the whole world that until the Kashmiri people get the right to self-determination in accordance Kashmir are inseparable. He said with the resolutions of the United that Pakistan has supported the Nations, the people of Pakistan and the people of Azad Kashmir will stand with the people of

Presenting Credentials

ISLAMABAD: The Non-Resident envoys of Angola, jamaica, Luxembourg, Uruguay and Malta presenting their diplomatic



Pakistan's support to One-China Policy is unwavering, vow President, PM

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday extended the greeting of Chinese New Year and Spring Festival to Chinese President Xi Jinping, reaffirming the commitment to strengthening the "iron-clad friendship" between Pakistan and China.

The president, in a letter of greetings to his Chinese counterpart, said that he looked forward to discussing ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation and friendship with him in Beijing.

President Zardari reiterated Pakistan's ongoing support for the One-China Policy, calling it a vital component of Pakistan's foreign policy.

President Zardari said that both Pakistan and China acknowledging



unique and exemplary bilateral relationship was nurtured and strengthened by the unwavering efforts of leaderships of both countries, he added.

He also thanked President Xi Jinping for his visionary leadership in advancing Pakistan-China relations and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), besides China's enjoyed timeless and strategic remarkable progress in various served as a beacon of inspiracooperative partnership. This sectors during last year.

He also wished President Xi Jinping good health and expressed hope for the continued development and prosperity of the Chinese

of spring.

Xi Jinping.

Pakistan and China shared an

enduring bond of friendship

people. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended greetings to the Chinese people and President Xi Jinping on the Chinese New Year and said that China's success story tion and confidence for Paki- nurtured from generation to

"China's awe-inspiring "Our close ties, rooted in renaissance stands as one of mutual trust and shared aspithe defining themes of the rations, have now transformed 21st century...For us, China's into a comprehensive strategic partnership. This "iron success story serves as a beacon brotherhood" continues to of inspiration and confidence," the prime minister said in a be a cornerstone of Pakistan's televised message on the occaforeign policy, reflecting the sion of the Chinese New Year deep respect and admiraand Spring Festival starting on tion our nations hold for each January 29 to mark the end of winter and the beginning Prime Minister Shehbaz

said that the Chinese New Year He said that over the signified the transformation last many decades, China's and the promise of new beginremarkable journey of nings. The Year of the Snake, a progress and development was symbol of wisdom and vitality, a testament to the wisdom and reminds us of the importance foresight of its visionary leadof resilience and collective ership, particularly President strength as both the nations take on challenges and strive The prime minister said that

for a brighter future, he added. He reiterated that Pakistan and China stood united — a relationship that has been in their unwavering commit-

President Asif Ali Zardari received the credentials of five foreign envoys

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari received the credentials of five foreign envoys at a Credentials Presentation Ceremony held at the Presidency today.

Ambassador-designate of Angola, Arthur Williams, Ambassador-des- and productive tenure.

ignate of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Roland Reiland, Ambassador-designate of Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Berlado Roque Nicola Flaniguen, High Commissioner-designate of the Republic of Malta. Dr. Raymond Bondin, formally presented their credentials to the Julio Belarmino Gomes Maiato, President of Pakistan. We wish the Ambassador-designate of Jamaica, distinguished envoys a very successful

Sukkur-Karachi motorway M-6 top priority, says Abdul Aleem Khan



Example 2 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a high-level meeting of the National Highway Authority under the Chairmanship of Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan an inquiry committee was formed on the issue of protective fences around Motorways which will submit report within 10 days. Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan while the construction of Sukkur to Hyderwhich will be built up to Karachi. He al bonus equal to one's salary.

added that the Rs. 50 billion increase in the revenue of the National Highway Authority in a period of 6 months will be a deposit account, these funds will not be wasted and this money will be utilized on the projects from which more revenue can be generated. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan further said that taking the revenue from Rs. 60 to 110 billion is a commendable achievement and he intends to raise the revenue of NHA by Rs. 400 billion in the next presiding over the meeting told that 5 years and if the target of revenue is attained by June this year then all abad Motorway M-6 is a top priority NHA employees will get an addition-

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directs to complete Rawalpindi Ring Road Project by December

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif made a surprise visit to the Rawalpindi Ring Road project. She also directed to expand the scope of Rawalpindi Ring Road project. She assigned a deadline to complete the Rawalpindi Ring Road project by December. She also took an aerial view of the said project. She also visited Khasala Khurd Rawalpindi Ring Road Camp Office.

The Chief Minister said, "The completion of 38-km long Rawalpindi Ring Road project will solve the longoverdue traffic problem. Economic and business activities will enhance with the completion of Rawalpindi Ring Road project. The completion of the said project will also provide ease of travel to millions of citizens. Provi-



for the completion of the said

Commissioner Rawalpindi Road project. It was apprised Adiala Road, Chakri Road project having 21 subways.

sion of funds will be ensured Division Aamir Khattak gave a in the briefing that 05 interdetailed briefing to CM Punjab changes will be constructed and five overpasses will be built regarding the Rawalpindi Ring at Banth, Chak Beli Khan, on the Rawalpindi Ring Road

and Thalian. Railway bridges

FIA seeks details of cases of insider trading and market manipulation from SECP

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: With regard to taking up the investigations by FIA against capital market players, as reported by certain quarters, it is clarified that Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (the "Commission"), has been investigating cases of insider trading and market manipulation and consequently, filing criminal complaints in relevant court of law in terms of Securities Act, 2015.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has the mandate to investigate the aspect of money laundering in predicate offences under Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2010 (the "AML Act, 2010") and Insider Trading/Market Manipulation is one of such predicate offences.

As per AML Act, 2010, Insider trading and market manipulation is the only predicate offence falling it only specifies the person(s) found within the regulatory ambit of the Commission.

Considering its mandate under AML Act, 2010, FIA requested those scrips.

Commission to share details of all cases involving insider trading and market abuse, for parallel investigation at its end under AMLAct, 2010. In view of FIA request and consid-

ering the provisions of AML Act, 2010, the Commission shared the details of all such cases of insider trading and market manipulation where investigation had been completed and criminal complaints had already been filed in relevant courts. Accordingly, a list of 27 criminal complaints filed in the court of law since year 2008 to date, was shared with FIA in September 2024, under the Anti-Money Laundering (Referral) Rules, 2021.

It is also clarified that the referral of cases does not accuse the companies whose scrip has been manipulated or the brokerage houses through which trading was undertaken, rather involved in Insider Trading and market manipulation, as defined in Securities Act, 2015, while trading in

Prime Minister Mustafa meets with UN, EU, and World Bank to coordinate relief and reconstruction efforts in Gaza

News Desk

RAMALLAH: Prime Minister's Office- Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa held a coordination meeting on humanitarian relief and reconstruction efforts in Gaza with Sigrid Kaag, Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza; Muhannad Hadi, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory; Alexandre Stutzmann, EU Representative to Palestine; and Stefan Emblad, World Bank Country Director for Palestine. The meeting was also attended by Minister of Planning and Internationand Minister of Social Devel-



Hamad.

Mustafa reiterated the importance of international the Palestinian Government's efforts and its field teams operal Cooperation Wael Zaqout ating in Gaza. He emphasized the need for joint coordinaopment and Relief Samah tion through the Government lighted the progress in impletutions.

Operations Room for Emer- menting the Government's gency Interventions in the Relief, Early Recovery, and Gaza Strip to enhance ongoing partners and the Interna- relief efforts, restore basic Gaza, Concurrently, discustional community supporting services, advance economic sions are underway to convene recovery, and assess damages an international donor conferon the ground in preparation ence for reconstruction, in

for reconstruction.

Emergency Response Plan for coordination with donors and The Prime Minister high- relevant international insti-

CAYA's ministerial meeting stresses more cooperation in empowering youth

跨 City Desk

Programme,{PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, on Wednesday, thanked the distinguished guests for participating in the Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance (CAYA)Summit held in Islamabad.

Presiding over a meeting of Inter-Ministerial CAYA members, he emphasized the need to explore more opportunities in education, climate

change and skill development programmes. A report was presented on youth-related initiatives by various countries while the Commonwealth Youth Council report was also presented

during the CAYA's ministerial meeting. The youth ministers and foreign delegates from more than 12 countries commended

Pakistan for organizing the Youth.

The meeting also discussed various specific initiatives, ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth implementation plans, enhancing the capacity of youth and the role of Pakistani youth in the national economy.

On the occasion, the foreign delegates stressed the need to promote cooperation and connectivity in areas including culture, policy-making and others at the regional level.



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