فرمانٍ رسول الله عله جتنامیں نے یو چھاا تناکسی نے نہیں یو چھااور نبی

> Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

President departs to Pakistan after concluding China's visit

President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday departed for Pakistan after completing a 5-day official visit to China. During the visit, the president met with his Chinese counterpart, President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Kh Asif offers PTI arrangements for holding 'peaceful' rally

Admitting that holding rallies was part of a political culture, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Saturday offered to the PTI making arrangements for its rally in case the party promised that

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Yum-e-Tammer o Taraqqi ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses a ceremony organized in connection with Youm-e-Tameer-o-Taraqqi on Saturday.

Imran Khan pens another open letter to COAS



Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has written a second open letter to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, alleging political victimization and raising concerns about the widening rift between the military and the public. 24NewsHD TV channel reported.

In his letter, Khan reiterated that Pakistan's largest political party was being deliberately targeted, and his earlier attempt to engage the military leadership for the country's betterment was met with an "irresponsible and unserious response."

Khan, who has served as Pakistan's prime minister and claims to be the leader of the and pushing the economy country's most popular party, toward further crisis.

stated that his life's work has been dedicated to bringing global recognition to Pakistan.

He warned that the growing divide between the people and the military was dangerous for the country's future, asserting that if the public had been consulted, 90% would have endorsed the six points he raised in his previous letter to the army

The PTI founder alleged that the current government was installed through pre-poll rigging, while amendments to the Constitution and the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) were being used to control the judiciary and suppress dissent. He blamed these actions for causing political instability

Pakistan's economy ready to take off after attaining stability: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the country's economy was set to take off following a year of dedicated efforts by the government's

He highlighted that the financial sector had overcome significant to sustained recovery and progress.

"Pakistan's journey from darkness to light in a year is the result of a collective effort," the prime minister said while addressing an event held here to celebrate Youme-Tameer-o-Taraqqi.

He noted that the government salaried class for contributing such ment was actively working to curb

successfully engaged with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to secure a \$7 billion, three-year program in September last year, which prevented the country from defaulting.

Although the nation faced chaleconomic team to restore stability. lenges due to the IMF's tough conditions, he emphasized that the economy had now stabilized challenges and was now on a path and was ready to move toward sustained progress and develop-

He said the salaried class had to suffer the most due to the IMF programme as it was now collectively paying Rs 300 billion taxes. He also paid special tribute to the

high taxes.

The prime minister stated that the inflation rate had been reduced from 40 percent to as low as 2.4 percent in January 2025, leading to a decline in the policy rate.

He urged the business community to support the government's efforts to stabilize the economy, emphasizing that their involvement was crucial. He assured that the government would fully engage the business community in the policymaking process, as economic growth could not be achieved without consulting the

He emphasized that the govern-

smuggling across the borders. "By legally exporting sugar to Afghanistan, the government secured \$211 million in foreign exchange," the prime minister said, adding that this valuable revenue would have otherwise ended up in the hands of smugglers.

He acknowledged the dedicated and sincere efforts of the Pakistan Army and law enforcement agencies in helping to curb smuggling

activities across the country. Regarding the government's privatization policy, the prime minister stated, "We are now moving towards a massive privatization process, as the government

15 hardcore terrorists arrested in operations across Punjab: CTD

👺 Bureau Report

Photo: PID

rorism Department (CTD) personnel arrested 15 hardcore terrorists during 143 intelligence-based operations

of the CTD said on Saturday Lahore was affiliated with that these operations were Fitna al-Khwarii in North LAHORE: Counter-Ter- carried out in Lahore, Sialkot, Waziristan. The CTD Gujrat, Attock, Sargodha, Bahawalpur, Jhang, Mianwali, Chinniot and Attock.

The spokesman further

personnel also recovered explosive material, one IED bomb, detonators, protective fuse wire 18 feet, pamphlets (IBOs) conducted in different revealed that one terrorist and currency from the hidecities of Punjab. A spokesman who was arrested from outs of the arrested terrorists.

Saudi businesses eye stronger ties with Pakistan as Albaik confirms expansion

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, engaged in a series of high-profile meetings in Jeddah, focusing on enhancing trade and investment partnerships between Pakistan and Saudi

tions, investment opportunities, and Saudi brands entering the Pakistani market, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

In a key meeting with prominent Saudi businessmen, the Minister invited them to explore investment Arabia. The discussions, held during opportunities in Pakistan across the first-ever "Made in Pakistan" exhi- energy, agriculture, IT, healthcare,

bition, centered on business collabora- infrastructure, and consumer goods. He highlighted Pakistan's 22%

export growth to Saudi Arabia, reaching \$700 million, and assured Saudi investors of a business-friendly environment with tax exemptions, investor protection laws, and access to a 240-million-strong consumer market.

Saudi business leaders expressed keen interest in collaborating with

Pakistani counterparts, particularly in construction materials, textiles, and food industries. Several proposals were discussed to enhance trade partnerships and industrial investment, with the Minister extending an invitation for them to visit Pakistan and participate in trade exhibitions like TEXPO, Food-AG, and the Healthcare &

Pakistan's progress unstoppable, critics of economic recovery now ashamed: Atta Tarar

👺 City Desk

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, stated that those who once prayed for Pakistan's economic default are now ashamed, as the public has completely rejected the politics of lies propagated by the "Tehrik-e-Inteshar."

NA-127 on the "Day of Development" can halt Pakistan's development. and Progress," on Saturday, he emphasized that while these opponents will continue to complain, the government will persist in its journey of progress and public service. He highlighted that under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, the country's economy is on the path to recovery. He declared that the entire nation is Speaking at a public gathering in celebrating progress and that no force credited PM Shehbaz Sharif's leader-

The federal minister criticized the previous government, asserting that due to the incompetence of the "Instability Party," Pakistan was on the verge

However, the current government, without prioritizing political gains, took decisive steps to rescue the country from economic collapse. He

ship for steering Pakistan away from default and towards development and economic stability. He highlighted that international financial institutions have acknowledged Pakistan's economic recovery, with improvements such as an increase in exports compared to imports, a significant reduction in the trade deficit, and inflation dropping to its lowest level in 6.5 years.



PM AJK paid tributes to Shaheed Muhammad **Afzal Guru**

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has paid eulogizing tributes to Shaheed Muhammad Afzal Guru on his martyrdom anniversary. Terming Shaheed Guru as the real hero of the Kashmiris, the PM said that the martyr would be always remembered in the annals of history for his significant contribution to the ongoing liberation. Terming hanging of Guru as a judicial murder, he said, "The Indian Supreme Court conducted a sham trial of Afzal Guru and later on



awarded him death sentence to satisfy the so-called collective conscience of India". The controversial verdict, he

said, was big blot on the face judiciary that has a history of being biased towards Kashmir and Kashmiris. The prime minister also denounced India for its refusal to handed over mortal remains of Shaheed Guru to his heirs. He said that Guru's secret burial within the premises of Tihar jail was not only a violation of human rights but interference into religious affairs.

Paying homage to the supreme sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs, the PM said that the day was not far when the sacred blood of the martyrs would come to fruition and Kashmiris' would be free the clutches of Indian

Demanding justice

FAISALABAD: Residents of Chak No 7 block the District Council Chowk during protest along with dead body, against Nishatabad Police station for justice, in City



District City Police stand by martyr's family at his daughter's wedding

KARACHI: In a heartfelt gesture of solidarity, SSP Arif Aziz (PSP) District City extended his warm congratulations to the daughter of a martyred police officer on her wedding on February 6, 2025 and personally attended the ceremony to show support and contributions.

The bride's father, Mohammad Pervaiz, head constable, a brave police officer, was martyred in 2016 while performing his duty at a snapchecking post in Chakiwara, Karachi, when miscreants opened fire on him. In honour of his sacrifice, the City District Police, under the leadership of SSP City Arif Aziz (PSP), ensured that his daughter's wedding was a memorable and well-supported occasion, reaffirming their commitment to the families of fallen officers.

Accompanying SSP City were SP Lyari Lal Bakhsh Solangi, SDPO Baghdadi Tabish Ali, and SHO Baghdadi Majid Alvi, all of whom participated in the event to pay tribute to the late officer's service and stand by his family to make the day memorable.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP City



of duty. He emphasised the police serve the city and the nation. He reaf-

Arif Aziz paid homage to the martyred force's unwavering resolve to honour firmed the commitment to supporting policeman and all other personnel who their fallen comrades, demonstrating the families of martyred police have sacrificed their lives in the line courage, dedication, and the spirit to personnel with the same devotion as

Police and Lawyers Conflict: Legal Struggle or Administrative Failure?

consequences affecting not only the legal community but also ordinary citizens. Following the case filed against lawyer Ali Raza Bozdar by Bhittai Nagar Police in Tando complex. Allahyar, the tension has transformed into protests and sit-ins by lawyers across Sindh.

This issue has gone beyond a simple dispute between a lawyer and the police, raising crucial questions: Is there rule of law in Sindh? Are the agencies meant to protect the public failing in delivering justice? Most importantly, how beneficial or detrimental could the lawyers' protests be for the judicial system?

The situation intensified three days ago when the legal community raised their voices against the police's behavior. IG Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon,

he conflict between directed the DIG and SSP of Hyder- Three Swords, blocking traffic, while in its members instead of upholding the lawyers and the police in abad to negotiate with the lawyers Hyderabad, the blockage of the national Hyderabad has escalated and resolve the issue, but the tension highway created immense difficulties

> Bypass, blocking the national highway, the situation became more

> The lawyers' stance is clear: their protest will continue until SSP Hyderabad is suspended and the police apologize. On the other hand, the

police argue that no one is above the rights of ordinary citizens? law, whether a lawyer or an ordinary

several cities in Sindh, including Karachi, Thatta, Sijawal, Mirpurkhas, Gambat, and Tando Allahyar. In Karachi, lawyers staged a sit-in at

to a serious level, with remained high. As lawyers marched for thousands of passengers traveling from Shahbaz Building to Qasimabad between Punjab and Karachi.

This situation raises the question: Is blocking national highways a legitimate strategy for protests?

Are these protests a struggle for the rightful demands of the legal community, or do they equate to Asad ul Haque Qureshi infringing upon the

This conflict highlights the longstanding tension between the police The protest by lawyers has affected and the legal community. Police corruption, misuse of power, and illegal actions are no secret. However, it is also essential to ask whether the legal community is demanding special privileges for

supremacy of the law.

This incident demonstrates the imbalance in institutional functioning in Sindh. When law enforcement agencies and legal experts come into conflict, how can ordinary citizens expect to receive justice?

This issue cannot be resolved merely by transferring an SSP or seeking an apology. The Sindh government, judiciary, and lawyers' associations must come together to create a mechanism under which:

This conflict has cast a shadow over the credibility of the legal system. If a permanent and lasting solution is not found, such incidents may escalate further in the future. For the rule of law to prevail, both lawyers and police must use their powers appropriately. If public trust in these institutions is lost, the justice system will become nothing more than a spectacle.

Investigation of outbreak of appendicitis in "Haryana Gujran" village started

MUZAFFARABAD: Under the direction of PM AJK Ch. Anwar ul Haq regarding investigation of Appendicitis Outbreak at village "Haryala Gujran" in Muzaffarabad, a team constituted by Director General Health AJK under the chair of Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan DIrector Health AJK and comprising Dr. Naheed Akhtar Surgeon AIMS, Dr. Aamir Shahzad DHO Mzd and Dr. Hifsa MS THQH Dhirkot visited the site along with Mr. Zahid PHS and Ch. Yunas. They met with the local community and briefed them about the highest level of concern and mitigation measures taken by the Governmentof AzadKashmir. Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan briefed them all on the measures taken by the govt and DoH AJK and said that, on the direction of worthy PM GoAJK, Minister for Health AJK, all other concerned ministers, Secretary Health, DGH AJK are on their toes to provide the level best healthcare to the affectees and also to investigate this outbreak and take the necessary preventive measures. He also delivered a heath education session and responded the questions from the community. He ensured them of the full support of the department of health regarding their relevant concerns and emphasized on them to stick to the preventive measures as told. The whole team also heard their concerns and briefed them as well. In the end, community representatives thanked the GoAJK and DoH for their in time efforts and support and said that they would also disseminate this message to the down tiers. Dr. Sattar along with his team also thanked them for being there and attending the briefing.

People's Party is the Voice of the People and a Symbol of Service: Ishrat Hassan

Qayoom Sarohi



HYDERABAD: People's Party (PPP) Ladies Wing Hyderabad leader Ishrat Hassan, in an important statement, said that PPP has always remained committed to the principles of public service, democracy, and equality. Under the leadership of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, the party has made countless sacrifices for public rights, democratic stability, and economic development. Even

today, this mission continues under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

PPP leader Ishrat Hassan stated that the party is taking practical steps to protect people's fundamental rights, eliminate inflation, create employment opportunities, and ensure the country's development. She emphasized that no undemocratic force will be allowed to undermine public opinion, and democracy and constitutional supremacy will be upheld at all levels.

She further said that PPP represents all segments of society and will continue its struggle for the rights of the working class, farmers, students, and women. The party's manifesto has always been for the people, and in the upcoming elections, PPP will achieve success based on its performance and service.

Ishrat Hassan urged all workers and the public to unite and strengthen the hands of the People's Party, playing an active role in making the country a progressive, prosperous, and democratic state.

Actions against illegal constructions continued: DOP **HafizShoaib**

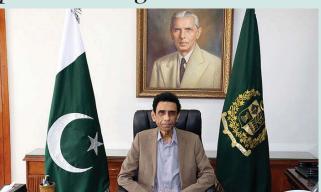
Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to the details, Hafiz Muhammad Shoaib District Officer Planning(DOP) District Council Toba Tek Singh, Talking to the Our Correspondent said that in his Office our teams work in the field on a daily basis and during checking, if any such constructions are found without approvals. We give notice to the building owners to pass the



building map. However, if someone does not pass the map, we take strong action against them to pass the map from the district council. Hafiz Muhammad Shoaib said that despite our notice being issued, if someone does not pass the map of the building from the district council, then we will sealed the building until he passes the map. I am giving warning to those who construct illegal buildings, if anyone constructs a building without a map pass, A legal action will be taken against the violators.

Federal education minister visits examination centers of Kanz-ul-Madaris Board, praises arrangements



ISLAMABAD: The annual examinations under the Kanz-ul-Madaris Board for the year 2025 are currently underway, with 786 examination centers established across Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Saturday visited the examination center at the Global Madani Markaz Faizan-e-Madina, along with other departments associated with the Board. He was accompanied by Abdul Haseeb, Zahid Mansoori, officials from the Majlis Rabita, Board members of Kanz-ul-Madaris and the head of public relations, among

During the visit, Kanz-ul-Madaris Board officials briefed the minister on the examination process, revealing that a total of 168,449 candidates are appearing in the 2025 exams. This includes 90,417 students for Tajweed and Qira'at, Dars-e-Nizami, Takhassusat, and Kulliyat-ush-Shariah programs, 69,501 students for Nazrah Quran and Hifz-ul-Quran exams, 8,393 students for short courses, including the Imamat Course and Faizan-e-Shari'ah Course, they told.

The minister was also told that to ensure the smooth conduct of examinations, 3,758 invigilators and staff had been deployed.

The federal minister praised the arrangements made by the Kanzul-Madaris Board and assured full support for their initiatives.

At the end of the visit, he was presented with a collection of religious books as a token of appreciation.





Namaz Timings

EMEDGENCY

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

Women Police

Stations		
Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	

ENQUIRY		
Edhi Ambulance	115	
PIA Flight Info	114	
PIA Cargo	. 9280979	
Railway Inquiry		

Railway Inquiry	11
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
NASA Rawalpindi	5555489
AA	9281092
HOSPI	TALS

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

Solar system only solution to address energy crisis:



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday emphasized that solar system was only solution to address the energy shortage in Pakistan and the country was going toward solarization in this regard.

Addressing the Knox mega mind-2025 ceremony as the chief guest, the governor lauded the efforts of Knox one of leading solar inventor company's management and ganizers on arrangin successful event here and appreciated the Knox for producing the standard product in a shape of inventors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that the country was confronting the energy crisis and the common man could not afford the electricity high tariffs as a result, the people were involved in power pilferage. Solar energy was so cheap and affordable as compared to hydral one, he

added. Faisal Kundi said massive number of consumers were installing the solar system at their homes to use cheap solar energy till evening and reiterated the solarization was only solution to power

shortfall in the country.

He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was rich with natural resources including oil, gas, minerals, and reservoirs as this province was one of biggest producer of oil as well. The climate of Khyber Pakhtunkwa is more ideal for solar energy production comparatively to Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)," he added.

KKAWF, Embassy of France & Serena Hotels Partner to Set New Standards to **Combat Korang River Water Pollution**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On Saturday February 8th, the Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation in partnership with the Embassy of France, Serena Hotels and United States Educational Foundation is set to hold its fifth edition of its annual environmental awareness event, Keep Korang Clean Plus 2025 This flagship event is part of KKAWF's ongoing efforts to take action to stop the hazardous quality of water from Korang river to flow into the Rawal Dam, the source of drinking water for residents of Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.

KKAWF strongly advocates for sustainable solutions with the Ministry of Climate Change, the Worldwide Fund for Nature WWF and CDA to protect Rawal Lake from contamination. The foundation urges environmental organizations and authorities to install Trash Barriers at strategic points along the Korang River to prevent waste and pollutants from entering the lake..

The event will bring together over 300 students, boy scouts, girl guides, teachers, as well as diplomats, UN agencies, officials from the Government and Corpo-

rate entities, environmental advocates, media, influencers and community members for a collaborative cleanup activity. It will be a unique opportunity to witness youth-led environmental advocacy and interact with participants committed to safeguarding our natural

The gathering will be addressed by Senior Officials from Embassy of France, Cristina Afridi, Chairperson KKAWF, Officials from Ministry of Climate Change and Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Frederico Silva along with other special guests at the event.

KKAWF, launched in 2015 is commemorating its first decade of empowering youth to help them realise their full potential of a healthy & productive life. It regularly engages with young people under its five pillars of Drug Awareness, Environmental awareness, Sports, Arts & Culture, and Civic Sense. These healthy diversions are lacking for young people in our country and can be very relevant and necessary to drug prevention and, building a brighter future. It now has a Lahore chapter with presence in Islamabad/Rawalpindi areas, KP and Gilgit Baltistan.



Protest

ISLAMABAD: Family Members of the workers of demolished Monal Restaurant hold placards during protest at the sight of the restaurant on Margalla Hills, as in the time of extreme inflation and unemployment, such common people are suffering a lot across the country.



Ziauddin University Examination Board Announces ŠSC-II & HSSC-II Annual-II Results 2024

跨 City Desk

KARACHI: The executive director of Ziauddin University Examination Board (ZUEB), Dr. Nasir Ansar has announced the SSC-II and HSSC-II annual-II results for the year 2024. According to the results, the success rate in the matric exams was 80 percent while the marks. success rate in the intermediate exams was 87 percent.

Controller Examination of ZUEB Dr. Ayesha Hassan also proudly announced the top position holders for HSSC-II across various faculties.

In the Pre-Medical Group, Tayyaba Sikandar secured 995 with 992 marks, and Mehak Zaryab with 991 marks.

In the Pre-Engineering Rizvi secured the top position with 970 marks, followed by Muhammad Faraz, with 961 marks, and Mustafa with 943

In the General Science secured the first position with 928 marks, while Humayoon followed with 923 marks and 915 marks, respectively.

In the Commerce Group, Mehwish Kanwal secured the that "Following our tradition,

marks, earning the first positop position with 906 marks, tion, followed by Nayab Sadiq followed by Urooj Khan with 897 marks, and Muzammil with 889 marks

In the Humanities Group, Group, Syeda Rubab Fatima Nasreen Yasmeen secured the top position with 917 marks, followed by Naheed with 884 marks, and Nabila Babur Rajput with 880 marks.

Dr. Ayesha Hassan, reaffirmed the board's commit-Group, Muhammad Daniyal ment to transparency and fairness. She stated that the timely announcement of and Muhammad Waleed Awan results reflects the dedication of students, teachers, and the board.

Dr. Ayesha further stated

we have ensured results are announced on schedule," she said, adding that, under Dr. Asim Hussain's directives, the board released results within eight weeks of the exams'

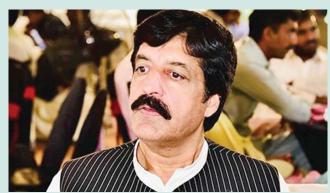
completion. Ziauddin University Examination Board (ZUEB) remains committed to upholding the highest standards in assessment and innovation. It was the first board in Sindh to introduce barcodes on exam papers and admit cards, along with QR codes for online verification of student details. Additionally, the board efficiently resolved any examination-related issues through its dedicated help desk.

Rs 135mn would be spent on improving health infrastructure in Hazro

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The provincial government would execute a mega multi-million healthcare development program under which a sum of Rs 135 million on provision of quality healthcare facilities and services to masses at their doorsteps. This was revealed by Member district monitoring committee and former provincial Minister Jahangir Khanzada while briefing media persons about the health development plan in Hazro town of Attock on Saturday. He said that under the plan as many as six Basic Health Units (BHUs) and one Rural Health Center (RHC) of tehsil Hazro, transforming them into modern healthcare facilities to ensure best healthcare facilities to people at their nearest besides this program would help provide 100 percent health coverage to poorest of the poor across the tehsil Hazro. Khanzada added that a sum of Rs 15 million each would be spent on BHU while a sum of Rs 45 million would be spent on RHC. Responding to a question, he said that under the plan the Basic health unit at Jatyal, at Haroon, at Khakwani, at Bhangi, at Kamra, at Shamshabad and Rural Health Center at Ghourghushti would be revamped. "The revamp plan would significantly enhance the quality of healthcare services, providing our citizens with access to better medical facilities, equipment, and expertise", he added.

Governor Punjab Visits Fatah Jang to Pay Třibute to Martyrs



ATTOCK 8 FEB: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan visited the villages of Shahrai Bahadur and Jaffar in Fatah Jang Tehsil to offer condolences to the families of Havaldar Saeed Iqbal and Sepoy Basit Ali, who were martyred in Wana while serving in the Pakistan Army. During his visit, Governor Punjab met with the families of the martyrs, expressed his heartfelt condolences, and prayed for the elevation of their ranks in Jannah.

He emphasized that the sacrifices of these brave soldiers are the reason Pakistan remains secure today. "Our martyrs are the pride of Pakistan. Every child of Fatah Jang is ready to sacrifice for the country," said Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

He further stated that Pakistan stands united with its armed forces, and the sacrifices of the martyrs will never be forgotten. He assured the families that the government will provide all possible support and

"We are proud of our martyrs and will always stand shoulder to shoulder with our Pakistan Army," he affirmed. The visit reinforced the government's commitment to honoring the nation's heroes and supporting their families in every possible way.

Asim Jofa Revitalizes Karachi's Landmarks Through Decade-Long 'Green Pakistan, Clean Pakistan' Initiative

City Desk

fashion designer Asim Jofa is proving that his vision extends beyond the world of fashion.

under his "Green Pakistan, Clean Paki-

KARACHI: Renowned jewellry and launched an extensive beautification project aimed at restoring the city's aesthetic charm.

First stepping into this mission in His decade-long commitment to 2015, Asim Jofa has a plan for the social service is once again in the spot-next three months where his team has light as he continues on the mission of undertaken the restoration of promirevitalizing Karachi's iconic landmarks nent landmarks, namely, 2 Talwaar, 3

Talwaar, and DUA Chowrangi. With the special permission and and replacement of tiles on these

Murtaza Wahab, Asim Jofa has tenance of surrounding plants and shrubs, ensuring a greener and more vibrant environment for the city's resi-

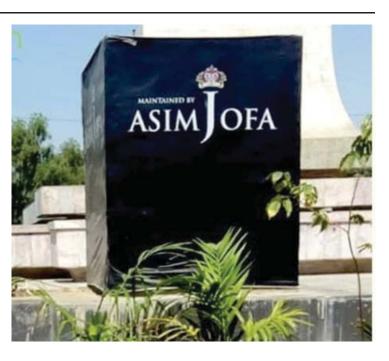
In addition to structural enhancements, Asim Jofa envisions creating a visually spectacular experience for Karachi's citizens.

To commemorate the completion of the project, there is a possibility The project involves the polishing of a special light show at 2 Talwaar and 3 Talwaar around the time of

support of Karachi's Mayor, Mr. iconic structures and ongoing main- Eid, adding a festive touch to the city's skyline.

Looking ahead, Asim Jofa is determined to expand his efforts to other key areas in Karachi, including Bilawal Chowrangi, Jubilee Chowrangi, Football Roundabout, Fish Roundabout, and Cycle Circle, among

His unwavering commitment to urban restoration and environmental sustainability continues to inspire positive change across the metropolis.



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Speeding up medical evacuations from warravaged Gaza

ore than 12,000 critically ill and injured patients, including at least 5,000 children, urgently need to be evacuated from Gaza, amid the crumbling health system, the UN World Health Organization (WHO)'s top official in the region said Thursday.

Speaking from Gaza, WHO Representative Rik Peeperkorn described a scene of widespread destruction, overwhelmed medical facilities and growing mental health needs, as the population in the enclave gradually returns to what is left of their homes after nearly 16 months of conflict.

"Everyone in Gaza is affected...stress, anxiety, depression, and loneliness. It's everywhere," he said, highlighting the psychological toll on both residents and health workers.

Before the war, Gaza had more than 3,500 hospital beds. Today, only 1,900 remain, and very few intensive care units (ICUs) and incubators for newborns, leaving medical staff struggling to

Even before the war, mental health services were limited, with just one psychiatric hospital, six community centres, and an NGO network providing support. Now, those facilities are either destroyed or non-functional.

Dr. Peeperkorn called for the urgent re-opening of additional medical corridors, especially the "traditional referral pathway" of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, where facilities are ready to receive patients.

Critical infrastructure, including electricity networks, has suffered extensive damage across the Gaza Strip.

Beyond the dire health crisis, the broader humanitarian situation in Gaza remains critical, with severe shortages of clean water, food, and essential services.

UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher visited the enclave on Thursday, as UN agencies and partners continue responding to immense needs, a UN spokesperson said.

"In northern Gaza, Fletcher toured two hospitals – Al Shifa in Gaza City and Al Awda in Jabalya – where he met with patients, staff and management," Farhan Haq, Deputy UN Spokesperson, told reporters at a news briefing in New York.

"Leaving the Al Awda hospital, he spoke with survivors and returnees in Jabalya who are trying to rebuild their lives amid

However, widespread infrastructure destruction has left many residents without reliable access. Humanitarian partners are distributing 2,500 cubic metres of safe drinking water daily, reaching about 411,000 people, but this remains far below the

A partner organization is also providing cleaning and sanitation services at 17 displacement sites in northern Gaza, benefiting nearly 12,000 displaced individuals.

'Water, sanitation and hygiene partners are carrying out assessments in locations across the Strip to repair water wells, install dosing pumps, and set up water filling points," Farhan Haq said, adding: "while some repairs are already underway, further progress hinges on teams being able to clear debris and carry out

Trump's Media Defiance and Bold Geopolitical Moves

ulative, and self-serving American media, Donald Trump is perhaps the only president in the country's history who has had the tenacity, courage, and guts to confront the dreadful and all-powerful media head-on. He has boldly defied the influence of traditional media, demonstrating that it no longer holds the sole power to elevate or demolish any president, regardless of their power. By harnessing the power of social media, Trump has successfully shattered the long-held notion that the media controls the narrative and the

Unlike his predecessors, Trump is unafraid to take actions he deems necessary to expose the manipulative influence of the American media, showing no fear of potential backlash. His determination to bypass traditional media channels has revolutionized political communication. Special arrangements were even made for the direct live broadcast of President Donald J. Trump's historic inauguration on platforms like TikTok and YouTube. This strategic move paid off as the live telecast of the inauguration ceremony set a new "All-Time Viewership Record" with 9.6 million viewers. Additionally, the live stream on President Trump's X account garnered an impressive 36.7 million views. In total, the ceremony reached an estimated 80.7 million viewers, surpassing the previous record of 42 million set during Ronald Reagan's inauguration in 1981.

Through his innovative use of social media, Trump has stripped traditional media of its exclusive role as the primary news disseminator. He now directly reaches out to the American people and audiences

ick and tired of the nosy, manip- worldwide, unfiltered and unmediated. For for women and girls across our country. researchers and writers like me, this shift is liberating. No longer do we have to navigate the paywalls and restrictions of mainstream media outlets that prioritize profit over public access. Instead, platforms like X and TikTok offer direct, unfiltered access to Trump's statements and updates straight from his official handles.

Without relying on the crutches of traditional media, Trump has effectively used the power of social media to directly broadcast significant events, including the signing of executive orders on far-reaching issues. This approach allows the public to receive unmanipulated,

unfiltered information straight from the president, free from biased interpretations or commercial restrictions. Just a day before, while surrounded by young schoolgirls, Trump signed an executive order that redefined gender recognition in the U.S., limiting it to only two categories: male and female. In his tweet, he described this decision as historic and far-reaching, aimed at protecting families and the country from what he views as psychological and social confusion. The signing ceremony was streamed live on platforms like X, TikTok, and YouTube, ensuring the message reached millions before traditional media could even report it.

In another significant executive order, also broadcast live, Trump announced the NCAA's policy change banning men from competing in women's sports. He proudly declared, "This is a great day

Men should have NEVER been allowed to compete against women in the first place, but I am proud to be the president to SAVE Women's Sports." He urged the Olympics Committee to adopt similar measures, emphasizing that this policy is popular not just in America but worldwide. Through these direct communica-

tions, Trump continues to challenge the traditional media's gatekeeping role, reinforcing his commitment to transparency and public engagement.

Further challenging the conventional media landscape, proposed a bold geopolitical solution regarding the Gaza Strip. In his tweet,

he suggested transferring the Gaza Strip to the United States by Israel following the conclusion of hostilities. According to the proposal, Palestinians, including individuals like Chuck Schumer, would be resettled in significantly safer and more attractive communities with modern homes, providing opportunities for happiness, safety, and freedom. Together with global development teams, the U.S. would slowly build what is thought to be one of the world's most amazing projects, without sending U.S. troops there, which would help keep the region stable for a long time.

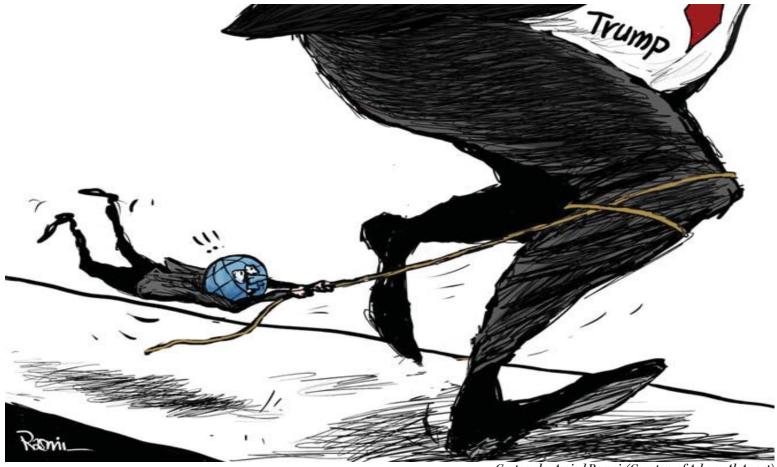
Trump's strategy extends beyond media influence to leveraging the economic and military might of the United States to achieve his objectives. He has compelled countries like Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, and Mexico to accept deportees, using diplomatic pressure effectively. His strong

stance on the Panama Canal prompted the Panamanian government to withdraw from China's Belt and Road Initiative and waive transaction fees for American ships. Trump's bold proposal concerning Gaza played a role in pushing both Hamas and Israel towards a ceasefire agreement. Additionally, his assertive approach regarding Greenland influenced the European Union to assume greater financial responsibilities within NATO.

His unconventional and fearless approach with the media, allies, neighbors, and adversaries alike is producing tangible results. By proposing out-ofthe-box solutions that appeal to common sense while defying bureaucratic red tape, Trump sets a new standard for geopolitical actors. His methods challenge the status quo, exposing the unnecessary complexities often created to justify bureaucratic dominance and financial gain.

Through these bold moves, Trump has not only reshaped political communication but also redefined the role of the presidency in an era dominated by digital connectivity. His unfiltered engagement with the public through social media platforms represents a seismic shift in how leaders connect with citizens, challenge traditional narratives, and assert their policies on both national and international stages. Trump's combination of economic power and direct communication strategies has positioned him as a transformative figure in modern politics, establishing new standards of media management and geopolitics.

Qamar Bashir is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC



Qamar Bashir

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

Palestinian and Arabs Outrage by Trump's Gaza Plan

Ahsan Ansari

Donald Trump regarding Gaza have sparked widespread outrage among Palestinian and Arabs. Trump's idea which suggested

Jordan, perceived as advocating forced displacement, drawing strong condemnation from advocacy groups, political leaders, and human

rights activists. Palestinian and people from all over the world see Trump's remarks as dehumanizing and an attack on their people's fundamental right to their homeland. The Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)

condemned the comments, warning that normalizing such rhetoric could have dangerous policy implications. MPAC and other advocacy groups argue that forced displacement is not a solution but a human rights violation that could destabilize the region further.

Palestinian activists and organizations across the U.S. have responded with frustration, arguing that Trump's comments reflect a colonial mindset that treats Palestinian land as disposable. Community leaders emphasize that Gaza is not merely "real estate" to be redeveloped but a homeland with deep historical and cultural significance for millions of Palestinians.

The reaction from the Muslim world has been overwhelmingly negative. Arab nations, including Egypt and Jordan—both of which were mentioned in Trump's proposed relocation plan-have categorically rejected the idea. Egyptian and Jordanian officials have reiterated their commitment to Palestinian sovereignty and warned against any attempts to alter the region's demographics through forced displacement. Mirette Mabrouk, a senior fellow at the Middle

ecent remarks by U. S. President East Institute, described Trump's comments as "extremely serious," in highlighting concerns that Washington might pressure Middle Eastern leaders to accept Palestinian refugees. Analysts suggest that Jordan and Egypt, despite being relocating Palestinians from Gaza to Egypt and major recipients of U. S. aid, will likely resist such proposals due to political instability concerns and the long-standing commit-

> ment to Palestinian statehood. The Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) issued strong statements rejecting any calls for forced Palestinian displacement, emphasizing that such actions would constitute a grave violation of interna-

tional law. Muslim-majority countries, including Turkey, Pakistan, and Indonesia, have also condemned Trump's rhetoric, warning that it could escalate tensions in an already volatile region. Saudi Arabia's stance remains a key factor in the broader geopolitical equation, as analysts speculate that Trump's proposal might be an indirect attempt to pressure Gulf states into supporting U. S.-Israeli plans for Gaza and the West Bank.

Trump's proposal has drawn parallels to the 1948 Nakba (catastrophe), when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forcibly displaced from their homes during the creation of Israel. Many experts warn that any largescale displacement of Palestinians from Gaza would effectively be a continuation of this historical trauma, Bezalel Smotrich, Israel's far-right finance minister, confirmed that he is working with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on a plan aligned with Trump's vision for Gaza, raising further fears of ethnic cleansing.

Waleed Hazbun, a professor of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Alabama, warned that Trump's idea of making Gaza into a "Middle

Eastern Riviera" could be used as a bargaining chip, though its broader implications remain troubling. He criticized the notion of "cleaning out" the region, pointing out that similar rhetoric has historically led to mass displacement and long-term humanitarian crises.

Trump's remarks have also fueled tensions within the broader Arab American voting bloc. Many Arab American voters previously supported Trump due to dissatisfaction with President Joe Biden's handling of the Gaza crisis. However, his latest remarks may shift political allegiances, as many feel that his stance disregards Palestinian rights and international law. Rabiul Chowdhury, co-founder of Muslims for Trump, admitted that Trump's comments were frustrating but maintained that Trump's overall policy stance was preferable to Biden's unwavering military support for Israel.

Trump's recent remarks on Gaza have deeply angered Palestinian Americans, Arab American leaders, and the broader Muslim world. His statements are seen as not only offensive but also dangerous, as they normalize discussions of forced displacement, a violation of international law. Palestinian activists and advocacy groups continue to push back against such rhetoric, emphasizing that any lasting solution must recognize Palestinian rights and self-determi-

As promised in the 2024 U.S. presidential election, Trump categorically stated a two state solution of Israel and Palestine. Many who previously backed him are now reconsidering their choices, as his latest comments appear to contradict his earlier promises of advocating for a peaceful two-state solution. With international pressure mounting and diplomatic tensions rising, the future of Gaza remains one of the most contentious issues in both American and global politics.

(Email: aahsan210@gmail.com)

Lahore High Court Takes Action against Illegal Dog Culling in Faisalabad

Sana Ashraf

has summoned the Commissioner Faisalabad, Deputy Commisauthority, and CO Municipal Corporation's accountability of the authorities. If the Commis-Faisalabad on February 12 to respond to the sioner, Deputy Commissioner, District Health contempt of court and violation of stay orders.

Recently, Justice Shahid Karim had issued a stay order against dog culling, making it illegal to kill stray dogs. However, despite this order, the district administration continued to kill dogs, showing contempt for the court.

"Not only were these innocent dogs ruthlessly killed with poison, but their carcasses were

also hanged by municipal corporation workers further humiliating them. A photograph from the Commissioner's office clearly shows a mother dog lying dead next to her puppies, whose eyes had not even opened yet. This raises serious questions about whether the authorities are following the law and showing compassion towards animals."

"The use of Strychnine powder poison has far-reaching consequences, extending beyond the brutal killing of dogs to also harming cats, birds, and the environment." Often, Strychnine poison remains on the ground and spreads through human foot traffic, frequently contaminating areas with high pedestrian activity. When individuals, including children, accidentally drop an item, they instinctively pick it up without realizing that the object has become lethally toxic. In many cases, this unintentional exposure to Strychnine poison can lead to sudden and unexplained death, with the true cause remaining unknown to the safeguarded and perpetrators of animal cruelty victims' families. The use of Strychnine poison are held accountable."

he Lahore High Court's Honor- can thus be devastating. Its impact is alarming, able Judge, Justice Shahid Karim, resulting in the deaths of countless and posing a significant threat to the ecosystem.

This blatant disregard for the law and animal sioner Faisalabad, District Health welfare raises serious questions about the Authority (DHA), and CO Municipal Corpo-

> ration do not respect the law, what can be expected of ordinary citizens? "The welfare of animals in Pakistan is presently compromised by myriad challenges. Regrettably, government officials have consistently disregarded court directives, perpetuating the inhumane culling of animals. This blatant disregard for the judiciary's rulings raises

profound concerns regarding the accountability of public officials and the prospects for animal welfare in the country.

The deplorable conditions faced by animals in Pakistan are a stark testament to the systemic failures plaguing the nation. Forced to forage for sustenance in garbage and consume contaminated sewage water, these animals are subsequently subjected to the indiscriminate use of toxic poison by municipal authorities Furthermore, donkeys and mules are frequently exploited, bearing excessive loads and suffering mistreatment.

In light of the government's evident disregard for animal welfare, it is improbable that ordinary citizens will prioritize the humane treatment of animals. Therefore, it is imperative that the government takes immediate action to address these concerns, ensuring that animal welfare is

Ismaili Community reflects on Prince Karim Aga Khan's historic visit to Sujawal

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

SUJAWAL: The Ismaili community in Sujawal district is nostalgically reminiscing about Prince Karim Aga Khan's historic and pivotal visit to Sujawal town on December 24, 1964. This momentous occasion facilitated between Prince Karim Aga Khan and his devoted followers in the region.

birthday, enthusiastically shared his exhilaration and fond memories about Muhammad Abad villages of district encountering Prince Karim Aga Khan during his inaugural visit to Sujawal in 1964. "We were all electrified to meet our revered spiritual leader, and eventually, the moment arrived when he graced the dock Banglow ground of poignantly recalled. He further elaborated that people from nearby villages, such as Tarr Khowaja, Tar Ali Pur, and Jati, embarked on ox carts, horses, and by foot to catch a glimpse of their beloved leader.

Ghulam Ali Chagla, who is poised to nity, articulated that the visit of Prince Karim Aga Khan to Sujawal was a watershed moment in the history of activist, added that the institutes Thatta district. It paved the way for established by Prince Karim Aga

numerous projects subsequently launched by him for the local communities, culminating in educational and social uplift of the local Ismaili community and inspiring other sister communities.

Prince Karim Aga Khan traversed various parts of the country to a profound and enduring connection engage with his followers residing in remote areas from 1958 to 1964. During this period, he visited Buhara, Nawaz Ali, nearing his 70th Mirpur Sakro, Tando Bago, Tando Muhammad Khan, Sujawal, and Thatta and Badin. He addressed large gatherings of his followers, accentuating the importance of education, unity, agricultural development, and the formation of cooperative societies.

Barkat Ali Ahmed Ali, a key leader Sujawal, where thousands of his ardent of the local Ismaili community, noted followers eagerly awaited," Nawaz Ali that in the aftermath of the visit, local community members, led by Advocate Natho Khan, converged to devise strategies for a brighter future. He further observed that a decade after the visit, the local community witnessed an unprecedented surge in literacy rates, with youth seeking admissions witness the accession ceremony of the in various schools and colleges, and 50th Spiritual leader of the commuparents, despite facing destitution, endeavoring to educate their children.

Piyar Ali Hajani, a local social

Khan, primarily the Aga Khan Social Welfare Board and the Economic Planning Board, enlightened local growers about modern methods of land cultivation. The Aga Khan Health centers were inaugurated in remote areas of Thatta district and Sujawal districts. The first-ever Aga Khan School in district Thatta was renovated in 1970, and teachers from Aga Khan School Tarr Khowaja were selected during Muhammad Khan Junejo's government to train teachers of public-sector

Dr. Aijaz Rahi, a representative of the World Health Organization, acknowledged the significant advancements in the health sector under the leadership of the Late Aga Khan. The local Ismaili community has made substantial contributions to the development of Sujawal district, establishing the first-ever cooperative society and housing society of Thatta district. The community boasts the highest literacy ratio and has inspired numerous fellow communities to engage in voluntary service in the fields of education and health.

Notable individuals from the community, including Dr. Ghulam Ali Allana, Dr. Mansoor Ali, Dr. Wazir Ali, Dr. Nasir, Der Umeed Ali, Ashiq Ali Karimi, Imam Dino Khuajawa, Natho Khan, and Amir Ali Khowaja,

have served as high-ranking officers in nity, Khamiso Muhammad Khan, efficaciously. education, health, and revenue departments of district Thatta. Following subsequent guidelines from the spiritual leader, libraries, community centers, vocational training centers, and youth organizations were established to support the government in uplifting local communities and providing assistance during crises.

A former leader of the commu-

stated that organizations such as the Young Student Association, Youth and

Sports Boards, and Work No Word were specifically formed to facilitate student-related issues. During the flash floods of 1988 and 1974, the cyclone of 1999, and the flood of 2010, the emergency response team of the community collaborated with govern-

ment officials to execute their duties

The senior leaders of the community have pledged to stand by the 50th spiritual leader in furthering the community's development and progress. As Shah Rahim Al Hussaini Aga Khan succeeds Prince Karim Aga Khan, the community looks forward to a new era of growth and prosperity under the guidance of their new

Romanian Envoy Sees Cooperation Potential of Worth \$5 Billion

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Romania, H. E Dan Stoenescu is looking forward to tap the real potential of Romania Pakistan economic cooperation that he sees is \$5 Billion and not what is now about \$200 Billion. He has said, "We have many things in our minds to do and we will definitely achieve our target with mutual efforts."

He said this in his address to the members of Pakistan Romania Friendship Association who gathered at Hotel Royalton in Rawalpindi on the invitation of Mr. Khalid Rehman on 04 Feb 2025. President PRFA Ahsan Shah co-hosted the welcome lunch in collaboration with Mr. Rehman.

Mr. Ahsan Shah briefed the Ambassador on the activities and events of the association that were organized to enhance bilateral cooperation. He



discussed the plans of the Association for the future.

Ambassador in his address, Our universities are cooperating one Romania while a chair of Romanian work on human development. Small ship Association

touching bilateral cooperation in another. We are working on establish-

Islamabad. For Urdu language, I will be the first student."

"Pakistan is 7th country in my diplomatic service after USA, UK, Spain, Tunis and Syria. I have found Pakistan a beautiful country and Pakistanis as highly welcoming and hospitable, Ambassador noted.

Mr. Stoenescu sees the future of Pakistan as bright despite some politicians point out many problems. He said that we need to explore opportunities than highlighting the problems only. He says that the population of Pakistan can be a resource if it is made capable.

Million only and 4-5 Million shifted to West Europe. Our GDP is \$350 Billion while Pakistan with 250 Million population has a GDP of defence, culture, education said, "ment of a chair of Urdu language in around \$238 Billion. Pakistan can bearers of Pakistan Romania Friend-

language has been set up in NUML and Medium Enterprises can play central role in this regard, Ambassador shared.

> Finally, Ambassador briefed the members on the development of Romania and its joining the European Union. He said, Romania is expecting the return of the diaspora living in the West Europe. The remittances, they send are important but more important is to work in their own country. Romania has made a tremendous development in previous years and the country needs the countrymen to come back and work for their own

The Ambassador expressed his grat-Romania's population is 23 itude to the organizers of the meeting and assured them of his cooperation for promotion of bilateral cooperation.

Caption: Ambassador of Romania, H. E Dan Stoenescu with officer

Pakistan-Iran Relations Becoming Stronger: Iranian Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Raza Amiri Moghadam has expressed Iran's commitment to deepening its relationship with Pakistan, particularly in areas such as trade, economy and security.

The ambassador also appreciated the cooperation extended by Pakisgani officiazls in enhancing parliamentary relations between the two nations.

He was addressing yesterday while inaugurating 'Hafiz Shirazi Corner' at the history museum of Allama Iqbal Open University.

Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, officially inaugurated the corner vesterday.

Dr. Farhat Asif, President of lution and the establishment of



The Iranian Ambassador to Paki- the Pakistan Institute of Peace stan, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, and Diplomatic Studies, as well as along with the Dean of the Faculty senior university officials and faculty of Social Sciences at the university, members, were also present at the event. Expressing his happiness over sarv of the Iranian Islamic Revo- the ties between the two nations.

poet, Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam thanked the university's Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood. He stated that such initithe celebration of the 46th anniveratives contribute to strengthening The ambassador reaffirmed Iran's

commitment to further strengthening its friendly relations with Pakistan. particularly in the fields of trade, economy, and security. He also expressed the desire to initiate faculty exchange programs between universities in both countries to pass on their shared heritage and civilization to future gener-

Speaking in Persian, Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir congratulated the Iranian ambassador on the anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution and emphasized that Pakistan and Iran would continue to support each other in the educational and cultural sectors.

Dr. Farhat Asif elaborated on the objectives and significance of establishing the Hafiz Shirazi Corner. It is worth mentioning that the university's museum also houses a 'Makhdum Quli Faraghi Corner.' dedicated to the great poet of Turk-

PIA delegation visits UK to review flight operations ahead of direct service resumption



跨 Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: A high-level delegation from Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has arrived in the United Kingdom (UK) to assess flight operation arrangements ahead of the airline's planned resumption of direct

The team, led by PIA's Chief Operating Officer Khyber Mashriq, will evaluate preparations in London, Manchester, and Birmingham for the airline's scheduled relaunch of direct flights in March.

As part of the review, the delegation will ground services and logistics. PIA has already

finalized its operational framework for the UK and has issued a tender for catering services to ensure seamless passenger expe-

PIA's direct flights to the UK were suspended in 2020, and this visit marks a crucial step in the airline's efforts to restore its connectivity with the region. According to sources, PIA plans to deploy its Boeing 777 aircraft for these operations, while also strategizing future expansion into European sectors.

The airline's move to restart direct flights aligns with its broader efforts to regain inspect operational readiness, including market share and enhance international

HMPV Virus in Pakistan: Is It a New Threat?

Maha Ahmed

Meta-pneumovirus (HMPV) has gained a lot of attention globally due to a recent outbreak in China. Pakistan being the spread of this virus. HMPV

virus. Major symptoms include fever, wheezing cough, short-Human ness of breath and runny nose. Pakistan had previously faced major respiratory infections such as RSV, influenza, and COVID-19. However, HMPV till now has no diagnostic technique, meaning there are no closest country to China, faces tests that could determine if pneumonia, followed by asthma a major threat regarding the someone has HMPV infec- and bronchiolitis (a lung infection. Limited studies suggest, is a virus that damages the children under five that have cult). People who had sore lungs, causing minor to severe respiratory infections could be illness. It was first discovered in due to HMPV. According to a 2001, spreads through respira- 2018 research paper, HMPV

of childhood mortality in Pakistan. Recent study conducted by the Agha Khan university, indicated 84/1,150 children suffering from pneumonia were infected with HMPV. The infection was common in infants under 12 months. The most common infection caused by HMPV was tion that makes breathing diffithroat were more likely to have HMPV. This virus causes infection mainly in February tory droplets, similar to the flu has the been the major cause and August according to the



study. The recent increase in and trading. China recently cases in China raises concerns about possible transmission significant rise from 225 cases to Pakistan due to high travel the previous year. Although no body to fight off infection, some

reported 327 HMPV cases, a

new variant has been identified, health experts are closely monitoring its behavior and severity. The virus causes seasonal infections, so could be a threat to populated countries in Pakistan. Some preventive measures that are necessary to be taken public awareness can help mitiinclude regular handwashing, wear mask in crowded areas, avoiding close contact with individuals having flu, eating homecooked food, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Eating homecooked food is very important as it increases theability of the

people whose immune system (system in human body that fights infection) are not strong enough, HMPV can be very dangerous as it can also cause pneumonia. Early detection, improved monitoring, and gate its impact. We must observe symptoms like fever, cough and breathing difficulties. If these symptoms stay for a week or two, a doctor must be consulted

> Maha Ahmed is student of Capital university of Science and Technology

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

' ' Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
110,322.93	110,301.16		
Day's High	Day's Low		
110,905.09	109,686.52		
Index Value	Change		
10,564,096,469	+21.77		
Percentage	Time		
+0.02%	7 Feb, 2025 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTS	SE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
8,700.53	-26.75		
Percentage	Time		
-0.31%	7 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT		
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
44,488.69 —258.94 Percentage Time			
		3	

-0.58%	7 Feb, 11:38 am GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Averag	
Index Value	Change	
38,787.02	-279.51	
Percentage	Time	
-0.72%	7 Feb, 3:45 pm	

Open Market Forex Rates

GMT+9

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	346.75	350.25
US Dollar	279.60	281.10

ICCI President Sounds Alarm on Unfavorable Business Climate in Islamabad



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has called for urgent action from the relevant authorities to address the mounting challenges faced by the business community in Islamabad. Speaking at a presentation in the presence of Chaudhry Mohammad Ali Randhawa, Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad during the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) meeting, Qureshi highlighted the significant rise in the cost of doing business and the heavy tax burdens on local businesses, which are jeopardizing the growth of the city's economy and could lead to the relocation of businesses abroad.

Gold prices dip by Rs 1,046 per tola to Rs. 299,000

ISLAMABAD, FEB 08 (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.1,046 and was sold at Rs 299,000 on Saturday against its sale at Rs 300,046 on previous trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa

Gems and Jewelers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.897 to Rs.256,344 from Rs. 257,241 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat came down to Rs.234,990 from Rs. 235,812.

Bangladesh to issue visa on the PCDMA recommendation, says Deputy High Commissioner

腾 Khurram Jaffrani

KARACHI: The Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Karachi, His Excellency Mahbubul Alam, expressed a strong desire to promote bilateral trade with Pakistan and urged the Pakistani business community to take advantage of the business opportunities available in Bangladesh. He encouraged to explore joint ventures, import industrial raw materials, and export products by assessing the markets in Bangladesh.

The Deputy High Commissioner assured that the High Commission would provide all possible facilities to Pakistani traders. He made these remarks during a meeting with a trade delegation led by Salim Valim-High Commission in Karachi. The matic Convener Sheraz Chughtai, Salim Valimuhammad to visit both countries should establish



Chemicals & Dyes Merchants Asso- Chairman Sharique Feroze, Chief and Ahmed Jahangir. ciation (PCDMA), at the Bangladesh Advisor Arif Balgamwala, Diplo-

uhammad, Chairman of the Pakistan delegation included PCDMA Vice former Chairman Mahmood Salam,

He invited PCDMA Chairman

Bangladesh with the trade delegation, emphasizing that to promote bilateral trade, businessmen from

contacts and explore new trade avenues by visiting each other's coun-

In response to Salim Valimuhammad's query regarding visas, the Deputy High Commissioner assured that visas would be issued to traders on the recommendation of the Pakistan Chemicals and Dyes Merchants Association. Furthermore, he stated that whenever the PCDMA trade delegation wishes to visit Bangladesh, the Deputy High Commission will provide all necessary support and organize business-to-business meetings with Bangladeshi traders.

PCDMA Chairman thanked the Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh for inviting the PCDMA delegation and appreciated his sentiments regarding enhancing bilateral trade with Pakistan. He assured that the Pakistani business community would play a vital role in promoting bilateral trade.

Business selfie

JEDDAH: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Albaik owner Rami Abu Ghazala capture a moment together as they discuss Albaik's upcoming expansion into Pakistan on Saturday.



Photo: PID

SAI Chief urges govt for export boost as US plans tax hikes on China, Mexico, and others

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Ahmed Azeem Alvi, President of SITE Association of Industry Karachi, urged the government of Pakistan to take advantage of the situation arising from reports of a potential tax increase by the USA on China, Mexico, Canada and other countries.

He suggested that the price race. government cooperate with Pakistani exporters



"We must not let this opportunity slip under any by reducing taxes, lowering circumstances. To boost electricity and gas tariffs to exports, an effective strategy decrease industrial produc- should be formulated in tion costs. These incentives consultation with stakewould enable exporters to holders, benefiting not only increase their exports to large-scale manufacturer global markets, particularly but also small and medium the USA, and compete in the enterprises (SMEs)," he said.

Government should create a favorable environment for the business community

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Senior Vice President FPCCI and Secretary General UBG Sindh, Hanif Gohar, stated that the country's economy is currently going through difficult times. Economic stability is not possible without trade and industrial development. The government should create a conducive environment for the business community and encourage women's participation in business. He added that he has come from Karachi with a passion for serving his region; He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony during his visit to the Mansehra Chamber of Commerce and Industry. On this occasion, Secretary General of UBG (FPCCI) Zafar Bakhtawari, former President and Chief Coordinator of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industries Khwaja Arif Yusuf, President of Talagang Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malik Shabbir Awan, Executive Member of FPCCI Colonel (Retd.) Sadiq Sultan and others accompanied him. The delegation met with the chamber officials and the business community. The President of the Mansehra Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Syed Mumtaz Ahmad Shah, along with other officials, warmly welcomed



the esteemed guests. Discussions were held al Zafar Bakhtawari is present in Islamabad on the issues faced by the business community, trade development, and challenges in the industrial sector. In his speech, Hanif Gohar said that witnessing the underdevelopment of his area, the lack of medical facilities, and limited employment opportunities, he established a hospital and the Hunar Foundation. He also mentioned that land has been provided for Indus Hospital under the CPEC project, where a 200-bed hospital will be built for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He assured the business community of Mansehra that he is always available to help resolve their financial and other issues. He said that UBG Secretary Gener-

to resolve any of your issues, and now this communication will continue.

While addressing the ceremony, Zafar Bakhtawari stated that Hanif Gohar is the pride of Karachi and the identity of Mansehra. His love for his homeland has brought him back, and he is filled with the spirit of serving the region. The business community of Mansehra should benefit from his experience.

Syed Mumtaz Ahmed Shah thanked Zafar Bakhtawari, Hanif Gohar, and the accompanying delegation, stating that their visit was encouraging for the business community of Mansehra.

Chery Group and NexGen Auto Forge Strategic **Partnership**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chery Group and NexGen Auto Forge Strategic Partnership to Bring Omoda and Jaecoo New Energy Vehicles to

partnership, Mr. Chen Chunging, Executive vice president of Chery International, stated: "Chery Group is thrilled to collaborate with NexGen Auto to enter the Pakistani market. This partnership is a testament to our mission of providing intelligent, sustainable, and premium mobility options to customers globally.

We are confident that Omoda and Jaecoo will set a new benchmark for New Energy Vehicles in Pakistan."

Mr. Farrukh Ifzal, Senior Management Representative of Nexgen Auto, expressed enthusiasm about the alliance, saying: "NexGen Auto's and exceptional customer vision aligns seamlessly with



Speaking about the Chery Group's innovative approach to automotive technology. Together, we aim to transform the Pakistani automotive landscape by introducing vehicles that not only meet international standards but also cater to the evolving preferences of local consumers.'

The introduction of Omoda and Jaecoo NEVs is expected to contribute significantly to Pakistan's transition towards a greener and more sustainable transportation future. The vehicles will be available through NexGen Auto's dealership network, ensuring widespread accessibility

Barkat Frisian's IPO to fetch up to 1.23 billion on 17 & 18 February

Example 2 Commerce Desk

Agro Limited, a joint venture of Frisian Egg Group of Netherlands and Pakistan's Buksh Group, is all set to raise up to 1.2 billion financing from PSX through the book build-

The Securities and Exchange ISLAMABAD: Barkat Frisian Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) have approved the prospectus and IPO dates including book building dates and the public subscription dates, said Chief Executive ing process on 17th and 18th Officer of Arif Habib Limited

Shahid Ali Habib the lead 25th February. manager and book runner for

The Barkat Frisian Agro plans through selling 67,735,000 of its ordinary shares in the IPO. The book building dates are Feb 17th and 18th, and the public subscriptions dates are 24th and

Barkat Frisian Agro, according to Shahid Ali Habib, is Pakistan's largest manufacto raise up to Rs 1.23 billion turer of pasteurized egg products, which plans to sell its shares each at a floor price of Rs. 13 through 100% book building

The new plant is being set up

to meet inflating demand from the company's domestic and overseas customers, said CEO of Barkat Frisian Muhammad

In the IPO, the bidders will be allowed to place bids for 100% of the issue size, and the strike price shall be the price at which the 100% of the issue is

subscribed.

The successful bidders, however, will be provisionally allotted only 75% of the issue size, i.e., 50,801,250 shares, and the company will offer the remaining 25% or 16,933,750 shares to the retail investors through the general public subscription.



Pakistan High Commission Dhaka holds 2nd Mian Sultan Khan Chess Tournament

DHAKA: The High Commission for Pakistan in Dhaka, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Chess Federation, organized the 2nd Mian Sultan Khan Chess Tournament today at the Pakistan High Commission. The annual tournament honours the legacy of Mian Sultan Khan, Pakistan's legendary Chess player.

The event saw an impressive participation of 200 chess players from diverse backgrounds, including diplomats, professionals, students, and chess enthusiasts, reflecting Bangladesh's deep passion for the game.

Adviser on Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh, H. E. Mr. Mostofa Sarwar Farooki graced the occasion as the chief guest while dignitaries including President of Bangladesh Chess Federation, Syed Shujauddin Ahmed, Cultural Secretary, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Mr. Ashrafu din Ahmad Uzzal. Mahmuda Hoque Chowdhury Moly, International Chess organizer and Bangladesh's 1st International Master Player Rani Hamid, were present as Special Guests.

Ambassadors of various countries based in Dhaka including Ambassador of the Philippines, H. EMS. NINA P. CAINGLET, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, H. E Mr. Dharmapala Weerakkody, High Commissioner of Brunei



Champion of the tournament and Manon Reja Neer as runner-up while Mr. Subrota Biswas and Nayem Haque

clinched 3rd and 4th place respectively.

also attended the event as special guests. Farooki and Pakistan High Commis- High Commission for organizing the Sakline Mostafa Sajid emerged as sioner Syed Ahmed Maroof awarded trophies and cash prizes to the winner and top performers of the tournament.

Speaking at the Awards Distribution Ceremony, Adviser on Cultural Adviser on Cultural Affairs of Affairs H. E. Mr. Mostofa Sarwar Darussalam Haji Haris bin Othman Bangladesh, H. E. Mr. Mostofa Sarwar Farooki commended the Pakistan

event, providing an excellent platform for chess players and the diplomatic community to engage. He assured the full support of the Bangladesh interim government for similar initiatives in

Commissioner Maroof

expressed his gratitude to the Bangladesh Government and Chess Federation for their support in organizing the tournament. He highlighted the role of such events in strengthening people-topeople ties, saying "It is through such events that we strengthen people to people linkages and bonds of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Bangladesh". He emphasized that the tournament was aimed at celebrating the rich legacy of Mian Sultan Khan

Earlier, at the outset of the tour-

and bringing together chess enthusi-

asts and the diplomatic community for

a healthy, competitive activity.

expressed condolences at the sad demise of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, recognizing him as a true friend of Pakistan whose visionary leadership illuminated many lives. The participants observed a moment of silence in his memory.

The High Commissioner congratulated the winner and best performers of the tournament while wishing all other participants the best for the 3rd Mian Sultan Khan tournament next year. He also thanked the Adviser for Cultural Affairs, H. E. Mr. Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, diplomats, the Grandmaster, International masters and media nament, the High Commissioner persons for their presence at the event.

Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi stands shoulder to shoulder with Regional Cricket Association Karachi: Monim Zafar

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi stands shoulder to shoulder with Regional Cricket Association Karachi, Monim Zafar Ameer-Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi was informed by a delegation of Regional Cricket Association Karachi about the problems related to Karachi's grounds Karachi (PR).

Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi stands shoulder to shoulder with Regional Cricket Association Karachi Mr. Monim said all the problems of Karachi are our problems, all the problems of Karachi's players are our problems. Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi will solve all these problems, Monim Zafar, Ameer of Jamaat-



e-Islami Karachi, expressed these views talking to the delegation, said that many talented players emerged and dinator RCAK. Rana Muhammad to the delegation led by Muhammad during the reign of Abdul Sattar Afghani made their country and city famous in Anwar-Coordinator, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Tauseef Siddiqui, Joint Secretary of and Naimatullah Khan, Jamaat-e-Islami the world. Regional Cricket Association Karachi. developed sports grounds and patron-

On this occasion, he further said that also present on the occasion.

Jamaat-e-Islami is going to hold the City Olympic Games after Ramadan in which all sports associations will be included. Earlier, the delegation had met Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Karachi Informing about the problems of Karachi's grounds, he said that due to the unavailability of grounds, the association is facing difficulties in organizing club tournament matches along with the talent hunt program, due to which Karachi players are unable to showcase their talents.

The RCAK delegation included Muhammad Tauseef Siddiqui, Joint Secretary RCA, Khalid Nafees, Chairman Tournament Committee RCA, Syed Muhammad Ahmed, Assistant Secretary RCA Azam Khan Coor-Rehman, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami were

Pakistan Cycling Federation congratulates newly elected Asian Cycling Confederation Leadership

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) extends heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected leadership of the Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) following the recent elections in Bangkok, Thailand.

Idris Haider Khawaja, President of PCF, and Moazzam Khan Klair, General Secretary, commend the historic achievement of Uzbek cycling as Kozim Urinboykhodjayev, First Deputy Chairman of the Cycling Federation of Uzbekistan, has been elected Secretary General of the ACC. His election is a testament to the growing influence of Uzbekistan in the cycling world, and PCF looks forward



to enhanced collaboration under his leadership.

PCF also congratulates Dato Amarjit Singh, the newly elected President of ACC, who has succeeded Osama Al Shafar after his dedicated service since 2017. With a strong legacy in Asian cycling—following in the footsteps of his father, Tan Sri Darshan Singh, who led ACC from 1996 to 2005-his election marks a new era for the sport in the region. We are confident that under his leadership, Asian cycling will continue to reach new heights.

Pakistan Cycling Federation reaffirms its commitment to working closely with the ACC for the promotion and development of cycling across the continent. We extend our best wishes to the new office-bearers for a successful tenure until 2028.

14th Pakistan Junior Amateur Golf Championship

Sports Desk

golf team to represent Pakistan title. in the Nick Faldo Series Asia Kamran of Pakistan Golf Feder- under par.

expertise of young Saad Habib of DHA, Karachi who successfully retained his title as Junior days of this event from 5th to 7th with scores of 73,69 and 70 and

strated exceptional skill and LAHORE: The 14th Pakistan consistency in the presence of Junior Amateur Golf Champi- 60 talented young golfers from onship as well as trials for selec- across the country who were all tion of four member juniors vying for the junior national

Saad Habib delivered an Grand Final came to a trium- outstanding performance phant conclusion at the esteem throughout the three days loaded golf course of Pakistan, championship, ultimately the Rumanza Golf Course in finishing with scores of 66,66 Multan supervised by Salman and 71, giving him an unmatch-Abbasi of Rumanza and Malik able aggregate of 203, thirteen

On the final day, Saad This national event high- showcased his mental fortilighted the wholesome golfing tude, navigating the golf Defence Raya at a total score course with a solid round of gross 71. His nearest rival was Shameer Majid of Defence Amateur Golf Champion of Raya Golf Club who finished Pakistan. In the course of three in a commendable second place

par. Though Shameer's skillful play deserves to be admired and applauded, the domination of Saad Habib was never in doubt.

Quite a few other young ones who competed impressively but did not appear in the grade set by Saad are, Abdul Moeez Khan of Rumanza who compiled a score of gross 212, four under par and even though he and Shameer have the same aggregate score, Shameer was declared runner up because of a better final round. Following them are M. Abdullah Khan of of 214, two under par, Laraib Rehman of Peshawar at 218 along with Irtiza Hussain of

Margalla who finished at 218. With his victory Saad has qualified for representing category was Bushra Fatima

Series Asia Grand Final set to take place from April 22 to 25 this year at the Laguna Langco Golf Club in Viet Nam. Given his current form and fitness level, expectation is that he will be able to match skills with the best junior golfers from Asia impactfully.

As for juniors in the under 16 years age bracket the top player was Azaan Usman of Islamabad Golf Club and he emerged as the best one with three rounds scores of 73,73 and 75 and a gross aggregate of 221. A young one with praiseworthy talent and he will also be going to Vietnam to represent the country.

In the girls race for honors, the best one in under 21 age

February, Saad Habib demon- an aggregate of 212, four under Pakistan in the Asia level Faldo of Lahore Garrison and the highly exceptional one in under 16 years age category is Sara Amin Khan of Peshawar. Sara Amin Khan ended the championship with incredibly fantastic rounds of 68,70 and 66 and a championship aggregate of 204, twelve under par. Bushra and Sara will show their skills at the Nick Faldo Grand Final.

The champion youngsters were honored by the presence of President, Pakistan Golf Federation, Lt Gen Qazi Muhammed Ikram Ahmed, HI(M) who handed the winning trophies to them in the presence of participating golfers and families. All of the competing young ones gained useful experience plus immense joy at this world class Rumanza Golf Course that was designed by Nick Faldo.

KHA Organises Exhibition Matches on Kashmir Solidarity Day



KARACHI: Karachi Hockey Association (KHA) organized exhibition matches on Kashmir Solidarity Day to show unity and pay tribute to the Kashmiri people, while praying for their independence. \\

The event featured a series of exciting matches, including a draw between Fatima Jinnah XI and Begum Rana Liaquat Ali, and a thrilling 1-0 win for Mushaal Hussain Malik's team against Bilqees Edhi's team. Additionally, matches were held in the under-9 category (boys) and between KHA Color and KHA White (boys).

The event was attended by dignitaries including KHA Secretary Olympian Hanif Khan, Ehtisham Ali Warsi, Mehmood Ali Khan, Dr. SA Majd, Laiq Lashari, Salman Khan, Masood Khan, Zahid Shahab, Chaudhry Tanveer Arshad, Raja Abdul Majeed, Raja Anwar, Kamal Javed, Jobal Senior Joint Secretary KHA, Nusrat Hussain, Arshad Siddiq, Gul Faraz Ahmed Khan, Chairman KHA, Batool Kazim, Secretary KHA Women Wing, Dr. Arif Hafeez, Sagheer Husain Athar Husain, Azlan Khan, Rizwan Khan, Kashmala Batool, Kanza Saleem, Faiz, and others.

Players and officials observed a moment of solidarity with Kashmir and prayed for the freedom of Kashmiris. The event was a testament to KHA's commitment to promoting hockey and supporting social causes. "We stand in solidarity with the Kashmiri people and pray for their independence," said Hanif Khan, KHA Secretary and Olympian. "We believe that sports can bring people together and promote peace and harmony."

The event was a huge success, with players, officials, and spectators coming together to show their support for the Kashmiri people.

25 players attend basketball referee, coaching course



LAHORE: Pakistan Basket Federation (PBBF) organized a referee and coaching course on Saturday.

Dr. Akhtar Sohail CEO, Dr. Omar Director Operation, Syed Zawar Hussain Shah GM, Commissioner FBR Abdul Jawad and Asim Iqbal (PAS) were the guests of honour on this occasion. Col (retd) Asif Dar and Col (retd) Naseem Butt delivered lectures

to throw light on the coaching course. Senior basketball officials including Imtiaz ul Hassan, Malik

Rashid, Rana Shabbir Ahmed, Kashif Najeeb, M Akram, Shahudul Hassan and more than 25 players participated in the course. Later, prizes and certificates were also distributed among the

participating students. Addressing the course participants, Col Naseem Butt announced that the referee and coaching courses will also be conducted in Islamabad, Sialkot and Karachi in the

Inzamam, Misbah formally inducted to PCB Hall of Fame

LAHORE, FEB 08 (APP):PCB Hall of Famers Inzamam ul Haq and Misbah ul Haq were formally inducted to the Hall of Fame when PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi presented them with commemorative caps and specially-designed plaques at the Gaddafi stadium on Saturday evening. The ceremony was held during the dinner break of the opening

match of the tri-nation series between Pakistan and New Zealand. The quartet of Inzamam, Misbah, Saeed Anwar and all-rounder Mushtaq Mohammad were inducted to the PCB Hall of Fame last month and they were to be decorated later. Saeed Anwar and all-rounder Mushtaq Mohammad will be formally inducted at some later stage.

Maritime Exercise AMAN-25

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf during his visit to Indonesian Navy Shp KD TERENGGANU in 9th Multina-



Chief of the Naval Staff visits foreign navy ships participating in the 9th Multinational Naval **Exercise AMAN**

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf visited foreign ships of navies participating in 9th Ship PLA (N) GAO YOUHU, Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-25.

Upon his arrival onboard foreign visiting ships, the Naval Chief was warmly welcomed by Senior Officers/ Commanding Officers and was presented Guard of Honour ABAHU, UAE Navy Ship

by smartly dressed out contin- ABU DHABI CLASS SHIP

The Naval Chief visited Bangladesh Navy Ship BNS SOMUDRA JOY, China Navy Indonesia Navy Ship KRI BUNG TOMO, Iran Navy Ship IRIS JAMARAN, Japan Navy Ship JS MURASAME, Malaysia Navy Ship KD TERENGGANU, Sri Lanka Navy Ship SLNS VIJAY-

and USA Navy Ship USS LEWIS B PULLER amongst the platforms participating in Multinational Naval Exercise

AMAN-25.

The Admiral interacted with Senior Officers/ Commanding Officers and was given briefings on board

During interactions, the Admiral highlighted that

orative efforts for maritime security and enhance interopsecurity and maintenance of good order at sea.

With the same spirit, Pakistan Navy is persistently contributing into peace and stability in the region through its initiative like Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) and multinational exercise AMAN. The AMAN Exercise demonstrates Pakistan's commitment to peace, Pakistan believes in collab- reinforce regional maritime

erability between regional

and extra regional navies. The Naval Chief further expressed that cooperation and partnership generated through AMAN will grow in future and shall bring us closer to the mutual goal of peace and prosperity. He appreciated their participation in AMAN Exercise to fulfill the common resolve of

Army called in for Champions Trophy security

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet has given its assent to deployment of Pakistan Army soldiers to guard during the ICC Champions Trophy matches which will kick off in the country from February 19, quoting its sources.

The sources further said that Pakistan Army, civil armed forces, police and law-enforcement agencies will jointly perform the security responsibility during the tournament.

The requests forwarded by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Punjab and Sindh government for security were approved by the federal cabinet under Article 245 of the Consti-

To play the Champions Trophy, teams will start arriving in Pakistan from February 12.

According to the sources, the Interior Ministry has



provincial home departments ensure foolproof security of issues directives to agencies and for making arrangements to the playing teams.

The teams will be given Pres- Champions Trophy, the sources ident level security during the added.

Palestine condemns racist Israeli statements

№ News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemns in the strongest terms the racist Israeli statements hostile to peace calling for a Palestinian state on the lands of sisterly Saudi Arabia, and considers them a flagrant violation of international law, United Nations resolutions and its charter, and an aggression against the sovereignty, security and stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all Arab countries.

The Ministry affirms the State of Palestine's $\,$ permanent support for the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in confronting Israeli incitement campaigns that seek to undermine its security and stability, and an attempt to pressure the honest and courageous Saudi position in supporting, adopting and backing the just and legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to embody their state on the land of their homeland.

The Ministry calls on the international community and all countries to condemn these statements hostile to peace.

Swabi rally: Public voice should not be suppressed, says PTI chairman

₩ Wazir Khan

SWABI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar has said that the country is standing at a difficult juncture.

"We have to find a way out together," PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar said while addressing a gathering in Swabi.

He added: "Public mandate was stolen on February 8 last. Today, it has been proven that we have the public mandate. The gulf between institutions has widened. We respect the institutions."

He continued: "The voice of the people should not be suppressed. Independence of the judiciary is linked to democracy, we held talks for the sake of democracy and tried



to resolve political issues politically." Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said that the PTI and Imran Khan have become 'an ideology and Ideology

neither dies nor fears'. He said: "We should not be forced. We salute our martyrs and

veterans. We will not forget them and if we raise the slogan of revolution, then you will not be able to bear its burden."

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making the army and the people

He added: "We are ready for talks while they are running away."

"If the government is running away from talks, then we also know how to give an answer.

"Our province is a victim of terrorism and without the cooperation of the people, it is not possible to fight terrorism.

He said that the founding chairman won while sitting in jail, we will unite and move forward under the leadership of the founding chairman and will continue to believe in our right to the supremacy of the constitution and law, in this matter our voice is one and we are together demanding He said that the government is the protection of the constitution

He maintained that the unfilled

Aurangzeb attended funeral of the late Prince Karim al-Hussaini Aga Khan IV



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb,, attended the funeral of the late Prince Karim al-Hussaini Aga Khan IV, the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, in Lisbon, Portugal.

During the meeting with Prince Rahim al-Hussaini Aga Khan V, the 50th Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, the Minister conveyed condolences on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan.

The Minister lauded the services Aga Khan.

of the late Prince Karim Aga Khan in the field of philanthropy and development. He described the sad demise of Prince Karim Agha Khan as a monumental loss not only for his family, friends and followers but also for the underprivileged people of the world.

He also recalled the late Prince Karim Agha Khan's special attachment to Pakistan and its people.

The Government of Pakistan has declared 8 February 2025 as a day of national mourning on the occasion of the funeral of Prince Karim

CM Maryam expresses pleasure & gratitude over revival of int'l cricket in Pakistan



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulated cricket fans on the start of a South Africa after many decades. She expressed her best wishes for entire team on this remarkable ry of Government's commitment talents."

to rehabilitate playing fields in the

Madam Chief Minister said,"I cannot describe in words my joy to see the return of international cricket tri-nation cricket series in Pakistan to Gaddafi Stadium." She added,"By between Pakistan, New Zealand and the grace of Allah Almighty, the glory of cricket fields is returning."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz the teams, and congratulated Prime Sharif said,"Sports and festivals are Minister Muhammad Shehbaz the cultural identity of Punjab, I Sharif, Chairman PCB and their am happy to see their revival." She added,"Sports provide ample opporachievement. She said,"It is a victo-tunities for a person to express his

Govt focusing on cutting down its expenditure by right sizing: Khurram Schehzad

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Advisor to Finance Minister Khurram Schehzad has said that the government is focusing on cutting down its expenditure by right sizing. He expressed these views in a panel discussion organized at the Karachi Literature Festival. He stated that the budget of the civil government is 3 billion dollars, which is 836 billion rupees, the federal government has 43 ministries with more than 400 departments, many ministries have been devolved to the provinces, which will be gradually abolished from the federal govern-

ment. Khurram Schehzad said that there are three or four major heads in government expenditure, salaries of civil government officers and employees, pensions, SOEs, energy and related subsidies, they all sums up to 3 to 4 trillion rupees, so by adopting the right-sizing strategy we are closing ministries or merging their departments. Our target of right sizing is to reduce one billion dollars

out of three billion dollars.



vacancies are being abolished so that the process of right sizing does not gets affected, till now 150,000 vacancies have been scrapped. He said that the Finance Minister is determined that long-term sustainability should be prioritized over short-term relief. He said that the State Bank has made tremendous efforts to stabilize the rupee devaluation, economic course corrections are taking place, it will take time but continuity is the key.