ر صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمر 7380 **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Anita Karim: Breaking barriers as Pakistan's pioneering female MMA fighter

Growing up in the rugged northern reaches of Pakistan, Anita Karim honed her combat skills fighting with three older brothers who pulled no punches. The bruising experience prepared her for a career in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) — blending Thai kickboxing, Japanese judo and wrestling — and she is now the nation's pre-eminent woman fighter.



**Pakistan to mark funeral of Prince** Karim Aga Khan as day of mourning

Pakistan will observe a national day of mourning on Saturday (February 8) on the occasion of Prince Karim Aga Khan's funeral. "Expressing profound grief on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan on the sad demise of His Highness Prince occasion of the funeral of His High Highness," said a not

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Sha'aban 8, Friday, February 7, 2025

🔛 www.dailyspokesman.net 🤇

(1) @daily spokesman

Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 298 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Meeting for review

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review Task Management System for Privatization and



## Prime Minister reviews task management system for SOE's privatization process

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday chaired a review meeting on the task management system established for the privatization process of stateowned enterprises (SOEs) and its monitoring.

Prime Minister emphasized that

Uraan Pakistan economic reform and transformation initiative, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stressed the importance of collective effort for the development of Pakistan. "I will not allow further losses in SOEs that are wasting the During the meeting at the valuable resources of the Pakistani Prime Minister's Office, the people. The government's role is not to run businesses but to create instructed the hiring of repu-

integral part of the government's business and investment," he

He further mentioned that the government was making rapid progress in enhancing the economy through timely and necessary reforms. The privatization of designated institutions must be expedited, he said, while ensuring that transparency is not compromised.

Prime Minister Shehbaz

barriers hindering the privatization process. "I am personally overseeing the privatization efforts, and no delays will be tolerated,"

The meeting also included a review of the task management system designed for the privatization process. It was shared that the privatization of federal government institutions would proceed

in three phases. In the first phase, ten institusecond phase, thirteen institutions; and the final phase will

address the remaining institutions. The Prime Minister directed that the privatization process be accelerated, with a clear mandate to complete it within the stipulated

Federal Ministers Abdul Aleem Khan, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Ahad Khan Cheema, and other senior officials were in attendance at the

## the privatization of SOEs was an policies and provide facilities for table lawyers to address any legal tions will be privatized; in the Govt enacts PECA law in good faith to regulate digital media: Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, stakeholders, including press National Heritage, and Culture Attaullah Tarar said the government had enacted the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) law in good faith, primarily to regulate digital media.

Addressing the National Assembly's Standing Committee Information and Broadcasting, on Information and Broad- the Chairman of the National casting, the minister warned that Assembly Committee on Inforunchecked digital media could mation and Broadcasting, and including incitement to violence. comprehensive solution to the rural areas.

Atta Tarar made these remarks in response to the NA panel's call for broad consultations with all clubs, to address concerns related to media regulation.

The meeting was presided over by MNA Pullain Baloch who announced that a follow-up meeting would be held next week, involving the Minister of

The NA body also reviewed the matters related to the Public Sector Development Programme of the Ministry for the ongoing

While briefing the committee on the matter, the minister said that the Ministry had worked out comprehensive plan to equip the Radio Pakistan and the Pakistan Television with the modern technology.

He added that the additional budget was needed to expand the lead to serious societal issues, media stakeholders to devise a network of official media to the



## Aurangzeb urges fast-track adoption of climate change-resilient policies

#### Commerce Desk

Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on adopt policies framed to address climate change-related issues on a fast-track basis, moving beyond 'policy prescriptions.'

"There is no dearth of policy to climate change and urgently prescriptions; it is all about how ISLAMABAD: Minister for and who. I sincerely hope this two-day conference will address the operationalization issues," he Thursday stressed the need to said speaking at the international climate change conference titled "Breathe Pakistan."

He said Pakistan was one of

needed to address its mitigation efforts. However, he noted that the real and bigger issue was the adaptation of policies in both letter and spirit.

The minister referenced the existing National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the National Climate the most vulnerable countries Finance Strategy (NCFS) that

Pakistan announced in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024.

The launch of the strategy took place at the UN-led global climate conference, COP29, setting forth a framework to scale up climate-related investments, attract international finance and strengthen domestic financial systems.

It also emphasized enhancing

sectoral resilience, clarifying institutional roles, and improving access to diverse funding channels.

He said the NCFS had been aligned with Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, with an aim to close the estimated \$348 billion climate finance gap by 2030.

## Pakistan, China sign three MoUs in RE, cement, fertilizer sectors



**Spokesman Report** 

BEIJING: Pakistan and China on Thursday signed three different Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to enhance cooperation in the areas of renewable energy, cement and fertilizer manufacturing sectors.

President Asif Ali Zardari along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah witnessed the MoU signing ceremony here.

between Pakistan's Thatta Cement Company and China's Group to help establish an additional production line at Thatta Cement to increase cement production by 5000 tons per day in Pakistan

utilizing the locally sourced Pakistani coal.

Another MoU was signed between the Sindh Energy Department and China's Ming Yang Renewable Energy Company that would promote cooperation on various renewable energy projects in Pakistan. It also aims at facilitating the two sides to explore several renewable energy projects, fulfill the goals of carbon peaking, carbon neutrality, and emission reduction.

The third MoU was signed between the Sindh govern-An MoU was signed ment and Meskay Femtee CG&M, Chinese company for a coal gasification and Zhonggang Construction urea production plant which would be jointly established for making up direly needed coal gasification plant for the manufacturing of fertilizer.

Continued on Page 7

## Maldives defence chief holds talks with JCSC Chairman Sahir Mirza



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Major General Ibrahim Hilmy, Chief of Defence Staff, Maldives, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at the Joint Staff Head-

quarters in Rawalpindi. According to an ISPR statement released on Thursday, the meeting underscored the need to strengthen defence ties, with both sides reaffirming commitment to broaden and

expand existing collaboration, including military engagements and joint initiatives.

Major General Ibrahim Hilmy remained appreciative of the high professional standards of Pakistan Armed Forces, their achievements and sacrifices in fight against terrorism.

Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented 'Guard of Honour' to the visiting digni-

## PM inquires after health of Maulana Fazlur Rehman

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday visited the residence of Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman and inquired after his health. The prime minister prayed

for his health. Maulana Fazlur Rehman

thanked the prime minister

for his visit and best wishes. During the meeting, they discussed national and political issues.



Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar were also present on the occasion.

## A delegation of Media influencer Carrie and Mac Candee called on PM AJK

MUZAFFARABAD: A delegation of Media influencer Carrie and Mac Candee called on Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, here today. On this occasion, senior minister Colonel (retd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, government ministers Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq and Abdul Majid Khan were also present. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said that the government was working to promote tourism in the State. Referring to the region's breathtaking landscape, the PM said that Azad Kashmir is a popular destination due to its natural beauty, including mountains, valleys, rivers, and a to visit the territory. The government, the natural environment", the PM said. and Kashmir, the PM told the visiting AJK is a peaceful region due to which to provide facilities to tourists." Steps and human rights situation in the pied Kashmir into an open air prison tourists from all over the world love are being taken to protect forests and Indian occupied territory of Jammu by deploying 1 million troops.



temperate climate. He said that the he said, was taking all possible steps Referring to the worsening political delegation that India has turned occu-

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Valerie Hickey, Global Director for Climate Change at the World Bank meeting With Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam on Thursday.



## Sardar Attique grateful to the Pakistani leadership for expressing solidarity with Kashmiris people

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that he is grateful to the Pakistani leadership including Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif and Army Chief Sved Asim Munir who came to the freedom movement base camp in Muzaffarabad to express solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir.

Addressing the Kashmir Solidarity Day ceremony organized by the Paki- it is a recognition of the eternal historstan Ideology Council in Islamabad, President of the Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that



ical, religious, ideological, geograph- and former Prime Minister of Azad ical, cultural and social ties between the Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan people of Pakistan and the Kashmiri and Health Minister Dr. Ansar Abdali

nation. President Muslim Conference

met in Muzaffarabad. Detailed consultation was held regarding the recent health package in Azad Kashmir, Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Dhirkot, Amraaz Chest Hospital Hill and all health issues in Gharbi Bagh. The Minister assured the government of resolving all issues. Later, President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan visited Sports Malik Shaukat Hayat in Muzaffarabad. President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan condoled with Chaudhry Rafique Hussain in Muzaffarabad on the death of his brother Dr. Chaudhry Farid Hussain.

## Youth are the most valuable asset of any nation: Shehraz Ahmad, young climate activist

**Solution** Correspondent

TAKHT BHAI: Shehraz Ahmad, a young climate activist from Takht Bhai who recently received the Climate Champion Award from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Shehbaz Sharif, has emphasized the vital role of youth in a nation's progress. In his statement, he said that youth are the most valuable asset of any nation, and only those nations succeed that prepare their young generation to face modern challenges. He further stated that today's era is marked by technology, globalization, and rapidly changing social and economic conditions, which



bring both opportunities and es with knowledge, skills, and challenges for young people. If hard work, success will be their destiny. However, if they fail to the youth tackle these challengprepare, these challenges can Young people struggle to find become obstacles in their path.

Shehraz highlighted that education is the key to success in the modern world, but issues such as flaws in the education system, high costs, lack of quality institutions, and outdated curricula are major obstacles for students. In today's world, having just a degree is not enough; practical skills, creativity, and knowledge of modern technology are equally important for success. Addressing the issue of unemployment, Shehraz stated that joblessness has become a significant problem worldwide, and in countries like Pakistan, the situation is even more critical.

decent employment opportunities, leading to frustration and despair. On the other hand, advancements in technology and automation are replacing traditional jobs. Therefore, youth must acquire new skills and adapt to the evolving job market to secure their future.

It is worth mentioning that Shehraz Ahmad was recently honored with the Climate Champion Award by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. A total of 22 individuals from across Pakistan were selected for this prestigious recognition, and Shehraz was one of only two recipients from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Secretary of District Bar Association says the incident in the court premises is very sad

FAISALABAD:: Syed Muhammad Wahab Shah Advocate, Secretary of District Bar Association Faisalabad, while expressing his views, said that the unfortunate incident that took place today in the court premises in which a prisoner in police custody was shot dead by unknown persons is strongly condemned and it is termed as a failure of the district administration and police because incidents of extrajudicial killings are taking place in the court premises by the opponents every day and the bar administration has requested the district police on several occasions to make the security of the court premises foolproof, but the concerned police are not taking any concrete steps in this regard, which is condemnable. He further said that steps should be taken immediately for foolproof security of the court premises, otherwise if any such unpleasant incident occurs in the future, legal action will be taken against the concerned police by the bar administration.

## Cadet College Faisalabad solemnly observed Kashmir Solidarity Day



Abdul Majeed

FAISALABAD: Cadet College Faisalabad solemnly observed Kashmir Solidarity Day to reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people in their struggle for self-determination. The event featured a series of speeches by cadets, along with a peace march demonstrating unity with the people of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The event culminated in a Peace March, where cadets, faculty, and staff walked in unity, holding banners and placards inscribed with messages of solidarity. Cadet College Faisalabad reaffirmed its commitment to raising awareness about Kashmir and standing firm in the  $pursuit\ of\ justice\ for\ its\ people.\ The\ observance\ concluded\ with\ prayers$ for the freedom of Kashmir and lasting peace in the region.

## Action against violation traffic rules: DTO, Ch. Kashif Gill

**Zafar Chishti** 

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to the details, District Traffic Officer (DTO) Toba Tek Singh, Choudhry Kashif Munir Gill talking to Our Correspondent said that 1 January to 31 January 2025, the traffic police issued

Challans 1,14,63,800 Fines for violating traffic rules across the district. He further said that we have taken action Against over speed



198, over loading 1029, pressure horn 45, dangerous driving 859, traveling without driving license 383, smoke emitting vehicles, underage drivers 141, Black Glass Cars 58, motorcycle riders without helmets 898 imposed driving. Apart from this, an 24 FIR has been registered against those violating traffic rules. In the end. Ch. Kashif Munir Gill said that those who violate traffic rules do not deserve any concession.

#### A grand Jirga held in Wana Bazaar

B Umer Wazir

SOUTHWAZIRISTAN LOWER: A grand Jirga was held in Wana Bazaar by the Ashraf Khel tribe to protest against the establishment of a new General Bus Stand. The move has sparked discontent among the local community, with concerns over favoritism, economic impact, and alleged illegal activities surrounding the project.

The gathering saw participation from tribal elders, religious scholars, local residents, and transport workers affected by the decision. Speakers at the Jirga, including Malik Janbaz Khan, Malik Bahadur Khan, Marath Khan, Malik Ainar Khan, Maulana Rehmatullah, Maulana Sultan Khan, and Malik Abdul Ali, criticized the government's handling of the issue. They argued that while both the Kaka Khel and Ashraf Khel tribes had been granted D-class licenses, the local administration and police had unfairly sidelined Ashraf Khel's rights to operate a separate bus stand.

Munshi Baz Gul highlighted the economic toll of the decision, stating that the closure of existing bus stands in Wana Bazaar had left 36 transport workers unemployed, pushing their families into financial hardship. Many, he added, were struggling to provide basic necessities for their children.

### Political parties to bring suggestions in BA for improvement of law & order situation: CM Bugti

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday said that all political parties should bring their suggestions Balochistan Assembly (BA) to improve



law and order situation and expedite the development of the province. The session of Balochistan Assembly held under the chair of Deputy Speakers Ghazal Gola announced to call in camera session of the house on a coming Monday.

The CM said that tough decisions would have to be taken for implementation of the law and order situation in the province.

He said that the timely action of the security forces in Chaman is commendable for foiling the sabotage plan to save the area.

Despite Balochistan Assembly (BA) announcing to convene an in-camera briefing session, lawmakers expressed their concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the session of BA.

The CM Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the sacrifices of the security forces for peace and order are commendable saying that the people of the province respected to the forces for playing their role to curb sabotage activities with the aim to improve law and order situation.

While addressing in the assembly session, the provincial minister for P&D Zahoor Buledi said that foreign hands are involved in disrupting the law and order of the province.



## **Namaz Timings**

#### EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCI	
Rescue (Police)	. 15
Bomb Disposal	. 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 8	16 لأ
Emergency Ambulance 112	2&
& Rescue Services 4451	122
Motorway Police92660	)44
Motorway Police9270601-	-20

## **Women Police**

Stations		
Islamabad	922259	
Rawalpindi	9270601-2	

ENQL	ЛRY
Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
ΓΔΔ	9281092

#### HOCDITALO

<b>HUSPITALS</b>		
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	9209224

### Cold and dry weather to persist across country, westerly\_wave expected on Friday

ISLAMABAD: Mainly cold and dry weather is expected across most parts of the country on Friday, while hilly areas will experience very cold conditions during evening and night hours, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department

A continental air system prevailing over mos regions, keeping the weather dry. However, a shallow westerly wave is expected to approach the western parts of the country from tomorrow evening or night, which may bring slight changes in weather patterns.

In the past 24 hours, cold and dry conditions dominated most areas, with isolated rain and snowfall recorded in upper Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa. According to PMD, Dir (Upper) received 4mm of rainfall, while Pattan recorded 2mm.

The lowest minimum temperatures recorded today were Leh -13 C, Ziarat -07 C, Gupis, Kalat, and Quetta -06 C, Astore, Kalam, and Skardu-04 C, while Bagrote, Malam Jabba, Hunza -03 C, and

Dir and Rawalakot -02 C. The authorities have advised residents, especially in hilly regions, to take necessary precautions against cold weather and possible disruptions due to snowfall.

## Repatriation of mortal remains of Pakistanis from Morocco: PM orders

## strict action against human traffickers

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan, through the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) and Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF), in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), has facilitated the repatriation of mortal remains of four (04) Pakistani nationals from Morocco. The mortal remains arrived at Islamabad International Airport on

ing families, OPF officials, and stanis in times of distress. concerned departments received

them with deep sorrow. Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, Ch. Salik Hussain, attended the repatriation to stand in solidarity with the bereaved families. Expressing profound grief, he acknowledged the tragedy as national loss and assured full government support. He extended gratitude to the families for their patience and cooperation, reaffirming the government's commit-Flight No. SV 726, where griev-ment to assisting overseas Paki-

The repatriation concluded with a collective dua for the departed souls. Following religious rites, the mortal remains were transported to their native towns in ambulances provided by Pakistan Sweet Home, under the directives of its CEO, Zamarud Khan. The Federal Minister personally oversaw the arrangements, ensuring all necessary support for the families. The government remains dedicated to safeguarding the rights of overseas Pakistanis, eliminating illegal migration networks, and taking decisive action against human traffickers to prevent further trag- edies.



## Guest birds

ISLAMABAD: A view of the migrated birds flying on the Rawal Dam as Migratory Birds in Pakistan are the Siberian Crane, Houbara Bustard, Bar-headed Goose, Common Crane, European Roller Ducks, Flamingos, Swans, etc. These birds start arriving in Pakistan at the August end and some species spend the winter season in Pakistan.



## AEO Study Abroad Expo 2025 receives overwhelming response in Islamabad

#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: AEO Pakistan successfully hosted its highly anticipated AEO Study Abroad Expo 2025 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad, following well-attended events in Lahore and Karachi. The expo provided aspiring students with a valuable opportunity to explore higher education options at top-ranked international universities.

The event witnessed an overwhelming turnout, with a large number of enthusiastic students and parents engaging with representatives from prestigious institutions across Australia, the UK, the USA, Canada, Malaysia, and

about the



over 25 years, AEO Pakistan Expo continues to be the has been dedicated to turning perfect platform to guide students' dreams into reality by aspiring students toward their connecting them with worldclass educational opportuni-

The overwhelming response Mahmood, Resident Director reaffirms our commitment, Lahore, Karachi, and Sialkot.

Expo 2025 continues its journey across Pakistan, success of the event, Mr. Saad from students and parents following successful events in connect with their dream insti-

universities and expert career guidance to students nationwide, the expo now moves to Faisalabad, Multan, Abbot-The AEO Study Abroad tabad, Peshawar, and Hyderabad, offering even more opportunities for students to

## OWA Leadership Sworn In at IIUI

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The oath-taking ceremony of the Officers Welfare Association (OWA) of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), was held with Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira administering the oath. The event was also attended by Amir Fida Piracha, spokesperson to the President of Pakistan.

The newly appointed OWA body includes Dr. Muhammad Aamir Khan as President, Muhammad Aqeel Ahmad as Vice President (Male), and Sidra Shan as Vice President (Female). Muhammad Asif has taken charge as General Secretary, while Sumaira Saleem and Arslan Khurshid have been appointed as Joint Secretaries (Female and Male, respectively). Akhtar Zeb Mohmand will serve as Finance Secretary, Amir Shahzad will oversee Sports & Culture, and Syed Anwar-ul-Hassan has taken the role of Information Secretary.



Body comprises Syed Asif Kamal, Muhammad Mudassar, Shakeel Ahmad Siddiqi, Muhammad Rafi, Ansar Ahmad, Ali Rafay, Lubna Amjid, Khadija Ashrif, Nadia Mukhtar, Raja

Additionally, the OWA Executive Hamid Nawaz, Muhammad Imran, and Sohaib Qureshi.

Addressing the gathering, Qamar Zaman Kaira congratulated the office bearers and the executive body, stating that visiting IIUI has always been a university's advancement.

learning experience, as it remains a significant hub of knowledge. He urged the new leadership to uphold the mandate entrusted to them by their fraternity.

He emphasized that Pakistan's and the Muslim world's neglect of knowledge has hindered progress, stressing that academia plays a pivotal role in

Amir Fida Piracha, spokesperson to the President of Pakistan, assured the OWA of maximum cooperation and expressed hope that the association would actively work for the progress of the university

General Secretary Muhammad Asif Chaudhary, in his remarks, emphasized that the officers' fraternity forms the backbone of university management and development.

The ceremony concluded with renewed commitments from OWA leadership to serve the officers' community and contribute to the

## Play titled 'Hum kya chahte Azadi' staged at PAC



👺 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab arts council organized stage play "Hum Kya Chahte Azadi" on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day. The chief guest of the event was Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Services and Member of the Punjab Assembly, Mr. Ziaullah Shah. The play was written and directed by Malik Anjum Zaman, while the cast included Saima Khan, Arshad Khan, Anjum Abbasi, Sawera Shehzadi, Shehzad Pappu, Shehzad Mughal, and others. Chief Guest, Ziaullah Shah, stated, Today is a day to express solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters. First and foremost, I would like to thank the Punjab Arts Council for presenting this meaningful and purposeful play, which not only highlights the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people but also strengthens our spirit of freedom. We all know that Kashmir is not just a piece of land; it is a part of our faith, our passion, and our national pride. The Kashmiri people have been enduring oppression and tyranny for decades, yet their resolve remains strong, and they continue their struggle for freedom. We must never forget that every citizen of Pakistan stands side by side with the people of Kashmir and will continue to do so. This play is not just a story; it is the voice of our hearts, reminding us that Kashmir's freedom is near. Director Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain, emphasized that the freedom of Kashmir is the voice of every Pakistani's heart.

### AIOU Elects as CINVU President for the Second Consecutive Term

#### **E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has been elected as the President of the Executive Committee of the COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Virtual/Open Universities (CINVU) for the second

The fourth General Assembly meeting of CINVU was held from February 4 to 5, 2025, at Payame Noor University in Tehran, where Vice Chancellors from open universities across 57 Islamic countries participated. Member countries elected new representatives for the CINVU Executive Committee for the next four years.

In recognition of Allama Iqbal Open University's outstanding contributions to quality education and its active role within CINVU, the university was unanimously elected as a member of the Executive Committee. Subsequently, the elected committee members appointed Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood as the Chair/President of the CINVU Executive Committee for the term 2025-2029.

It is noteworthy that Allama Iqbal Open University has been a founding member of CINVU since 2018 and is now serving as the President/ Chair of the Executive Committee for the second consecutive time. This reaffirmation of leadership underscores the university's commitment to

advancing virtual and open education across the Islamic world. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood represented Allama Iqbal Open University at the meeting, along with Dr. Zahid Majeed, Director of the Directorate of Collaboration and Exchange.

## SST marks 26th martyrdom anniversary of Shaheed Aashiq Junejo

#### Maria Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindhi Shagrid Tahreek (SST) commemorated the 26th martyrdom anniversary of Shaheed Aashiq Junejo across Sindh, with major gatherings held at D-10 Palijo House Hyderabad, Karachi's Sachal Public Library, and Makli in Thatta. These events paid tribute to Shaheed Ashiq Jonejo for his unwavering sacrifice for the protection of education and others issues of Sindh.

A special ceremony was also held at Shaheed Aashiq Junejo's grave in Madeji, where participants laid floral wreaths and offered their Red Salute. SST leaders emphasized that Aashiq Junejo, martyred at Sindh University by state-backed militants, was a true soldier of the national and class struggle initiated by Rasool Bux Palijo.

Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Naveed Abass Kalhoro, Central President of the SST highlighted how, during a time when Sindh's universities were plagued by violence and armed groups, Aashiq Junejo stood fearlessly against terrorism, advocating for education through books and study circles instead of weapons. His ultimate sacrifice played a pivotal role in restoring an academic environment in Sindh's educational institutions.

Furthermore, SST vowed to continue its struggle alongside Awami Tehreek and Sindhiyani Tehreek against policies harming Sindh's education sector, including the KSP policy, budget cuts for HEC, and critical issues such as the six canals project, IRSA amendments, and corporate

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

**Editor** 

Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adpluse.pk Syed Afraz Ali Nazish

(afrazalishah@gmail.com) AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.

Head Office: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com

Phone: +92 51 2227123, WhatsApp +92 346 5008408

Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS, Karachi Phone:021-33399390

Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

## **National polio**eradication drive in across AJK

■ he nation-wide 5-day polio eradication drive on Thursday continued the 4th consecutive day successfully across Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The campaign will continue across Azad Jammu and Kashmir till February, 7 without any break

A total of 7.52 lakh children under five years of age would be administered anti-polio vaccine during the 5-day nation-wide campaign launched across AJK on Monday, the State health services authorities said.

The campaign was launched across AJK by the State Health Services Department with the coordination of the World Health Organization, the health authorities told APP.

They said no case of polio disease had emerged anywhere in Azad Jammu & Kashmir since the last 24 years.

At least 4000 mobile teams of para medical staff had been constituted to visit door to door to administer the polio vaccine drops during the campaign across AJK – where a total of 500 fixed centers at local government hospitals and subordinate health facilities had been established by the State Polio Eradication Committee of the AJK State Health Services Department with the coordination of the World Health Organization (WHO), the official sources

The total staff to be involved in the AJK-wide national drive included mobile teams comprising over 5000 workers for visiting door to door to immunize the children up to 5 years of age with the polio vaccine drops during the campaign, the sources underlined.

The fixed centers had been set up at the state-run hospitals, basic health units, rural health centers as well as various other spots to vaccinate the children with the anti-polio drops, the sources elaborated.

A total of 169 transit points had been set up for conducting the drive under the supervision of the concerned area in charge, the sources said.

As reported earlier the state health department's Polio Eradication Committee had made adequate arrangement to executive the polio-eradication campaign in a befitting manner, the sources asserted, adding that a total of 844 area in charge were supervising the drive at union council's lev el across AJK in 35 tehsils and besides a total of 245 Union Council throughout AJK State.

And in the lake-side district of Mirpur, a target of 76656 children had been set to e administer the polio vaccine.

In Mirpur district over 431 mobile teams of paramedics in all 51 zones would visit door to door besides serving at the 41 fixed centers and the 14 transit points to immunize polio vaccine drops to at least 76000 children.

## Maritime Geopolitics and the Strategic Significance of the **AMAN-9 Naval Exercise**

#### Dr. Hasan Yaser Malik

he world's oceans have always been a critical arena for geopolitical competition, trade, and security. In the 21st century, maritime geopolitics has gained renewed importance as nations vie for control over strategic sea lanes, resources, and influence. Against this backdrop, multinational naval exercises like AMAN-9 play a pivotal role in shaping the dynamics of maritime security and cooperation. Hosted by Pakistan, the AMAN-9 exercise, will be in February 2025, bringing together navies from across the globe, underscoring the interconnected nature of maritime challenges and the need for collaborative solutions for global peace.

#### **Key Objectives of AMAN Exercises**

Promote Regional Cooperation: Strengthen ties among participating nations to ensure maritime security and stability. Enhance Interoperability: Improve coordination and communication between navies to respond effectively to maritime threats.

Combat Maritime Crimes: Demonstrate a united front against piracy, terrorism, and other illegal activities in the maritime domain. Build Confidence: Foster mutual understanding and trust among participating countries.

#### The Geopolitical Importance of the Seas

Maritime routes are the lifeblood of global trade, with over 80% of the world's goods transported by sea. Key chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz, the Malacca Strait, and the Suez Canal are not only vital for commerce but also hotspots for geopolitical tension. The Indian Ocean, the United States and India. AMAN-9



in particular, has emerged as a focal point of global maritime strategy due to its central location and the presence of critical energy routes. Nations like China, India, the United States, and regional players such as Pakistan and Iran are increasingly investing in naval capabilities to secure their interests in these waters

## **AMAN-9: A Platform for Maritime Coop-**

The AMAN series of exercises, initiated by the Pakistan Navy in 2007, has grown into one of the most significant multinational naval gatherings in the region. AMAN-9, will be held in Karachi, with participation from over 50 countries, including major naval powers such as the United States, China, Russia, and Turkey, as well as regional players like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Indonesia, The exercise's motto, "Together for Peace," reflects its emphasis on collective security and collaboration.

#### **Geopolitical Implications of AMAN-9** • Balancing Act in the Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean is a theatre of intense geopolitical competition, particularly between China, US and India. China's Belt and Road Initiative and its growing naval presence in the region have raised concerns among traditional powers like provided an opportunity for these nations litical maritime scenario. Trust deficits, to engage in a cooperative setting, even as they compete elsewhere. For Pakistan, hosting the exercise was a strategic move to position itself as a key player in regional maritime security.

#### **Countering Non-Traditional Threats**

Piracy, drug trafficking, and illegal fishing are transnational issues that require coordinated responses. AMAN-9's focus on anti-piracy and counter-terrorism drills demonstrated the importance of collective action in addressing these challenges. By sharing expertise and best practices, participating navies can enhance their operational effectiveness and contribute to a safer maritime environment.

#### • Diplomatic Signaling

Naval exercises are often used as tools of diplomatic signaling. The participation of countries like the United States, China, and Russia in AMAN-9 sent a message of their commitment to regional stability. For smaller nations, the exercise provided an opportunity to strengthen ties with major powers and assert their presence on the global stage.

#### **Pakistan's Strategic Role**

As the host of AMAN-9, Pakistan showcased its naval capabilities and its commitment to promoting maritime security. The exercise also highlighted Pakistan's strategic location at the crossroads of the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, making it a key player in regional geopolitics. By fostering cooperation among diverse nations, Pakistan reinforced its image as a responsible maritime actor.

#### **Challenges and Opportunities**

While AMAN-9 can demonstrate the potential for maritime cooperation, it also underscores the value of overcoming the challenges of navigating a complex geopo-

competing interests, and historical rivalries may hinder collaboration. However, exercises like AMAN-9 provide a rare opportunity to build bridges and foster mutual understanding. Looking ahead, the success of AMAN-9 could inspire similar initiatives in other regions. promoting a more inclusive and cooperative approach to maritime security. As the global order continues to evolve, the importance of maritime geopolitics will only grow, making initiatives like AMAN-9 indispensable for ensuring peace and stability on the high seas.

#### **Opportunity for Pakistan**

Aman platform should be utilised by Pakistan to claim for its share in Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep Archipelagos in North Eastern and Central Indian Ocean which were handed over to India against the principles and provisions of Indian Independence Act 1947. In the case of Andaman Nicobar Archipelagos, the British kept these islands under their control and later handed over to India in 1950 instead of distributing them among India and Pakistan. Later on, considering the imminent political threat due to the unjust accession of archipelagos; India declared these Islands as Union Territory in 1956. In the case of Lakshadweep Archipelago; Muslim dominated territory was unjustly handed over to India ignoring the Muslim majority.

Dr. Hasan Yaser Malik is Ph. D in International Relations He is also Fellow Research Member with Chartered Insti $tute\,of Logistics\,and\,Transportation$ (UK), Member Board of Advisor "The Beacon" Research Journal of Pakistan Navy War College and Fellow Research Member with Environ Monitor







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

## Making Citizens Saileen سائلين is Unacceptable

Ali Jinnah said"A public servant is not a ruler; he is the servant of the people." Time and again, one official Facebook page of the RPO Multan catches my attention: "The RPO listened to the grievances of the برائلين. Saileen." Today, this sentence compelled deliberately ignored by concerned officers. me to ask: Who gave a public servant the right to turn citizens into petitioners?

These government officers are appointed to resolve public issues, so why

should the people be reduced to petitioners? When citizens are forced to bring their grievances to senior officials, it is a clear indication that their subordinates have failed to provide justice. If complaints were effectively addressed at lower levels, people wouldn't have to approach an RPO, DC, or any other senior officer.

Every government introduces initiatives such as open courts, citizen portals, and open-door policies to address public grievances. Yet, despite these measures, justice and immediate relief remain elusive. These systems appear flawless on paper, but in reality, they fail to serve the people effec-

The Citizen Portal is an advanced and efficient system that allows direct access to government institutions. However, in Punjab, less than 50% of officers take it seriously. Complaints lodged by citizens are often dismissed through false and fabricated reports uploaded on the system. Many complaints are closed without any

uaid-e-Azam Muhammad action, further deepening public frustra-

Open courts provide citizens with access to government officials, but they have largely become symbolic exercises. Even when grievances are heard, solutions remain absent because decisions made in these forums either get buried in files or are

Similarly, the open-door policy was meant to allow citizens to voice their concerns freely. However, in practice, it has become an ineffective formality. Public

access to government offices is restricted, and if someone does manage to reach an official, they either face unnecessary delays or their case is passed along in an endless bureaucratic cycle.

Unfortunately, our government offices have institutionalized the prac-

tice of turning citizens into petitioners. This outdated and unjust system is unacceptable in any civilized society. In developed countries, public services function efficiently, eliminating the need for people to plead for their rights. Citizens are served, not turned into petitioners at the mercy

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Pakistan is struggling with public service delivery, which is partially responsible for low economic productivity. Our local governments are disempowered, dysfunctional, and underfunded. They are being run by appointed bureaucrats rather than elected representatives who have deep roots in local communities. As a result, public service quality has sharply declined in sectors such as education, healthcare,

policing, justice, water, and sanitation.

Good governance is the cornerstone of any successful state, and its most crucial aspect is effective service delivery. When government institutions prioritize transparency, accountability, the rule of law, and efficiency, public trust is restored, and progress is ensured. Unfortunately, Pakistan's service delivery system is crippled by mismanagement, centralized authority, bureaucratic inefficiency, and corruption. Basic public services like education, healthcare, policing, justice, water, and sanitation continue to deteriorate.

It is high time that public servants truly embrace their role as "servants" of the people, rather than perceiving themselves as their rulers. They must sit in their offices with the spirit of public service, not with a sense of superiority over the people. After all, a public servant is a servant—not a master!

"Citizens should not be addressed or referred to as saileen ' beggars سائلين 'in government offices." Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz must ensure that the dignity of the public is upheld by banning the use of such derogatory terms in official language. Citizens visit government offices to claim their rights, not to beg for charity. Are the citizens of the state seekers of justice and services, or mere petitioners? If government institutions exist to serve the people, then who exactly are these "Saileen " " that government offices claim to be listening to? The reality is simple: when citizens must approach high-ranking officials for basic justice, it

is a glaring failure of governance. It is said that, "A system that forces citizens to beg for their rights is a broken

## Human rights on trial: The Kashmir case

### Sayyidah Kausar Fatima

nce known as a "paradise on earth," the sieged valley of occupied Kashmir, strongly challenges the notion of the universality of human rights. With over 900,000 Indian occupation soldiers having unlimited powers, including the ability to kill, abduct, torture and humiliate, life in the region is far from ordinary. Looking at the miserable situation the Kashmiris have been subjected to for decades, the "universality" of human rights comes under question.

The genesis of the dispute dates back to the partition of the subcontinent into Pakistan and India, back in 1947. According to the partition principle, the Muslim-majority areas were to constitute an independent state of Pakistan, while the Hindu-majority areas were to join India. The state of Kashmir was overwhelmingly a Muslim-majority state but under a local Hindu ruler. However, in October 1947, Indian forces invaded and occupied the area in a flagrant violation of the partition formula and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Even after more than 76 years, the unlawful measures of the Indian authorities to consolidate their occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and persistent suppression of the rights of the people of IIOJK continue with impunity. Further consolidating its illegal occupation and in complete disregard for international norms and agreements, India revoked Articles 370 and 35-A of its Constitution on August 5, 2019. The plot behind the illegal action taken on Aug. 5, 2019, is to engineer demographic and political changes in the occupied territory to convert Kashmiris into a disempowered minority in their own land, thus drowning out the Kashmiris' demand for freedom and self-determination. Therefore, now in addition to enduring the world's biggest and most unrestrained occupation army, the Kashmiris must confront a direct attack designed to make them a minority in their own land.

India has given a "carte blanche" to its occupation forces to unleash a reign of terror in the besieged territory. There are reams of reports from credible human rights organizations detailing these violations which cover the spectrum from extra-judicial killings, custodial deaths, involuntary disappearances, arbitrary detention, torture, degrading punishments, rape and molestation, collective punishment, to curtailment of the right to freedom of expression and religion and

However, while doing all this, India remains oblivious that with force and fraud, it can only buy time, which will run out someday. The peaceful and democratic approach is to let people exercise their own will the right to self-determination. Both parties to the dispute, Pakistan and India have already agreed to a free and fair, U. N.-administered plebiscite to ascertain the will of the Kashmiris. India's First Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in his statement to the Indian Parliament on February 12, 1951, stated that "we have taken the issue to the United Nations and given our word of honor for a peaceful solution. As a great nation, we cannot back on it. We have left the question for a final solution to the people of Kashmir and we are determined to abide by their decision."

In a situation when the credibility of international institutions mandated to ensure international peace and justice is at stake, it is important that the United Nations Security Council ensures full implementation of its resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute; urges India to end the grave and systematic human rights violations in IIOJK and to reverse all its illegal and unilateral actions in IIOJK undertaken since August 5, 2019 to restore faith of the weak and oppressed in universality of human rights.

Let us pledge today to reaffirm our strong solidarity with the just and legitimate Kashmiri demand for the right of self-determination and call upon India to uphold its pledge of a free and fair U. N. administered plebiscite to determine the will of the Kashmiri people. One day the oppressors will be thrown into the dustbin of history and justice will prevail eventually.

## PM Mustafa and Arab League Secretary-General discuss developments in Palestine

**₩** WAFA

CAIRO: Prime Minister's Office Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa met with the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, on Thursday at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo. They discussed the latest developments in Palestine, the challenges facing the entire region, and the ongoing humanitarian efforts to assist the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

Minister Mustafa Prime commended the Arab League's support for the State of Palestine and the Palestinian people on all levels, emphasizing the need for increased assistance during this difficult period of time, particularly for the reconstruction of Gaza, which has been

the Secretary-General Aboul Gheit on endorsement from the Secretary-Gen-



being led by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and the Governdevastated by the Israeli occupation. ment to face upcoming challenges, In a press conference following the especially at the political level. We meeting, Mustafa stated: "We briefed have received full support and

the political and diplomatic efforts eral, and we look forward to intensifying our work with the Arab League Secretariat and member States in the coming phase to overcome these challenges." He further emphasized that the priority remains our people in the

Despite the concerning political and security situation, Prime Minister Mustafa assured that the Government of Palestine is working seriously to provide humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people in Gaza and is preparing for the swift reconstruction, as well as working in cooperation with all partners and friends to overcome the current challenges.

At the end of the press conference, Prime Minister Mustafa reassured, saying, "We want to assure our people in the Gaza Strip that we will not leave them in this situation, and the coming days will be better."

The meeting was attended by Minister of Interior Major General Ziad Hab al-Rih, Palestine's Ambassador to the Arab League, Muhannad al-Aklouk, Assistant Secretary-General for Palestine Affairs Ambassador Saeid Abu Ali, and Assistant Secretary-General Ambassador Hussam

## Struggle, spirit and the dream of freedom of Kashmiri people is equally heartfelt by every Pakistani, Dr. Mohammad Faisal

B Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: "The world speaks of human rights, democracy and freedom, yet it turns a blind eye to the inhuman treatment, mass arrests, killings and the use of pellet guns on the innocent civilians in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.said High Commissioner of Pakistan to UK Dr. Mohammad Faisal. He was speaking at a Seminar arranged today by the Pakistan High Commission, London on the occasion of "Jammu & Kashmir Soli-

The High Commissioner said that  $every\,Pakistani\,supported\,the\,struggle$ of Kashmiri people for the legitimate right to self-determination. History would be unforgiving to those, who remain silent in the face of naked

mentary Group on Jammu & Kashmir self-determination. at the British Parliament, Raia Naiabat Hussain, Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Raja Najabat Hussain, the Chairman



Self-Determination Movement International a large number of Kashmiri and Pakistani diaspora in UK.

Imran Hussain MP said that Kashaggression and tyranny of the occu- miris in UK remember the decades of finnocent Kashmiris. He called upon The seminar was attended by Imran the international community to uphold Hussain MP, Chair of All-Party Parlia- the inalienable right of Kashmiris to

While addressing the seminar, pied Jammu & Kashmir.

of Jammu Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International, thanked Commissioner, along with promithe Government of Pakistan and Pakistan High Commission in London for a large number of Pakistani Diaspora raising the Jammu & Kashmir dispute and media, visited the photo exhibition pying forces in IIOJK, emphasized oppression, injustice and persecution at various international fora. He paid arranged by Pakistan High Commisrich tributes to the sacrifices of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, who have been suffering at the hands of oppressive forces in the Indian Illegally Occu-

image0.jpegimage1.jpegimage2.

jpegimage3.jpegEarlier, the High nent Kashmiri leaders based in UK, sion. London

The photo exhibition portrayed pictorial representation of the atrocities being inflicted upon the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

## Pakistan High Commission Canada marks Kashmir Solidarity Day

Spokesman report

OTTAWA: The Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa and its three Consulates in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal commemorated the Kashmir Solidarity Day, reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) in ident and the Prime Minister their just struggle for self-determination. On this occasion, a series of programmes were arranged including pictori- miris' struggle were screened al exhibitions, documentary screening and media interac- and local electronic media. tions to highlight the human High Commissioner of Pakirights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & highlighted the Indian brazen-Kashmir and to express soliness subjecting the defenceless

darity with Kashmiris facing the worst kind of oppression under illegal Indian occupa-

A special event was held at the High Commission attended by members of the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora, media, academics, and human rights activists. On this occasion, messages of the Presof Pakistan were read out to the audience. Moreover, various documentaries on Kashand broadcast on the social stan Mr. Muhammad Saleem



Kashmiris to endless atrocities.

that international human In a video message, the High rights organizations, the Commissioner also reiterated media as well as UN human

rights mechanisms, have been unanimous in their condemnation of India's illegal and inhuman actions IIOJK. He underscored that IIOJK was the most militarised region in the world. He called upon the international community to stop India of massive violations of human rights in IIOJK, rescind the unilateral and illegal measures and implement the United Nations' 13 Resolutions. There is a need for concerted efforts to mobilize international public opinion that this protracted conflict cannot be addressed without granting right to self-determination to the people of Kashmir, he

## Alliance Foundation Hosts Seminar on **Nutrition Awareness**

ISLAMABAD: The Alliance for Good Governance Foundation organized a where leading health experts underscored the need for a balanced diet, adequate sleep, and regular exercise for a healthy lifestyle. The speakers urged the government to improve data collection and research mechanisms for effecprocessed food products.

The seminar gathered medical professionals from various hospitals across Pakistan, along with international experts who participated via Zoom. Convenor of Alliance for Good Governance Foundation, Dr. Tariq Mehmood,

expressed gratitude to the attendees and reaffirmed the foundation's commitment to health sector reforms. He highlighted the critical role of nutrition in seminar on the significance of nutrition, maintaining a healthy life and stressed the need to raise public awareness on the subject. Speaking at the seminar, Consultant Physician Prof. Dr. Shakeel Mirza pointed out that non-communicable diseases are as dangerous as infectious diseases and require preventive tive health policy-making and called for measures. He emphasized the need to transparency in labeling ingredients on reduce carbohydrate intake, increase protein consumption, and shift from processed foods to natural alternatives. He also recommended increasing taxes on soft drinks and regulating high-fat and high-sodium food products.

Gynecologist Dr. Asmara Ali from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Lahore, encour-

aged participants to incorporate more vegetables and meat into their diets, consume barley porridge at least once or twice a week, and include milk and eggs as essential food items.

Dr. Naveed Iqbal, Head of Urology at Jinnah Hospital, Lahore, warned about the excessive consumption of carbohydrates, explaining that hydration needs vary from person to person. Dr. Parvez, an agricultural advisor to the Abu Dhabi government, advocated for introducing children to vegetable-based diets and promoting rooftop vegetable gardening as a sustainable practice.

Gynecologist Dr. Halima Shahid highlighted the importance of personalized nutrition, emphasizing that dietary choices should align with individual needs and lifestyles.

Dr. Daniyal, General Surgeon at Benazir Bhutto Hospital, Rawalpindi, discussed the direct link between diet and mood regulation.

Joining via Zoom from the U. S., Health Policy Expert Dr. Zubair Abdullah emphasized the stark contrast between healthcare systems in the U.S. and Pakistan, attributing the difference to data collection and research efficiency.

Nutritionist Dr. Fatima proposed introducing balanced diet awareness programs at the school level. She recommended that 80% of daily food intake should consist of natural, unprocessed foods to ensure better health outcomes.

Ms Shahida Naveed, Dr. Zahida Ibrahim, Miss Hasna Khattak and Shabbir Hussain also addressed the

## Tea Meets Technology, Tapal Tea's Digital Transformation with SAP Sets New Standards in FMCG



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Tapal Tea, a leading FMCG brand in Pakistan, has successfully embarked on a comprehensive digital transformation journey by implementing SAP's state-of-the-art cloud solutions, aiming to drive operational excellence, strategic alignment, and future growth. The company, long committed to staying ahead of industry standards, has partnered with SAP to transition its entire business infrastructure to the cloud, marking a significant milestone in Pakistan's FMCG sector.

Saquib Ahmad, Managing Director, SAP Pakistan, Iraq, Bahrain, & Afghanistan, commented on the partnership, "Tapal's ambitious approach to digital transformation is a testament to their commitment to operational excellence and forward-looking growth. With RISE with SAP , Tapal is setting a benchmark within the industry for embracing cloud innovation. We are proud to partner with Tapal on this journey to equip them with best-in-class solutions that will empower them to respond swiftly to market demands and stay ahead in a competitive landscape.

The foundational stages of the digital roadmap encompass a significant portion of Tapal's planned digitalization initiatives. As part of the roadmap, Tapal aims to implement SAP's Integrated Business Planning (IBP) module in the coming years, focusing on predictive analytics, artificial intelligence, and operations planning to further improve decision-making and forecasting accuracy. By leveraging AI, Tapal can enhance its data analysis capabilities, automate routine tasks, and gain deeper insights into market trends, customer and consumer behavior, ultimately driving more informed and strategic business decisions.

"With this ongoing digital transformation journey, Tapal is fully equipped to stay aligned with modern technological advancements and meet the demands of an increasingly competitive industry. We are proud to be a front-runner in adopting the latest SAP solutions," added Muhammad Aamir Jameel, General Manager Information Technology, Tapal Tea (Pvt.) Ltd.

Tapal's decade-long journey with SAP began in 2012 with the implementation of SAP's on-premises ERP system. Today, they are well on their way to completing a comprehensive digital transformation plan that covers all critical business processes. By leveraging analytics and business intelligence tools, Tapal is empowered to make informed, datadriven decisions, while AI-driven systems enhance employee interactions with personalized experiences.

### US President Trump to impose sanctions on International Criminal Court

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump will sign an executive order on Thursday to sanction the International Criminal Court for targeting the United States and its allies, such as Israel, a White House

The order will place financial and visa sanctions on individuals and heir family members who assist in ICC investigations of US citizens of US allies, said the official.

The move by Trump comes after US Senate Democrats last week blocked a Republican-led effort to sanction the ICC in protest at its arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister. Netanyahu is currently visiting Washington. The ICC did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The court has taken measures to shield staff from possible US sanctions, paying salaries three months in advance, as it braced for financial restrictions that could cripple the war crimes tribunal, sources told

In December, the court's president, judge Tomoko Akane, warned that sanctions would "rapidly undermine the Court's operations in all situations and cases, and jeopardise its very existence.'

This is the second time the court has faced US retaliation as a result of its work. During the first Trump administration in 2020, Washington imposed sanctions on then-prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and one of her top aides over the ICC's investigation into alleged war crimes by American troops in Afghanistan.

The 125-member ICC is a permanent court that can prosecute individuals for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression against the territory of member states or by their nationals. The United States, China, Russia and Israel are not members.

### Bangladesh protesters torch ousted PM Hasina's father's home

Thousands of protesters set fire to the home of Bangladesh's founding leader, as his daughter, ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina delivered a fiery social media speech calling on her supporters to stand against the interim government.

Witnesses said several thousand protesters, some armed with sticks, hammers, and other tools, gathered around the historic house and independence monument, while others brought a crane and excavator to demolish the building.

The rally was organised alongside a broader call, dubbed "Bulldozer Procession", to disrupt Hasina's scheduled 9pm online address

Protesters, many aligned with the "Students Against Discrimination" group, had expressed their fury over Hasina's speech, which they viewed as a challenge to the newly formed interim government. Tensions have been escalating in Bangladesh since August 2024, when

mass protests forced Hasina to flee to neighbouring India.

The interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, has struggled to maintain control as protests and unrest have continued. Demonstrators have attacked symbols of Hasina's government, including the house of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which was first set ablaze in

A symbol of the country's establishment, the house is where Bangabandhu (friend of Bengal), as he is popularly known, declared Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan in 1971.

A few years later it became the site of a national tragedy. Mujibur Rahman and most of his family were assassinated at the house in 1975. Hasina, who survived the attack, later transformed the building into a museum dedicated to her father's legacy.

"They can demolish a building, but not the history. History takes its

revenge," Hasina said in her speech on Wednesday. She urged the people of Bangladesh to stand against the interim government, accusing them of seizing power in an unconstitutional

The student-led movement behind the protests has voiced plans to dismantle the country's 1972 Constitution, which they argue embodies the legacy of her father's rule.

## **Bull & Bears**

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close		
110,301.16	111,935.38		
Day's High	Day's Low		
112,234.15	109,405.53		
Index Value	Change		
18,327,686,708	-1634.22		
Percentage	Time		
-1.46%	6 Feb, 2025 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
	Change		
Index Value	Change		
8,727.28	<b>Change</b> +103.99		
	_		
8,727.28	+103.99		
8,727.28 <b>Percentage</b> +1.21%	+103.99 <b>Time</b> 6 Feb, 4:35 pm		
8,727.28 <b>Percentage</b> +1.21%	+103.99 <b>Time</b> 6 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT		
8,727.28 Percentage +1.21% USA: Dow Jones I	+103.99 Time 6 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT ndustrial Average		
8,727.28 Percentage +1.21% USA: Dow Jones I	+103.99 Time 6 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change		
8,727.28  Percentage +1.21%  USA: Dow Jones I Index Value 44,711.46	+103.99 Time 6 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change -161.82		
8,727.28  Percentage +1.21%  USA: Dow Jones I Index Value 44,711.46  Percentage -0.36%	+103.99 Time 6 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change -161.82 Time 6 Feb, 12:17 pm		

#### **Open Market Forex Rates**

+235.05

**Time** 

6 Feb, 3:45 pm

GMT + 9

39,066.53

**Percentage** 

+0.61%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	175.75	178.00
Bahrain Dinar	738.60	746.60
Canadian Dollar	195.60	198.00
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	38.06	38.46
Euro	290.00	292.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35.47	35.82
Indian Rupee	3.11	3.20
Japanese Yen	1.85	1.91
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.30	905.80
Malaysian Ringgit	62.18	62.78
NewZealand \$	155.78	157.58
Norwegians Krone	24.51	24.81
Omani Riyal	722.90	731.40
Qatari Riyal	75.93	76.63
Saudi Riyal	74.20	74.75
Singapore Dollar	208.25	210.25
Swedish Korona	25.13	25.43
Swiss Franc	305.25	308.00
Thai Bhat	8.13	8.28
U.A.E Dirham	75.85	76.50
UK Pound Sterling	349.00	352.5
US Dollar	279.60	281.10

### TikTok announces nominations for 2024 creator awards



#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

PAKISTAN: TikTok has announced nominations for its 2024 creator awards in Pakistan. This highly anticipated event celebrates the creativity, talent, and passion of the TikTok community, spotlighting the best creators who continue to inspire and engage audiences on the plat-

Users in Pakistan can cast their votes for their favorite nominees on TikTok. To participate, users can access the dedicated voting hub on TikTok, where they can select their favorite nominees from each category and register their vote. After voting, users are encouraged to share their picks with friends to rally more support for their favorite creators. The voting period will conclude on February 10, 2025, at

The TikTok Awards 2024 will honor exceptional content creators across various categories. This year's nominees have been chosen based on their creativity, originality, and impact within the TikTok community.

This year's awards will celebrate the diverse and dynamic talent of TikTok creators in Pakistan, recognizing their dedication to producing engaging content that resonates with millions. The TikTok Awards is not just about honoring creativity but also about showcasing the powerful sense of community on the plat-

Fans are encouraged to actively participate in the voting process to support their favorite creators. For updates and announcements, follow the @PKTik-TokOfficial account on TikTok and other social media platforms.

## Gaps in cyber protection leave businesses vulnerable to AI-enhanced threats, Kaspersky study finds

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: As artificial intelligence reshapes the cybersecurity landscape, organizations worldwide face escalating challenges when protecting against sophisticated AI-powered attacks. Barriers such as skill shortages, lack of AI-powered tools, and the complexity of managing advanced cybersecurity infrastructures leave many organizations vulnerable.

In its latest study titled "Cyber defense & AI: Are you ready to protect your organization?", Kaspersky gathered insights from IT and Information Security professionals across SMEs and large enterprises. The research reveals a growing sense of urgency among businesses to prepare for AI-driven cyber threats, with 19% of respondents globally stating they have considerable gaps in their cyber protection. The study also explores barriers to achieving effective cybersecurity and the dire consequences of



zations cite the lack of AI-related cyberse- issue. Another 44% point to the complexity According to the study, 44% of organicurity training for employees as a critical of managing cybersecurity infrastructure, and even partial business closures (23%).

which makes it harder to stay ahead of attackers. The shortage of advanced tools is another key challenge. Nearly 43% of respondents admitted that their organizations lack modern AI-powered cybersecurity solutions, while 41% struggle with lack of information from external experts about the evolving AI-related threat landscape. Additionally, 39% of respondents experience the scarcity of qualified InfoSec professionals, leaving the businesses vulnerable to increasingly sophisticated threats.

The consequences of failing to adapt are severe and wide-ranging. More than half of surveyed professionals (58% globally) fear unpreparedness could result in confidential data leaks, while 52% anticipate a loss of customer trust), including stock value drops and loss of business opportunities. Reputational damage is a concern for 47% of respondents, who worry about the long-term fallout from a cyberattack. Other potential consequences include financial penalties (33%), investor withdrawal (31%), lawsuits (29%),

ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador H.E Irfan Neziroglu called on Minister of state for Information



## MCB Bank reports strong financial performance for 2024

#### **Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: MCB Bank Limited (MCB) announced its financial results for the year ended December 31, 2024, delivering another year of strong financial performance and sustainable growth. The Board of Directors, under the Chairmanship of Mian Mansha, Mohammad reviewed the Bank's performance and approved the annual financial statements. The Board has declared a final cash dividend of PKR 9.0 per share (90%), bringing the total cash dividend for 2024 to 360%, including 270% already paid.

The Bank posted a profit billion.



118.4 billion and Profit after tax (PAT) of PKR 57.6 billion for the year ended December 31, 2024; which translated into earnings per share (EPS) of PKR 48.62. The Bank's resilient financial performance is attributed to its stable core earnings base, diversified revenue streams, cost optimization initiatives and a strong risk management framework. The PBT on a consolidated basis was reported at PKR 131.2

## Hamdan bin Mohammed approves AED2 billion 'Therme Dubai' project



#### **Spokesman Report**

DUBAI: In line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to enhance quality of life and reinforce Dubai's status as the world's best city to live, work, and visit, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al

Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, has approved the development of

the iconic 'Therme Dubai' project. The announcement was attended by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai.

'Therme Dubai' is set to become the

Middle East's first-of-its-kind wellbeing resort and interactive park. The tallest facility of its kind in the world, the project integrates elements of relaxation, leisure, family entertainment, healthcare, and natural environments. Aligned with the UAE's 'Year of the Community,' the initiative underscores Dubai's commitment to enhancing the quality of life and overall wellbeing of its residents and visitors.

## **PSQCA** revealed that 28 brands of water were unsafe for human consumption

### **Commerce Desk**

ment of Pakistan has directed PCRWR for quarterly monitoring of bottled/ mineral water brands and publicize the results for awareness of public health. For the 4th quarter of year 2024 (October to December), 176 samples of mineral/bottled water brands were collected from 20 cities. Comparison of test results with the bottled water quality standards of Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) has revealed that 28 brands were unsafe for human consumption due to microbiological or chemical contamination. Ten brands (Miran Drinking Water, Pak Aqua, Jel Bottled Water, Neo, Aab-e-Dubai, Eltsen, Pure Water, Aqua Health, Oslo, More Plus) were found to be unsafe due to presence of higher levels of sodium, five brands (One Pure Drinking Water, Indus, Premium Safa Purified Water, Orwell, Natural Pure Life) was found to be unsafe brands they consume.



due to presence of higher levels of arsenic, while, one brand (Hunza Utter Water) were found unsafe due to presence of high level of Potassium than the permissible limit. Sixteen brands (SS Water, Sip Sip premium drinking water, Miran Drinking Water, D-Nova, Sky Rain, Neo, Pure Water, Dream Pure, Aqua Sharav Pure Drinking Water, Marvi, Ice Well, Akb Sky, Karakorum Spring Water, More Plus, Essentia, Life Inn) were found contaminated with bacteria and thus were unsafe for drinking purpose. General public is encouraged to look at the detailed report to know about the status of water quality of bottled water

## SECP Consults Stakeholders on Regulatory Reforms for Mutual and Pension Funds

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) held an extensive consultation session with representatives from the Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP) and senior officials from Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and Pension Fund Managers. The primary agenda was to discuss

proposed amendments to the Non-Banking Finance Compa-ISLAMABAD: The Securities nies and Notified Entities Regulations, 2008, focusing on cost rationalization for retail inves-

> The session was chaired by the Chairman SECP, accompanied by the Commissioner of the Specialized Companies Division, the Commissioner of the Supervision Division, and senior officials from the Fund Manage-



ment, Pension, and Supervision TER Capping Regime with Division. During the session, a Management Fee Capping after deliberations, consensus approach with aim to lower was reached on replacing the the cost burden on retail inves-

disallow any reimbursement of indirect expenses from the mutual funds and adequate disclosures on total expenses charged. The proposed amendments will take effect from July 1, 2025, ushering in a new era of retail-focused strategies in the mutual fund industry and

allowing for smooth transition. The session also covered recent developments in

tors. It was also agreed to the capital market and the important role of the mutual fund industry in growth of capital markets. It was emphasized that by implementing these reforms, the SECP aims to create a more transparent, efficient, and investor-friendly mutual and pension fund industry that supports economic growth and strengthens the financial ecosystem.

# Powerplay store to provide int'l-standard equipment to athletes: Jahangir Khan

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Squash legend and former World Champion Jahangir Khan has emphasized the need for athletes to have access to international-standard sports equipment to enhance Pakistan's sports

He said that high-quality gear is essential for athletes to perform with confidence and focus. In today's digital era, sports equipment of global standards can now be easily acquired through quality online platforms, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

Khan made these remarks at the launch ceremony of at Legends Arena, Karachi. Director of Powerplay Sports. The event was attended by Omar Saeed, CEO of international sports equipment brand lighted that the availability of athletes, especially young sports



Vice President of the Softball facturing cricket, squash, Federation of Pakistan, Zubair Macha, General Manager of Powerplay Sports' online store Combaxx Sports, and Saad Asif,

Extending his best wishes to Powerplay Sports, Khan high-Combaxx Sports, Farah Saeed, international brands manu- enthusiasts, would greatly

padel tennis, taekwondo, judo, karate, and softball equipment will allow young Pakistani athletes to access world-class gear within the country.

He expressed hope that

benefit from Powerplay's store. Omar Saeed, CEO of

Combaxx Sports, announced that all internationally certified Combaxx Sports products would be available on the Powerplay store.

partner, Combaxx Sports will clinics held in Pakistan.

sponsor two athletes (one male and one female) annually for overseas training. Additionally, an annual awards ceremony will be held to honor Pakistani athletes who win medals at the national and international levels. In collaboration with Powerplay Sports, a women's sports event will also be sponsored each year.

Speaking at the event, Saad Asif, Director of Powerplay Sports, remarked that their store would promote the message of 'Healthy Athletes, Strong Pakistan' nationwide.

Through their platform, federations and associations will be able to procure kits and sports gear at discounted prices for various events, including international championships, championships, inter-provincial competitions, Furthermore, as a technical training courses, and coaching

## Pakistan Junior Amateur Golf Championship conducted by Pakistan Golf Federation

**Tahir Amin Malik** 

LAHORE: After the inaugural round of this four rounds Pakistan Junior Amateur Golf Championship conducted by Pakistan Golf Federation, in progress at the world class Rumanza Golf Course, Multan the brilliant teenagers turned out to be Saad Habib Malik of DHA, Abdul Moiz Khan of Rawalpindi Golf Club, Mohammed Abdullah Khan of Defence Raya, Laraib ur Rehman of Peshawar and Irtiza Hussain of Margalla Greens. These five aspiring young ones made their winning moves in the opening session of this championship, showing form and ability and as result of their Khan of Rawalpindi Golf of gross 70, two under par remarkable display from outstanding performances Club was equally blazing and Laraib ur Rehman of the juniors contesting in the their chance to succeed look with a round of gross 68, four Peshawar and Irtiza Hussain Pakistan Junior Amateur bright. While Saad Habib under par. Three others also of Margalla Greens scoring Golf Championship being was excellent with a stirring played under par rounds and



66, six under par. Abdul Moiz Defence Raya, with a round and spectacular score of gross they are M. Abdullah Khan of these kids managed to make Course, Multan.

71, one under par. No doubt

their mark as juniors of much

Others who played well and came up with good scores are M. Darmal of Multan and he came up with a par round of 72. Three contestants played steadfastly to compile a reasonably good score of gross 73. They are Sharan Ali Khan (Rawalpindi), Shameer Majid (Defence Raya) and Ahmed Murad Ghumman (Rawalpindi).

A few more with mentionable performances are Sarim Rafi and M. Haseeb with a similar score of gross 75.

For the young ones it has been a wonderful day at an enchanting golf course.

It is hoped that the rounds to come will see still more played at Rumanza Golf

### Ali Zafar, Aima Baig to star at revamped Gaddafi Stadium inauguration ceremony tomorrow



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced a star-studded lineup of singers to star at the inauguration ceremony of the revamped Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore ahead of the Champions Trophy

The announcement, made by PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi in a post on X, revealed that the inauguration ceremony would feature prominent faces of Pakistan's music industry including Ali Zafar, Aima Baig and Arif Lohar.

The board has decided against charging people who will in fact be able to attend ceremony — set to kick off at 7pm also featuring a fireworks display — free of cost.

Furthermore, the PCB chief will also host a dinner in honour of workers involved in the venue's comprehensive upgradation work spanning over multiple months

## England will not boycott Afghanistan's Champions Trophy match: ECB chair

England will play their ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 match against Afghanistan later this month, England Cricket Board (ECB) said on Thursday, despite calls to boycott the game in response to the Taliban government's crackdown on women's

Last month, a group of British lawmakers urged England to boycott the Champions Trophy group stage match against Afghanistan which will be held in Lahore on February 26.

South Africa's Sports Minister Gayton McKenzie also supported calls for a boycott.

Afghanistan had 25 contracted



August 2021. However, ECB chair Richard a

Thompson said they would play the match after discussions with the government, the Internawomen players in 2020, but tional Cricket Council (ICC) and most are now living in exile in the players, adding that the crick-Australia following the Taliban eting community alone cannot match," Thompson said in a

that for many ordinary Afghans, watching their cricket team is one of the few remaining sources of enjoyment. As such, we can confirm that we will play this fixture. The Taliban say they respect

women's rights in accordance with their interpretation of religious law and local customs and that they are internal matters that should be addressed locally.

statement. "We have also heard

Last week, Afghanistan's exiled women cricketers were named the first beneficiaries of a new refugee fund started by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and Thompson said the ECB had donated 100,000 pounds (\$124,350). "We will continue to press the ICC to take further

action, including ringfencing a meaningful portion of funding to support female players from Afghanistan to be able to access cricket," he added.

Thompson also said the ICC should consider recognising an Afghanistan women's refugee team while also supporting and developing displaced Afghan women "to thrive in non-playing roles" such as coaches and administrators. "What is happening in Afghanistan is nothing short of gender apartheid," he said.

"At a cricketing level, when women's and girls' cricket is growing rapidly around the world, it is heartbreaking that those growing up in Afghanistan are denied this opportunity," he added.

## Standard Chartered and Karachi United concludes Seventh Football Youth League



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Karachi United Youth Football League 2024 held its closing ceremony today, having sponsored

Tasneem Mirza, Head Community Impact & Engagement, Standard Chartered Pakistan said, "At Standard Chartered we are committed to empowering youth sports, fostering talent and creating opportunities for the next generation. Our support for the SC KU Youth League reflects our belief in the power of football to inspire, unite communities and instil essential life skills. By investing in grassroots sports through our Futuremakers initiative we aim to nurture young talent and contribute to a more inclusive future for Pakistan. Together with our partners, over a sevenyear period, the SC KU Youth League experience has positively

Îmran Ali, CEO, of Karachi United said: "The Youth League consistently impresses us with its capacity to attract new players and communities each year. It has undoubtedly become the largest youth competition in Pakistan, featuring 1300+ participants, including girls, and an impressive total of 192 matches conducted over a span of four months. We receive outstanding feedback from community stakeholders regarding the positive impact this initiative has on their regions, and we are also discovering emerging football talent. Building on the success of this league, Karachi United is enhancing our community engagement through sports festivals and social action initiatives. This achievement would not be feasible without the support of our partners at Standard Chartered, and we are sincerely appreciative of their ongoing assistance.

### Fazal Subhan, Test Cricketer Fawad Alam and Adnan Shah Shine in Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Al Noor Gymkhana moved into Pre Quarter Finals peating Rehbar Sports by 187 runs due to fine batting by Faza Subhan 97, Test Cricketer Fawad Alam 49 and deadly bowling by off Spinner Adnan Shah 4/16 in the Master Oil Inter Club Cricket Tournament at Young Fighter Ground.

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

Al Noor Gymkhana beat Rehbar Sports by 187 runs at Young Fighter Ground. Al Noor Gymkhana 293/9 in 40 overs. Fazal Subhan 97 7x4 3x6, Fawad Alam 49 4x4 2x6, Saifullah Bangash 38 3x4 1x6, Ghous Shah 32, Yafay Ali 21. Zunair Ali (ob) 3/43, Wali Muhammad 2/40, Abeer Javed 2/73.

Rehbar Sports 106 all out in 21.3 overs. Syed Imran 39 6x4 1x6, Muhammad Imran 31, Anas Shah 21. Adnan Shah (ob) 4/16, Wahid Ali 2/16, Saad Ali 2/34.

## Trump signs order banning transgender athletes

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Wednesday barring transgender girls and women from participating in female sports, with supporters hailing it as a step toward fairness and critics condemning it as an attack on the rights of a marginalised group.

The order directs the Department of Justice to ban transgender girls and women from participating in female school sports under Trump's interpretation of Title IX, a law against sex discrimina-

"The war on women's sports is over," Trump said at a signing ceremony with dozens of women and girls aligned behind him. 'My administration will not stand by and watch men beat and

batter female athletes."

The order, which is likely to face legal challenges, calls for "immediate enforcement" nationwide. It threatens to cut off federal funding for any school that allows transgender women or girls to compete in female-designated sporting competitions.

## Pakistan, China agree to strengthen cooperation in anti-terror, **CPEC** development

Pakistan highly commended and expressed strong support for the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative put forth by President Xi Jinping. The two sides agreed to step up international cooperation in this regard to jointly tackle global challenges and foster a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind.

President Zardari lauded the great development achievements made by the Chinese people and expressed firm support for the Chinese side in advancing the China's core interests.

 ${\it Continued from Page 8} \quad {\it great cause of building a great}$ modern socialist country in all

The Chinese side gladly noted Pakistan's National Economic Transformation Plan (Uraan), applauding the new achievements attained by Pakistan in economic reform and national development and wished Pakistan stability, security, development and prosperity.

The Pakistani side reaffirmed its firm commitment to the one-China principle, calling Taiwan an inalienable part of the territory of China and the Taiwan question the core of

made by China to achieve national reunification and resolutely opposes all forms of "Taiwan independence." Pakistan will also firmly support China on issues related to Xinjiang, Xizang, Hong Kong and the South China Sea."

"We remain of the view that

co-ordinated international

response by the cricketing

community is the appropriate

way forward and will achieve

more than any unilateral action

by the ECB in boycotting this

The Chinese side reiterated its firm support for Pakistan in defending its national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and its support for Pakistan's efforts to safeguard national security, stability, development and prosperity.

Both countries believed that a peaceful and prosperous South

"It firmly supports all efforts Asia was in the common interest resolutions and bilateral agreeof all parties and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in South Asia and the need for resolution of all outstanding disputes, and their opposition to any unilateral action. The Pakistani side briefed the

Chinese leadership on the latest developments in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The Chinese side reiterated

that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was left over from history and should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the U. N. Charter, relevant U. N. Security Council

Pakistan and China agreed to strengthen high-level interactions, enhance exchanges and cooperation across various departments and at different levels between central governments, local authorities, legislative bodies and political parties, and carry out in-depth exchanges of governance expe-

Pakistan reiterated its strongest condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Pakistan involving Chinese personnel and reaffirmed that ensuring the safety and security of Chinese

personnel, projects and institu- erance attitude, and agreed to tions in Pakistan was the foremost responsibility of Pakistani government as China's All-weather Strategic Cooperative partner and the host

Pakistan have made important contributions to Pakistan's national construction and the improvement of people's livelihelping boost Pakistan's development, progress and prosperity."

commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with a zero-tol- countries," it added.

further strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation on counter terrorism. "The Pakistani side will

continue to make all efforts to investigate into the terrorist "The Chinese nationals in attacks involving Chinese personnel and bring the perpetrators to justice. It will also further increase input into security, and take targeted and hoods and serve as a strong force enhanced measures to effectively ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects The two sides reiterated their and institutions in Pakistan, and create a safe environment for cooperation between the two

**Chief of Defence Force** 

**Maldives Called on Chief** 

of o Naval Staff Admiral

**Naveed Ashraf** 

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Defence

Force Maldives, Major General Ibra-

him Hilmy, called on Chief of the

Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf,

## The Spokesman

## Bilateral Meeting

BEIJING: President Asif Ali Zardari along with his delegation in a bilateral meeting with the Premier of the State Council of



## Pakistan, China agree to strengthen cooperation in anti-terror, CPEC development

**Spokesman Report** 

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors including counter-terrorism, defence, agriculture, information technology and others, reiterating that the attempt to undermine or disrupt bilateral ties were bound to fail.

The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed as President Asif Ali Zardari, during his ongoing five-day state visit to China, met with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, Chairman of the Standing documents covering cooper- of China-Pakistan Free Trade Highway (Raikot-Thakot) Committee of the National ation on CPEC, trade, science Agreement, and actively People's Congress Zhao Leji, and technology, people's liveliexplore the possible bilateral importance to the land connecaccording to a joint statement. issued by the Foreign Office on his stay in China, President based on the spirit of mutual stan, and agreed to reach an the cornerstone of its foreign

reached during the visit. "While the transformation

not seen in a century is accelerating, the China-Pakistan relationship remains of strategic significance, and any attempt to disrupt or undermine it is bound to fail... The two sides agreed that the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership is a choice by history and by the people, and enjoys broad support from all walks of life in both countries,"

During the visit, the two hoods, and media, etc. During

discussions and agreements opening ceremony of the Ninth ation. Asian Winter Games.

> Besides enhancing cooperation in IT and emerging areas like artificial intelligence, big data and communication technology, the two sides agreed to expand cooperation in education, media, think tanks, youth, films and television to strengthen the bond between to create an upgraded version the two peoples and enhance of CPEC, in line with Pakistan's mutual learning between civi-

Pakistan and China agreed to conduct further consultation on trade liberalization under sides signed over a dozen the framework of the Phase-II concessional arrangements tivity between China and Paki-Thursday encompassing the Zardari will also attend the benefit and win-win cooper- early consensus on its imple-policy.

It was also agreed to promote the implementation of the eight major steps on highquality Belt and Road cooperation in Pakistan and jointly build a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, 5Es framework.

Both sides reaffirmed to make efforts to advance the upgradation of ML-1 in a phased and secure manner and reiterated that the Karakoram realignment project is of great

mentation and financing.

Two sides believed that having withstood the test of changing international circumstances, the enduring partnership and iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan transcended geopolitical interests. The two sides have always understood and supported each other, and have been deepening strategic mutual trust and practical cooperation.

The Chinese side reiterated that the China-Pakistan relationship was a priority in its foreign relations and of special significance in China's foreign policy. The Pakistani side also underscored that the Pakistan-China relationship was

#### at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. expressed his gratitude for participation of the Chief of Defence Force The visiting dignitary will also participate in AMAN Dialogue, being Maldives in AMAN Dialogue. He conducted alongside the multinaemphasized that the Dialogue will tional maritime exercise AMAN-25. serve as a valuable platform for During the meeting, matters of fostering comprehensive discussions mutual interest, including bilateral on maritime security challenges and collaboration and regional secuopportunities. rity, were discussed. Major General The visit of the Chief of Defence Ibrahim Hilmy appreciated and Force Maldives is expected to further acknowledged Pakistan Navy's enhance bilateral collaboration efforts and commitment to promote between the two countries.

## Security forces killed 12 khwarij in North Waziristan IBO: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 12 khwarij in an Intelligence-Based Operation (IBO) in the general area of Hassan Khel, North Waziristan District on February 5

"Security Forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in general area Hassan Khel, North Waziristan District on the reported presence of khwarij. During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij loca- khwarij, who remained actively tion, as a result of which, twelve khwarij were sent to hell" said an ties against the security forces as well ISPR news release.

However, during intense fire Ibrahim (age: 34 years, resident Kharji found in the area, as the of District Hangu), having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat.

also recovered from the killed resolve.



collaborative maritime security in

the region. Both leaders pledged to

further strengthen and expand the

scope of existing bilateral defence

The Chief of the Naval Staff

involved in numerous terrorist act as target killing of innocent civilians.

A sanitization operation is being exchange, Lance Naik Muhammad conducted to eliminate any other security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our Weapons and ammunition were brave soldiers further strengthen our

## Chairperson BISP Meets MD Overseas **Employment Corporation**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Discussions focused on providing skill training and employment opportunities abroad for deserving individuals under the Benazir Hunar Mand Program. Preliminary plans are underway to explore opportunities for overseas placement of up to 5,000 identified individuals from deserving families interested in the health and home care sector abroad for employment

Chairperson



of the Overseas Employment aimed to explore avenues for Income Support Programme Corporation, Naseer Khan providing skill training and

(BISP) Senator Rubina Khalid Kashani, at BISP Headmet with Managing Director quarters today. The meeting

better employment opportunities to deserving individuals under the Benazir Hunar Mand Program, in alignment with international labor market demands.

Chairperson BISP Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of collaboration among key stakeholders, including BISP, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis, and NAVTTC, to enhance economic opportunities for deserving families. She also proposed organizing seminars to facilitate discussions and strategic planning.

During the meeting, the possibility of sending individuals from 5,000 families abroad for employment in the health and home care sectors was considered. Under the proposed plan, BISP will provide data on deserving families, while NAVTTC will

be responsible for skill training. In the next meeting, representatives from BISP, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis, and NAVTTC will formulate a final action plan for skill training and overseas employment for the identified individuals.

## Pakistan to ensure security of Chinese personnel, projects: FO Spokesperson

B City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reaffirmed that ensuring the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan was the foremost responsibility of the Pakistani government as China's All-weather Strategic Cooperative partner and the host country.

In a statement during his weekly press briefing, the Foreign Office and the Taiwan question is the core Spokesperson said on Thursday that

during the visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to China, Pakistan reiterated its strongest condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Pakistan involving Chinese personnel.

President Asif Ali Zardari is currently on a state visit to China scheduled from 4-8 February 2025

During the visit, he said President Zardari held talks with President Xi Jinping in a warm and friendly atmosphere. They had an in-depth exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations and on the international and regional issues of mutual interests. Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, and Zhao Leiji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, met with President Zardari respectively.

The Pakistani side highly commended and expressed strong

ment Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative put forth by President Xi Jinping. The two sides agreed to step up international cooperation in this regard.

"The Pakistani side reaffirmed its firm commitment to the one-China principle. It is of the view that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China of China's core interests. Pakistan will



also firmly support China on issues related to Xinjiang, Xizang, Hong Kong and the South China Sea," he added.

The Spokesperson said the Pakistan side spoke highly of the Belt and Road Initiative put forth by President Xi Jinping. The two sides agreed to promote the implementation of the eight major steps on high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in Pakistan and jointly build a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor and an open corridor, to create an upgraded version of CPEC, in line support for the Global Develop- with Pakistan's 5Es framework.

## Hungarian delegation visits SIFC to expand bilateral cooperation

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Hungarian delegation, led by Tamás Vargha, Deputy Minister of Defence and Co-Chair of the Pakistan-Hungary Joint Economic Commission, visited the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). The delegation included Béla Fazekas, Ambassador of Hungary to Pakistan and senior

The delegation was warmly received by Mr. Jamil Qureshi, Secretary SIFC. The delegation was provided an overview of Pakistan's evolving investment landscape, pro-business policies, and SIFC's role as a one-window platform for facilitating strategic investments. He emphasized Pakistan's commitment to fostering an enabling environment for foreign investors, streamlining regulatory frameworks, and enhancing ease of doing business.

The discussions covered a wide range



of bilateral cooperation trade opportunities, investment, and economic partnerships. Both sides recognized the significant untapped potential for collaboration, particularly in industrial cooperation, technological exchange, and trade expansion. The Hungarian delegation expressed strong interest

tion, emerging markets, and growing sector-specific partnerships. Discuseconomic sectors to enhance bilateral trade and investment.

explored possibilities for joint ventures, to further strengthen economic ties.

sions also touched upon enhancing institutional linkages between Pakistan Given Hungary's expertise in tech- and Hungary's business communities, nology, defense cooperation, and facilitating trade delegations, and industrial development, both parties promoting people-to-people exchanges

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi