

Lawyers' Protest

ISLAMABAD: Lawyers hold a sit-in protest in favor of their demands at D-Chowk, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Protesting lawyers stage sit-in at Islamabad's D-Chowk

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A large number of lawyers, protesting against the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) meeting, have staged a sit-in at D-Chowk in Islamabad as a heavy contingent of the police has made efforts to prevent them from marching on to the Red Zone on Monday.

In order to ensure that the protesters do not enter the Red Zone, the police have closed the routes leading from D-Chowk to the Red Zone with barbed wires while two prison vans have also been parked at the site of the protest.

Islamabad High Court Bar Association President Riasat Ali Azad was also at the scene as the lawyers alleged that the police have baton-charged their colleagues at

Serena Chowk.

They have further said that some of their colleagues have already reached outside the Supreme Court (SC) while others are protesting outside the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

Also on Monday, Barrister Ali Zafar said that the law and the constitution necessitated the postponement of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) meeting until and unless the issue

of seniority of the Supreme Court (SC) judges was resolved.

Speaking to the media outside the Supreme Court, he said that if Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Aamer Farooq was made the SC judge, who would be the senior-most judge after him?

However, he announced he would attend the meeting. "If we boycott the meeting, then we will fail to meet our objectives."

Barrister Zafar said, "Let the issue of the seniority of judges be resolved." He wondered why judges from high courts were stuffed into the IHC. "The seniority of these judges will be determined from the start of their service in their parent court," he opined. Admitting that the legal fraternity was split on the issue, he expressed the resolve to continue the struggle along with his colleagues.

Continued on Page 7

Ahsan Iqbal highlights governance reforms, policy continuity

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Chaudhry has said that Pakistan is prepared for a major economic transformation, emphasising that good governance and policy continuity are essential for progress.

Speaking at a three-day training session for Directors of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) at the Executive Development Institute (EDI) of the National School of Public Policy (NSPP), he highlighted



the government's commitment to reforms, transparency and modern technology adoption. Under the leadership of Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he expressed confidence that Pakistan would soon emerge as a global economic force.

The federal minister said that organising a Directors' Training Programme to professionalise the leadership of SOEs and enhance their performance is a significant step. He congratulated the administration of NSPP and the EDI for the initiative, which will improve governance in the public sector and help align SOEs with international standards.

He highlighted that SOEs are crucial economic assets to the country, providing services in energy, transportation, finance and public utilities. Currently, there are 212 active SOEs in

Pakistan, but their financial performance lags behind global standards. He mentioned that the government introduced the SEOs (Governance and Operations), Act 2023 to strengthen transparency, accountability frameworks and reduce financial irregularities, which often lead to financial burdens. The goal is to cut financial losses related to SOEs by 30% within five years and enhance their contribution to economic development. He expressed optimism that the performance of SOEs would improve by 20-25% in the next three years.

Fazl threatens to march on Islamabad

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has threatened to march on Islamabad to resolve tribal issues, asserting that while they remain loyal to Pakistan and its constitution, they will not accept forced decisions.

Addressing a tribal jirga in Peshawar, Fazlur Rehman said that the Pashtuns are an honourable nation and that tribal elders' decision to call a jirga is a commendable step.

He said tribal people must be

taken on board while making decisions so that durable peace could be restored.

The JUI said the government has failed to maintain peace in the tribal belt. "There is no peace in tribal areas and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa today," he said, adding that without peace, human rights violations, unemployment, and economic instability continue.

"If we can march for religious seminars, we can do the same for tribal rights," he stated, adding that history will judge those in power as oppressors.

He reaffirmed his party's



commitment to an Islamic system as per the constitution, arguing

that no law should be made against Islam.

He criticized the ruling elite, saying that when they demand adherence to constitutional principles, they are accused of attempting to divide the country.

Faz also accused the government of siding with the United States instead of standing with local people, citing Pakistan's past support for US policies in Afghanistan. He condemned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks about settling Israelis and warned against another potential US war in Afghanistan.

Justice Mansoor, Justice Munib boycott as JCP names six judges for elevation



Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), which met on Monday with Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afriqi in the chair, approved the appointment of six high court judges to the Supreme Court, sources said.

According to 24NewsHD TV channel, commission approved the elevation of Justice Aamer Farooq, Sindh High Court Chief Justice Shafi Siddiqui, Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Hashim Kakar, Peshawar High Court Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, Sindh High Court's Justice Salahuddin, and Peshawar

High Court's Justice Shakeel Ahmed to the Supreme Court.

The JCP also appointed Justice Gul Hassan as an ad hoc judge under Article 181, the sources added.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar, who had earlier urged the CJP to defer the JCP meeting, boycotted the session, insiders reported. However, Barrister Ali Zafar, despite initially opposing the meeting, attended to express his reservations.

Amid planned protests by the All Pakistan Lawyers' Action Committee at Constitution Avenue, extraordinary security measures were implemented around the SC building.

PM lands in UAE to attend World Governments Summit



Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday arrived here for a two-day official visit to United Arab Emirates (UAE) to participate in the World Governments Summit (WGS).

He is on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from February 10 to 11 on the invitation of Vice President and Prime Minister of the United

Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Khawaja Asif, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Sardar Awais Khan Leghari, Attaullah Tarar and Special Assistant to PM Syed Tariq Fatemi are accompanying the prime minister.

Pakistan, Malaysia FMs discuss ME situation, Gaza humanitarian crisis

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday held a telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister of Malaysia Datu Seri Utama Haji Mohamad bin Haji Hasan.

They discussed the recent situation in the Middle East region, particularly the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, according to a Foreign Office press release.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar expressed Pakistan's steadfast



support for the Palestinian people and their just cause.

He also conveyed Pakistan's support for convening an Extraordinary OIC meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers to discuss this urgent issue.

Students should remain committed to building strong character and high moral values: Governor Punjab

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, emphasised that students should remain committed to building strong character and high moral values. He expressed these views while addressing the convocation ceremony at Riphah International College, Attock Campus, as the chief guest.

The event was attended by CEO of Riphah International College Attock Campus, Sahibzada Ammar Hassan Qureshi; Principal Professor Sharif Zahid; Director Waqar Ahmed; Sahibzada Dr. Aftab Qureshi of Pordmiana Sharif; PPP leader Sardar Ashar Hayat Khan; Malik Amanat Rawal; Sardar Haider Ali Khan; Malik Sher Khan Sadryal; Managing

Director Rao Talash Badr; students, and a large number of guests.

Governor Saleem Haider Khan stated that being invited to this event was an honor, as Attock is his home district.

He remarked that the Pakistani nation is determined and resilient, capable of achieving whatever it sets its mind to. He acknowledged the significant role Attock district plays in the development of the country and expressed pride in the martyrs from the region who sacrificed their lives for the nation's defence.

He paid tribute to recently martyred soldiers of the Pakistan Army, Havaladar Saeed Iqbal, Sepoy Basit Ali, and Police Constable Muhammad Qadeer, for their courageous efforts in combating terrorism and crime. The

Governor stated that the foundations of Pakistan are built on the sacrifices of its martyrs and that the people of Attock are brave and patriotic, always ready to serve their homeland.

Governor Saleem Haider Khan highlighted that while Islamabad benefits from the proximity of Attock, the district's residents have not been provided with the facilities they deserve, particularly in areas like Jand, Pindigheb, and Fateh Jang.

He assured that he is making every possible effort to develop these regions. The Governor announced the establishment of a medical college and the University of Attock in the near future.

He mentioned that a study center of UET Taxila has been established in Jand and that PC-1 documents for

UET Taxila in Jand and a sub-campus of Punjab University in Fateh Jang have been prepared and will soon be presented for approval in the provincial cabinet meeting.

Additionally, dialysis centers will be established in Fateh Jang and Pindigheb for public convenience. Governor Saleem Haider Khan shared that a public-private partnership model, similar to that in Sindh, will be introduced in Attock to provide maximum facilities to the local population.

He also praised Sahibzada Ammar Hassan Qureshi, CEO of Riphah International College, for his unwavering commitment to educational services. The Governor distributed gold medals and certificates among the successful students.

Sindh Health Minister expresses concern over the termination of USAID Program

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Sindh's Provincial Minister for Health, Dr. Azra Pechuho, has expressed concern over the termination of the USAID program, stating that it had provided significant support to community-based organizations through global funds. She lamented the program's closure, emphasizing its impact on healthcare initiatives.

Dr. Azra Pechuho highlighted that there is no vaccine for HIV, making awareness and timely treatment the best strategies for prevention and control. She further stated that the UNDP's provision of these vehicles marks a significant milestone in the fight against HIV in Sindh and Balochistan. Expressing her disappointment over the USAID program's termination, she stressed that the program played a crucial role in securing global funding, which had been a major support for community-based organizations working in the healthcare sector.



False narrative of Indian secularism and democracy has been exposed to the whole world: Chaudhry Latif

Spokesman Report



LAHORE: Speaker Legislative Assembly Senior Parliamentarian Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that in order to prevent Indian atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and provide a free environment for voting through the implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations Charter Security Council, the Senate will submit recommendations to the federal government to send delegations consisting of parliamentarians from the national, provincial and Azad Kashmir assemblies.

The policy adopted by India to achieve its objectives by hanging Kashmiri freedom fighters Maqbool Butt Shaheed and Afzal Guru Shaheed is proving to be a noose around its neck. The false narrative of Indian secularism and democracy has been exposed to the whole world because in India, executions, killings, human rights violations, black laws, curfews, and lockdowns are limited only to Kashmir and the Kashmiri people. Chaudhry Latif Akbar said in response to a question that the people of Pakistan celebrated Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5 with passion and perpetuated the ideology of stability in Pakistan. Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir's visit to Muzaffarabad and his categorical stance have created a fresh wave among Kashmiris.

DFP remembers Shaheed Maqbool Bhat, Guru on their martyrdom anniversaries

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has paid rich tributes to Kashmiri liberation leaders, Muhammad Maqbool Bhat who was hanged to death in New Delhi's Tihar Jail on 11 February 1984.

In a statement issued here on today, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal, while paying tributes to JKLF ideologue Muhammad Maqbool Bhat said that Bhat was an icon of the resistance movement who sacrificed his life for the noble cause of freedom from Indian occupation.

The DFP leader termed the execution of Maqbool Bhat as a judicial murder saying that the so-called democratic state violated the fundamentals of the justice system by denying him the right to fair trial.

Highlighting the supreme sacrifices of the JKLF leader, he said that Bhat was a man of integrity and honesty who devoted his entire life for the collective cause, went through trials and tribulations and ultimately sacrificed his precious life in pursuit of long cherished ideals.

Bukhari strongly condemned the implementation of the PECA Act against journalists

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and Member of the Provincial Assembly, Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari Advocate, has issued an open challenge to the government, stating that if Section 144 is lifted, he will gather 20,000 workers within just 24 hours and reach the rally venue. Otherwise, he will resign from his provincial assembly seat. Speaking to the media, Syed Ijaz Hussain Bukhari said that if he fulfills his challenge, both government information ministers should resign from their positions. He strongly criticized the government, claiming that PTI's mandate was stolen, innocent workers were jailed, and the enforcement of Section 144 was being falsely portrayed as a success. He further stated that while PTI leaders and workers are being arrested, the government is offering negotiations, which is completely unacceptable. Bukhari also strongly condemned the implementation of the PECA Act against journalists, accusing the government of using retaliatory tactics to suppress freedom of speech.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Special Committee on Gender Mainstreaming Dr Nafeesa Shah chairing the meeting at Parliament House in Federal Capital.



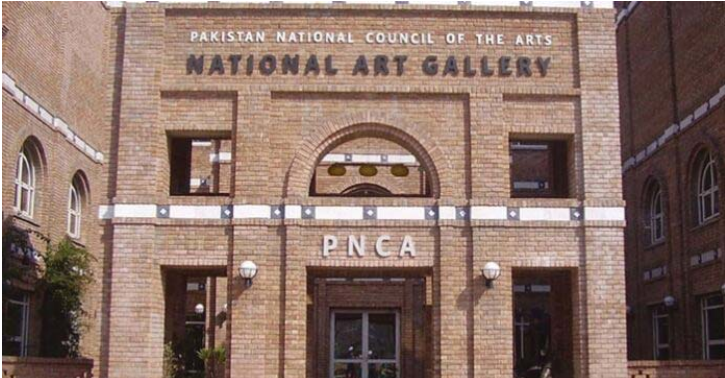
Photo: Online

PNCA, Sadequain Foundation commemorate death anniversary of artist, Sadequain

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) and Sadequain Foundation USA were proud to present an exclusive exhibition, film screening and talk to commemorate the 38th death anniversary of the legendary artist, Sadequain.

The exhibition was inaugurated by First Secretary Embassy of Ukraine Oksana PETRIEVA, Ambassador Indonesia Rehmat Hindiarta Kusuma, Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic in Turkmen Embassy Avazbek Atakhanov along with Director General PNCA M. Ayoub Jamali, said a press release here on Monday.

The exhibition will feature a curated selection of Sadequain's artworks, including murals, paintings and marble pieces from the National Art Gallery's permanent collection. This showcase



will be a testament to Sadequain's enduring legacy and his significant contribution to Pakistani art.

The event will also feature the screening of "Raaz-e-Fun," a documentary on Sadequain's life and work.

Written, narrated, and directed by acclaimed award-winning writer and director Waseem Amrohavi, this film takes the viewer on a journey through Sadequain's early life, his artistic evolution, and his rise to international recognition.

Renowned speakers, including Founder Sadequain Foundation Dr Salman Ahmed sent a video message to the tribute for Sadequain. Dr. Farrukh Seir, Abbas Shah, and Zarah Haider Babry shared their insights and perspectives on Sadequain's life, art, and legacy.

This event is a result of the ongoing collaboration between PNCA and Sadequain Foundation USA. Established in 2007, the Foundation has been dedicated for preserving and promoting Sadequain's art globally, publishing 25 books, and curating over 100 seminars and exhibitions worldwide.

This exhibition will be on permanent display in the PNCA Gallery No. 4 of the National Art Gallery in the federal capital.

Sardar Manzoor Chughtai funeral prayers were offered



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI/MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Central Secretary Finance Sardar Manzoor Chughtai passed away in Rawalpindi. His funeral prayers were offered in Rawalpindi yesterday led by Muslim Conference President Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan.

The funeral prayers were attended

by political, social, religious, academic and literary figures as well as Muslim Conference workers and relatives. A condolence reference was held on the occasion.

Addressing the condolence reference, Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the steadfastness with which Sardar Manzoor Chughtai spent his entire life

in the Muslim Conference is unparalleled. We pay tribute to the late Muslim Conference for his services and steadfastness.

The late leader was a sociable, poor-loving, honest and God-fearing person. The late Mujahid e Awwal was a trained worker of Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, who remained associated with the Muslim Conference until his death and played a leading role

in strengthening the party and making it active.

Meanwhile, former President of the Muslim Conference Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jarral Advocate, Central Secretary General Mohtarma Mehr-ul-Nisa, Central Chief Organizer Raja Saqib Majeed, Youth Wing Chairman Sardar Usman Ali Khan, senior leader of the Muslim Conference Sardar Altaf Khan, former government minister

Shamim Ali Malik, Major (ret'd) Nasrullah Khan, Chairperson of the Muslim Conference Women's Wing, Samia Sajid Raja, Sardar Abid Razaq, Sardar Abdul Razaq Khan Advocate, Raja Muhammad Latif Hasrat, Renowned journalist Abdul Majeed Tahir' Haroon Azad, Maimuna Kiyani Advocate, Sheikh Maqsood, Raja Zarin Khan, Amira Khanum, Naheed Raja, Yasir Naqvi, Tassavur Musawsi, Abida

Munir Qureshi, Saqlain Fida Kazmi, Raja Ghulam Hussain, Fiza Sajid Raja, Aamna Farid Mughal, Ayesha Munsif, Dr. Abid Abbasi, Ajmal Nakyalvi, Sajjad Anwar Abbasi and others expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of Sardar Manzoor Chughtai and said that Manzoor Chughtai was a valuable asset of the Muslim Conference and had a long-standing association with the Muslim Conference.



Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5:33 am
Zohr12:22 pm
Asr4:09 pm
Maghrib5:47 pm
Isha7:12 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-89266316
Wapda Islamabad9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi0331-5022125

Imran Ali appeals CM/ Governor to safeguard lives of the people in Karachi

City Desk

KARACHI: Prominent politician and President of Pakistan Markazi Muslim League, Gulshan Town Karachi, Imran Ali has said that there is no such thing as government in Karachi, and innocent citizens are left at the mercy of terrorists, heavy trucks and dumpers in the city. Expressing his deep concern over the recent killings as a result of traffic accidents, Imran Ali said that none of the officials has been held responsible for the killing of 70 people who died in recent road accidents. He said that the dumpers in the city are not operating under any law, so the DIG traffic has to be asked why the law is not being followed? Are the youth, children and old people of Karachi orphans of this city who are being killed in this way? Imran Ali said enough is enough, we will not allow this to happen again. He said people are dying and their relatives are not even being allowed to protest against the killers. Imran Ali has appealed to the Sindh Chief Minister and Sindh Governor to ensure security of life and property of the people in the city.

Mushaal Mullick urges global action against India's war crimes in IIOJK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, vehemently condemned the fascist Indian government's systematic persecution of Kashmiris, including genocidal acts, war crimes and the deliberate attempts to deprive Kashmiri people of education to suppress the region's youth and perpetuate their enslavement.

Speaking at the Pakistan Women Empowerment Excellence Award 2025 held at the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (FAST) here on Monday, Mushaal, wife of the incarcerated Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, shed light on the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), where the Kashmiri people continued to endure unimaginable suffering under Indian occupation.

The chairperson stated that the Indian forces were employing brutal tactics to silence dissent and crush the Kashmiri struggle for self-determination. About the unlawful deten-

tion of Hurriyat leaders, including her husband, Mohammad Yasin Malik, who has been imprisoned for years on baseless charges, she emphasized that the Indian government's actions in IIOJK were not only a violation of international law but also a blatant disregard for human dignity and freedom.

"The people of Kashmir are being subjected to relentless oppression," Mushaal stated. "Their homes are raided in the dead of night, their voices are silenced, and their leaders are incarcerated without trial. This is not just a denial of justice; it is a war on humanity," she maintained.

Mushaal lamented that the occupation authorities used sexual violence against women as a weapon of war in IIOJK, where women are targeted to instill fear and humiliation within the community, calling it a stain on the conscience of the international community.

"The women of Kashmir are not just fighting for their freedom; they are fighting for their dignity," she said. "The use of rape as a tool of war is a heinous crime that must not only be condemned in the strongest terms but



Indian government should be held accountable for this inhuman act," she added.

Mushaal further criticized India's

deliberate efforts to deprive Kashmiri children of education, describing it as a calculated strategy to keep the region enslaved. She noted that schools and

universities in IIOJK are frequently shut down, and students are denied access to quality education, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and disempowerment.

Protest

ISLAMABAD: Lawyers shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands at D-Chowk, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

OPF organized a cheque distribution ceremony

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) organized a cheque distribution ceremony at its Head Office in Islamabad to provide financial assistance and dues recovery cheques to the families of overseas Pakistanis. During the event, cheques were distributed to the legal heirs of deceased overseas Pakistanis and individuals facing financial hardships due to disability.

Speaking on the occasion, OPF Managing Director, Mr. Mohammed Afzaal Bhatti, reaffirmed OPF's unwavering commitment to support overseas Pakistanis and their families. He stated, "Our primary mission is to stand by overseas Pakistanis in difficult times and provide them with the necessary financial assistance."

Chairman, OPF Board of Governors, Syed Qamar Raza, emphasized that OPF is more



than just an institution—it is a family for overseas Pakistanis. He stated, "Overseas Pakistanis and their families are like family members to us. We are dedi-

cated to ensuring their welfare and rights. OPF will enhance its financial assistance programs and work towards increasing benefits for them. Addition-

ally, we are exploring options with insurance companies to provide better financial security for overseas Pakistanis and their dependents."

54 Laks Received

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to the details, Mohsin Riaz Secretary Regional Transport Authority Toba Tek Singh, talking to Daily The Spokesman said that, The target of Annual Routes Permits is 1 Crore and 19 Lakhs starting from 1st July 2024 to 31st Jun 2025. But we have received 54 Lakh. He further said that our teams are going to Daily basis in Field and we are trying to complete our target as soon as possible.

IPDS & IICA sign MoU to boost Central Asia-South Asia ties



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) and the International Institute for Central Asia (IICA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Both institutions mark a significant step towards enhancing regional cooperation between Central Asia and South Asia. Additionally, both have discussed various subjects related to enhancing Pakistan and Uzbekistan's relationship, including trade and investment, cultural heritage, education, and climate change challenges.

Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Farhat Asif, President of IPDS, emphasized the institute's commitment to fostering dialogue, research, and collaboration on pressing international issues. She focused on the importance of intellectual and institutional ties between Central and South Asia, noting that this partnership will contribute to regional connectivity, peace, and prosperity.

Speaking at the event, Ambassador Javlon Vakhobov reaffirmed IICA's dedication to strengthening partnerships across South Asia. He emphasized the historical and economic linkages between the two regions, pointing out that while these connections remain underutilized, they hold immense potential for collaborative growth. He further noted that, in an era of shifting geopolitical landscapes, deepening engagement between Central and South Asia is not just advantageous but imperative.

IPDS and IICA shared their dedication to bringing this partnership to fruition. This MoU is not merely a formal agreement but a testament to a sustained commitment toward regional cooperation and shared prosperity. Moreover, it is highlighted how the platform has continuously fostered discussions that shape strategic policies, diplomatic initiatives, and global developments, bringing together diplomats, policymakers, and scholars in meaningful discourse.

The delegation is in Pakistan and meeting various think tanks and scholars to open new doors for cooperation and strengthen collective efforts in advancing diplomacy, policy research, and regional connectivity between Central and South Asia.

Pakistan caught in the vortex of international politics: Ambassador Zamir Akram

City Desk

KARACHI: "Pakistan is caught in the vortex of rapidly-changing international politics characterized by U. S.-China confrontation." This was said by Ambassador (R) Zamir Akram in an exclusive talk hosted by SouthAsia Forum in Karachi on Monday evening. Addressing an engaged audience, Ambassador Akram, also the chief guest of the occasion, spoke on "Pakistan's Foreign Policy in the Evolving International Environment", emphasizing the need for a realistic foreign policy that aligns with

geostrategic realities.

Ambassador Akram said that Pakistan has not been able to bring in structural reforms in key areas owing to the rampant elite capture plaguing the country since its inception. In his speech, Ambassador Akram urged Pakistan's leadership to reassess and recalibrate its foreign policy approach in response to shifting global dynamics.

Ambassador Zamir Akram said that India has been given a free pass to build up its strategic capabilities while restraint is only being sought from Pakistan. "American objective is to protect

India's strategic interests against China, and to achieve this objective, it wants New Delhi to focus on China and not be distracted by competition from Pakistan," Ambassador Akram added.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Syed Jawaid Iqbal, Chairman of the SouthAsia Forum, who underscored the significance of the discussion and its relevance to Pakistan's diplomatic future. He added that the SouthAsia Forum was committed to facilitating meaningful dialogues on regional and global affairs, fostering informed discussions that contribute



to policy thinking and strategic decision-making.

Among the distinguished attendees were General (Retd.) Moinuddin

Haider, Senator (Retd.) Javed Jabbad, Prof. Dr Huma Baqai, Majd Aziz, Saad Amanullah, Zafar Khan, Ahmed Jamal Mir, and many other distinguished

personalities, who contributed to the discourse with insightful perspectives. A fiery question and answer session concluded the event

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UN appeals for full aid access to war-ravaged Gaza

As the Israeli military completed its withdrawal at the weekend from a key security corridor in besieged Gaza that had cut the enclave in two, UN humanitarian officials issued a fresh appeal for an end to all aid restrictions which continue to prevent the delivery of lifesaving relief.

“The health system is ruined. Malnutrition is rising. The risk of famine persists,” said Dr Hanan Balkhy, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean. “We are ready to scale up our response – but we urgently need systematic and sustained access to the population across Gaza, and we need an end to restrictions on the entry of essential supplies.”

Three weeks since the ceasefire began between Hamas and Israel that has allowed further hostage and prisoner swaps, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) issued a new warning on Monday about life-threatening conditions across the enclave. Some 60 per cent of buildings lie in ruins after more than 15 months of constant Israeli bombardment.

“There’s a winter storm ongoing, it’s incredibly cold,” UNICEF Communications Specialist Rosalia Bollen told UN News, a media website. “I have no clue how people can sleep at night in their makeshift tents. Lots of people who return to the north found their homes in rubble. They have put up some sort of improvised dwelling on top of their rubble, but it’s very, very cold.”

Humanitarian teams continue to assess the impact of winter storms on shelters in different locations of Gaza. In northern Gaza, partners are also preparing to distribute 1,500 tents to returnees in the governorates of Gaza and North Gaza.

Although thousands of aid trucks have entered Gaza since the ceasefire began on 19 January – the World Food Programme (WFP) alone said that it had sent more than 15,000 tons of food into the Gaza Strip, reaching more than 525,000 people with food parcels, hot meals and cash – overall needs remain enormous.

“We are doing all we can,” UNICEF’s Ms. Bollen insisted. “We have actually been able to scale up assistance considerably as the numbers are showing and we don’t hold on to items; as soon as we can, we do all we can to immediately push items out to families. I know that’s the case not just for UNICEF, but for others as well. But you know the needs are just skyrocketing.”

The UNICEF worker added: “We humanitarians aren’t magicians. We don’t have a magic wand that can help the suffering overnight.”

According to a situation update from the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, despite an increase in shelter support for vulnerable Gazans, nearly one million displaced Palestinians live in substandard tents or makeshift shelters, with families resorting to sewing old rice sacks together for basic cover.

Kashmir and Pakistan: A Struggle for Peace

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

The region of Kashmir has been at the center of a long-standing conflict between India and Pakistan, with both countries claiming it as their own. This territorial dispute has led to numerous conflicts and tensions in the region, resulting in a significant impact on the lives of Kashmiris. While various efforts have made to resolve the conflict and establish peace in the region, the struggle continues. Kashmir and Pakistan, focusing on the ongoing struggle for peace.

The history of Kashmir’s conflict dates back to the partition of Hindustan in 1947 when the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir became a disputed territory claimed by both Hindustan and Pakistan. The situation escalated into full-scale wars between Hindustan and Pakistan in 1947, 1965, and 1971, with both countries failing to reach a lasting resolution on the status of Kashmir. The Line of Control (LoC) now separates the region into Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan has been a strong advocate for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people, arguing that they allow deciding their own political future through a referendum as promised by UN resolutions. However, India maintains that Kashmir is an integral part of its territory

and has rejected any third-party intervention in the dispute. This differing stance has led to a deadlock in negotiations and perpetuated the conflict in the region.

The struggle for peace in Kashmir involves not only the territorial dispute between India and Pakistan but also the human rights violations and unrest faced by the Kashmiri population. The people of Kashmir have endured years of violence, militarization, and restrictions on their freedom, leading to a deteriorating humanitarian situation. The presence of armed forces, curfews, and communication blackouts has further exacerbated the challenges faced by Kashmiris, affecting their daily lives and well-being.

Efforts to achieve peace in the region have been ongoing, with various dialogues, agreements, and confidence-building measures attempted by India and Pakistan. However, the inability to address the root causes of the conflict, including the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, has hindered progress towards a sustainable peace settlement. External factors, such as the United Nations and the international community, have also been involved in mediating the dispute.

UN facilitate a lasting resolution s in Kashmir, including its special status by added to the challenges faced by the region. The decision to bifurcate the state into two Union Territories has raised concerns about the erosion of Kashmiri identity and autonomy, leading to widespread protests and international criticism. The communication blackout and restrictions on movement have intensified the sense of isolation and uncertainty

among Kashmiri residents.

The persistent violence not only destabilizes South Asia but also hampers socio-economic development in Kashmir, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and resentment that fuels extremism. One key argument for the resolution of this conflict lies in the humanitarian implications. The people of Kashmir have suffered immensely due to military operations, loss of life, and displacement. A peaceful resolution would prioritize human rights and provide a platform for dialogue that acknowledges the aspirations of Kashmiri citizens. Furthermore, it would foster regional stability, allowing both India and Pakistan to redirect resources towards education, healthcare, and infrastructure rather than militarization.

Pakistan views its claims as a matter of self-determination for the Kashmiri people, while India emphasizes its sovereignty over the region. This fundamental difference in perspective highlights how historical narratives shape national identities and influence diplomatic relations. Despite their conflicting positions, both countries share common challenges that hinder peace efforts. Economic instability, religious extremism, and political unrest are prevalent in both Pakistan and India. These internal issues often exacerbate hostility towards one another, diverting attention from collaborative solutions to the Kashmir problem. Moreover, international involvement complicates matters further; external powers often leverage the conflict for strategic interests rather than promoting genuine reconciliation.

The struggle for peace in Kashmir

continues to be a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a comprehensive and inclusive approach. Both India and Pakistan must engage in meaningful dialogue and negotiations to address the legitimate concerns of the Kashmiri people and find a mutually acceptable solution to the conflict. The international community also has a role to play in facilitating a peaceful resolution and promoting human rights in the region. Only through concerted efforts and genuine commitment to peace can Kashmir move towards a future of freedom, stability and prosperity.

The international community plays a crucial role in facilitating dialogue between India and Pakistan. External mediation could help bridge divides and foster an environment conducive to negotiations. Both nations can work towards de-escalating tensions and addressing humanitarian concerns in Kashmir. The potential benefits of peace economic cooperation, cultural exchange, and enhanced security far outweigh the costs associated with continued conflict. Kashmir and Pakistan are intertwined through their struggle for peace, their divergent perspectives on sovereignty create significant barriers to resolution. A comprehensive approach that addresses not only territorial claims but also socio-economic concerns is essential for fostering lasting peace in this volatile region.

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

Human Trafficking: An International Issue

The complex issue of human trafficking is not just a challenge for Pakistan; many countries around the world are struggling to eradicate this heinous trade. In Pakistan, this problem has intensified in recent years. One of the contributing factors could be the rising population and increasing unemployment. Ironically, despite people paying agents huge sums of money and then risking their loved ones’ lives at sea, this trend shows no signs of stopping.

To combat human trafficking, the Pakistan Muslim League-N and its allied government are taking concrete steps. However, achieving results may take some time. A crucial aspect of this issue is that tackling illegal departures from the country is not solely the responsibility of the federal government; provincial governments also have professional obligations that cannot be ignored.

According to foreign media reports, citing FIA (Federal Investigation Agency) officials, a specialized unit has been established within the agency to combat human trafficking. This unit is tasked with scientifically analyzing the trends of illegal migration and providing recommendations for its prevention.

In this regard, FIA Immigration Wing has set up “Second-Line Border Control Offices” at airports in Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, and Multan. These offices are equipped with advanced forensic technology, allowing for on-the-spot verification

of suspicious travel documents and taking necessary action when required. Due to the serious and coordinated efforts of the Shehbaz Sharif government, Pakistan’s border management system has now been successfully integrated with Interpol’s international database, enhancing cooperation with foreign countries to curb human trafficking. Interpol’s World Database

contains records of stolen or missing passports, fugitives, abducted children, and individuals involved in serious crimes.

At the official level, a detailed analysis is being conducted to understand the increasing number of cases where individuals travel to Africa on visit visas or via illegal routes, intending to reach Europe through human smuggling networks. Undoubtedly, FIA holds a significant responsibility in questioning Pakistanis traveling to Africa about their purpose of travel.

Another key point is that, alongside government agencies, media and other influential institutions must raise greater awareness among young people about the risks of illegal migration. The general public should be informed that in the modern world, no country allows unauthorized entry into its borders.

Some believe that the government’s efforts to curb human trafficking are insufficient, arguing that human smuggling cannot be stopped without addressing corruption within FIA and other law enforcement agencies. The government’s

priority should be to create employment opportunities within the country so that young people do not resort to illegal means to migrate abroad.

In Pakistan, human trafficking is not only a serious crime but also a violation of human rights. Traffickers lure innocent citizens with false promises of a better future, smuggling them into other countries through illegal routes and then exploiting them.

According to an advisory issued by the FIA, 15 countries have been identified as destinations where Pakistani citizens are illegally trafficked. The advisory states that the majority of these illegal migrants are between the ages of 15 to 40 years—a conclusion drawn from ongoing investigations into various human trafficking incidents.

FIA guidelines mandate strict passenger profiling, requiring thorough scrutiny of travelers’ purposes, financial status, and documents. Individuals traveling abroad on visit, tourism, religious, and student visas will be under particular surveillance.

Further measures have been implemented, tightening monitoring of passengers from cities like Gujrat, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Gujranwala, and Bhimber in Punjab, as past cases have shown that people from these areas have been involved in human smuggling networks.

Some argue that while FIA’s advisory aims to prevent human trafficking, these measures may also affect young people’s right to travel freely. Many individuals wish to travel abroad for educational or professional reasons, but increased scrutiny and strict monitoring could become a barrier for them.

Kim Jong Un’s World of Devoted Service for People

Spokesman Report

It was in January last year that the term Regional Development 20×10 Policy began to appear in the DPRK’s media. The policy is geared towards drastically improving the people’s material and cultural living standards in all cities and counties across the country, namely the entire population within 10 years by building modern regional-industry factories in 20 counties every year.

At the 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK he said: An important issue arising in improving the people’s living standards at present is to tackle the differences between the capital city and the provinces and the imbalance between regions. Although provinces may differ in geological environment, resources, economic potentials and living environment, there should not be any backward region in terms of people’s living standards in the territory of the Republic. He then set forth the Regional Development 20×10 Policy aimed to develop onto a higher stage the material and cultural living standards of regional people across the country at the earliest possible date by vigorously pushing forward with the regional industrial development.

As is already known, the country is steadily building up the self-defence capabilities to safeguard the national sovereignty and people’s safety and striving for structural reforms and development of all economic sectors while pushing ahead with unprecedentedly huge housing construction projects in all rural areas as well as in the capital city every year. In this context, launching another massive project to open up a fresh phase of development for the country’s regional industries is evidently an ambitious plan that cannot be put forward with usual decision.

Over the recent years the large-scale Jungpyong Greenhouse Farm and the Ryonpho



Greenhouse Farm have been built and the ceremonies to celebrate the construction of new houses in rural areas took place almost every day. All these achievements are the outcome of his grand plan to improve the living standards of the regional people.

Yet, he thought this was insufficient to improve the living conditions of the regional people. It was his firm intention that the Party and the state should bear heavier burden to bring about a substantial transformation in the people’s living and that they are not allowed to wait for favourable conditions and environment to be provided.

Later, the 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea was held to confirm the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, a milestone for regional industrial development, to achieve a sure and rapid development of the regional economy and give an impetus to the comprehensive national rejuvenation.

Iranian envoy Message On the Auspicious 46 Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution

As an Ambassador, it's a source of pride to felicitate the 46th Anniversary of the Victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. From the very beginning, the Iranian nation pursued sacred goals in its movement, which are manifested in three causes of independence, freedom and Islamic Republic, and rooted in the basic principles of resistance and stability.

By the grace of the Allah Almighty, and the efforts and resistance of the people, today, Iran is witnessing unique growth in many fields including science, industry, technology and defense. Despite unprecedented and inhumane sanctions, pressures and barriers, Iran has become stronger and more determined, to continue on its path for progress, development and prosperity of the nation.

The February eleventh is the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and now the Iranian nation is preparing to celebrate the event while triumphantly overcame difficulties and



H. E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam

now proceeds determinedly in the way forward. The adversities and sufferings, the sorrow and loss of our loved ones and the cruel pres-

sures have made us more resistant and determined. The Iranian nation is resolute to determine its own destiny, realize human dignity, and

its national, religious and cultural causes and values.

This year, we are celebrating this national event in our brotherly country of Pakistan. Now, we see more solidarity and the strengthening of bilateral ties in all areas. The Iranian and Pakistani government and people are well-aware of the importance of friendly relations, the crystallization of which is witnessed in the deepening of friendships and comprehensive development of relations.

Pakistan and Iran are two neighborly, brotherly and friendly countries, with strong historical, civilization, historical, cultural and religious commonalities which along with unique capacities and opportunities, could result in stronger economic, trade, tourism and energy cooperation to step forward. Today, the solidarity and friendship between the two nations promises the realization of the common goals and the pursuit of common interests. Long live Iran -Pakistan friendship



GERMANI: Mr Khuram Syed, a Prominent Pakistani businessman in Germany hosted a dinner in the honor of Mr. Thomas Geisel, Member of the European Union parliament.

15-Day Training Workshop for Authors begins at AIOU



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A 15-day training workshop for authors commenced yesterday at Allama Iqbal Open University. Writers of religious books from various regions of the country are participating in this workshop to enhance their writing skills.

The inaugural session was presided over by the Dean of the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof Dr Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi, while the Director of Al-Mustafa International University, Dr. Kazim Saleem, was the chief guest.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi emphasized that the world is undergoing significant changes, and it is crucial for authors to understand this paradigm shift. He stated that this shift has provided numerous facilities, and it is essential to comprehend how to handle and benefit from them effectively.

Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi further elaborated that the workshop will cover various topics, including selecting a research topic, research framework, research paper formatting, analysis of research material, thesis binding, citations, footnotes, references, bibliography, and the ethics of academic discourse. In his address, Dr. Kazim Saleem highlighted that, unfortunately, research and academic projects are scarce in Pakistan. However, due to the dedication of intellectuals, some institutions continue to organize academic events consistently, with Allama Iqbal Open University leading the way. He mentioned that Al-Mustafa International University and Allama Iqbal Open University have jointly initiated these academic activities, yielding significant results.

The training workshop has been organized collaboratively by the Department of Islamic Thought, History & Culture at Allama Iqbal Open University and Al-Mustafa International University.

During an open forum, the participating authors introduced themselves and shared their academic, religious, and literary contributions.

It is worth noting that, under the directives of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, professional development training workshops are being regularly conducted at the university. This workshop was also a part of that ongoing series.

National History Museum Wildlife Photographer of the Year images in Lahore



News Desk

LAHORE: The highlights exhibition, featuring 18 winning images of the world-renowned 60th Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, is on loan from the Natural History Museum in London in Pakistan for a short time only.

Audiences and students in Karachi enjoyed the images, and Ibrahim, a student of year 6, writes about his favourite picture, "It shows that no matter how small one may be, together anything is possible, regardless of one's size."

The British High Commission in Pakistan is hosting the exhibition to encourage dialogue on protecting the environment, and to encourage Pakistani photographers to take part in the competition.

The Exhibition will be available to view at the British Council Library Lahore from 11 February to 21 February.

ISSI Signs MoU with Uzbekistan's International Institute for Central Asia

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) has formalized an institutional relationship with Uzbekistan's International Institute for Central Asia (IICA), based in Tashkent, by concluding a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This partnership between the two think-tanks aims to facilitate research and dialogue on a range of subjects — including Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations, Central Asia, infrastructure projects and connectivity, and regional stability and prosperity. The two sides had a wide-ranging exchange of views on these subjects during the meeting. The MoU was signed by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, and Ambassador Javlon Vakhobov, Managing Director, IICA, for their respective sides.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted ISSI as a premier research institution with 52 years of experience in policy research, dialogue, and outreach to partner think-tanks in Pakistan and internationally. He highlighted Pakistan's approach towards



Central Asia, encapsulated in the "Vision Central Asia," with five key pillars: political/diplomatic; trade and investment; energy and connectivity; security and defence; and people-to-people links. He lauded the steady progress being made in bilateral relations as reflected in the establishment of strategic partnership and signing of landmark transit trade and preferential trade agreements. Ambassador

Sohail Mahmood also noted that Pakistan provided the shortest land access from Central Asia to the sea-ports of Karachi and Gwadar.

Ambassador Javlon Vakhobov informed that IICA, established in 2021, focuses on good neighborhood policy, and conducts research on immediate neighborhood and ways for deepening regional relationships. He highlighted that IICA research

priorities include political developments and security; trade, investment and regional connectivity; climate change and environmental protection; cultural heritage; and outreach with Central Asian plus one (C5+1) format. With ISSI, the aim is to collaborate on convergent areas and build a partnership through expert consultations on regional connectivity.

In accordance with the MoU, several ideas were discussed to facilitate joint research, analysis, dialogue, and outreach. These efforts aim to address both opportunities and challenges in areas of mutual interest, including regional trade and connectivity as well as security, stability and prosperity. Perspectives were shared on developments relating to Afghanistan and South Asia.

Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) briefed on overall working of the ISSI and its five Centres, while Dr. Khuram Abbas, Director, India Study Centre (ISC), suggested joint research projects on regional connectivity and contribution by IICA researchers in ISSI's journal.

Over 135,000 Pakistanis among 62.2 million visitors to Türkiye in 2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Türkiye achieved a 9.8% year-on-year growth in its visitor numbers and hosted 62.269.890 visitors in 2024, representing a 20.3% growth compared to 2019, the pre-pandemic year. The total number includes over 135,000 Pakistani tourists. With this figure, Türkiye also surpassed its own target of 60 million visitors, announced earlier in 2024. In addition, Türkiye generated 61.1 billion USD as tourism revenue, which is 8.3% more than the previous year. Overall, 2024 has been Türkiye's most successful year in tourism.

Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia have remained Türkiye's biggest source markets while emerging markets such as the Amer-



icas, India, and China showed great growth in 2024. While Russia, Germany, and the

United Kingdom remained Türkiye's top three biggest source markets, the growth in

the number of visitors from emerging markets was 8.1% for the USA, and a phenom-

enal 65.1% for China.

Türkiye's international visitors spent an average of 10.7 days in the country, and the revenue per visitor was USD 972. According to UN Tourism, Türkiye ranks among the world's top five most visited destinations in 2023.

Many Pakistanis also participated in the Istanbul Marathon, renowned as the world's only intercontinental race, starting on the Asian side of Istanbul and ending on the European side. In the 46th edition of the Istanbul Marathon held in November 2024, out of approximately 7,500 runners in the main Marathon, Amjad Ali of Pakistan achieved the remarkable feat of finishing the 42-kilometre race in 2 hours, 49 minutes, and 29 seconds.

Global South Civil Society Month of Action on Heatwaves to begin on February 14

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Global South Civil Society Month of Action on Heat Waves will officially commence on February 14, bringing together civil society, experts, and community leaders to raise a unified voice against the causes, losses, and damages caused by heatwaves. Heatwaves, intensified by climate change, are becoming more frequent, prolonged, and severe, disproportionately affecting communities with

limited resources to adapt. The Global South, which contributes the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, suffers the most from rising temperatures, water shortages, crop failures, and heat-related health crises.

The Global South Month of Action on Heat Waves will be marked across Africa, Asia, Europe and Far East and other regions with an objective to amplify the civil society voice urging the Global North to take necessary measures urgently to save lives in the Global South.

Throughout the month, civil society organizations, activists, researchers, and policymakers will engage in various advocacy campaigns, media interactions, and community-driven initiatives to demand action on heatwaves. The campaign seeks to ensure that climate adaptation and resilience-building remain at the forefront of global policy discussions.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed has been designated as the Regional Director Asia for the Global

South Civil Society on Heatwave on a voluntary-basis. Speaking on the urgency of the issue on Monday, he emphasized the responsibility of industrialized nations in addressing the crisis.

Munir Ahmed said: "The Global North must act now to control Greenhouse Gas emissions and allocate funds to save the lives of vulnerable Global South communities from extreme heat waves. Every delay in action translates to more deaths, displacement, and destruction. The industrial states

must acknowledge its historical responsibility and provide the necessary financial and technical resources to mitigate the worsening impacts of climate change.

Dr. Carlos Ferreyra, the visionary behind the initiative, highlighted its key objectives: "The Global South Month of Action on Heatwave is a unified movement designed to draw international attention to the catastrophic consequences of heatwaves and to demand immediate, effective policies to counteract them. Our aim is to create

a consolidated civil society voice that pushes for climate justice, enhanced adaptation measures, and increased financial support for the most affected regions.

Adding a scientific perspective to the campaign, Dr. Ghulam Rasool, former Director General of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, underscored the increasing severity of heat waves due to climate change: "Scientific data from recent years clearly indicates that heatwaves are intensifying, with rising temperatures breaking histor-

ical records. The Global South is experiencing unprecedented levels of heat stress, leading to severe health impacts, agricultural losses, and water scarcity. Without immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement large-scale adaptation measures, millions will face unbearable living conditions. The Global South Month of Action on Heatwave is a crucial platform to push for data-driven policies that prioritize the protection of human lives and ecosystems."

**Bull & Bears**
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
111,377.96	110,322.93
Day's High	Day's Low
111,622.72	109,948.57
Index Value	Change
12,900,537,306	+ 1055.03
Percentage	Time
+0.96%	10 Feb, 2025 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,767.80	+67.27
Percentage	Time
+0.77%	10 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
44,348.81	+45.41
Percentage	Time
+0.10%	10 Feb, 12:09 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,801.17	+14.15
Percentage	Time
+0.036%	10 Feb, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	175.50	177.75
Bahrain Dinar	737.15	745.15
Canadian Dollar	195.10	197.50
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	38.06	38.46
Euro	287.50	290.25
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	721.50	730.00
Qatari Riyal	75.93	76.63
Saudi Riyal	74.25	74.80
Singapore Dollar	208.25	210.25
Swedish Korona	25.13	25.43
Swiss Franc	303.71	306.51
Thai Bhat	8.13	8.28
U.A.E Dirham	75.90	76.55
UK Pound Sterling	346.00	349.5
US Dollar	279.75	281.25

SECP grants license to first digital, online only securities broker in Pakistan



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has granted license to Tamkeen Securities (Pvt) Ltd, Pakistan's first fully digital, online-only securities broker, marking a significant milestone. The award of license marks a significant leap toward modernizing Pakistan's capital markets, enhancing accessibility, and democratizing investment opportunities for retail and institutional investors nationwide.

The newly licensed digital brokerage house will allow investors to open accounts and execute trades, completely eliminating the need for physical visits, paperwork, or traditional brokerage channels. This initiative aligns with SECP's strategic vision to accelerate digital transformation, promote financial inclusion, and strengthen Pakistan's capital markets through innovation.

With this development, Pakistan joins the ranks of global markets that have successfully implemented fully digital trading platforms, catering to the evolving needs of tech-savvy investors and boosting retail participation in the stock market. The fully digital onboarding transaction process is expected to attract a wider range of investors, fostering greater stock market participation, enhancing liquidity, and strengthening investor confidence. Developing Digital intermediaries is a focus area of the Commission.

SECP remains committed to strengthening Pakistan's capital markets by introducing innovative, technology-driven solutions and ensuring robust regulatory frameworks that support a secure, transparent, and investor-friendly ecosystem.

Over 100 Pakistani IT Companies Participating in LEAP 2025

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Pakistani IT companies are aggressively exploring new and emerging tech markets particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), as more than 100 firms providing IT and IT-enabled services are participating in LEAP 2025, one of the world's major tech trade fairs, being held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

More than 1,000 delegates from Pakistan are attending the conference, including businessmen, government officials, investors, exporters, and speakers, marking the highest-ever participation by Pakistan at LEAP in terms of both companies and visitors.

Pakistani IT firms are showcasing their latest solutions and services at LEAP 2025, engaging in strategic networking, and exploring joint ventures and investment opportunities in the Kingdom.

State Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima, inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at LEAP 2025. LEAP is an annual technology event held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, bringing together industry leaders, innovators, and investors to shape the future of technology and digital transformation.



Senior Vice Chairman of the Pakistan Software Houses Association for IT & ITES (P@SHA), Muhammad Umair Nizam, stated that Pakistani IT companies are attracting numerous foreign firms from various sectors

at LEAP 2025. This has already resulted in multiple business deals being signed between Pakistani companies and international entities during the trade fair.

Pakistani IT companies witnessed a 100% increase in IT exports during the last financial year and are set to achieve another record this year, driven by new business deals at both public and private levels, he added.

He further highlighted that collaborative efforts by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the Ministry of IT, the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), and P@SHA have created a favorable environment for IT companies to expand operations in the KSA market and across the GCC region.

With its headquarters in Riyadh, Pakistan became a member of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) in 2024. Its Secretary General, H. E. Ms. Demaah AlYahya, also visited Pakistan last year during ITCN Asia 2024, held in Lahore and met with different IT companies in Pakistan.

Highlighting the significance of LEAP conferences and exhibitions, Saad Shah CEO Hexalyze and an exporter with operations in Saudi Arabia, noted that LEAP is the major platform to connect with the numerous multinational corporations, from both the private and public sectors, which are establishing operations in Saudi Arabia's industrial zones and commercial sectors.

Hard work

FAISALABAD: A worker is busy in welding of an iron pillar at his workplace in the city.



Photo: Online

Zong 4G in partnerships with Knowledge Platform transformed E-learning through “Digital Scholars Program”



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G in collaboration with Knowledge Platform, has successfully concluded its Digital Scholars Program, transforming education across Pakistan. Spanning eight months, the program supported 3,359 students, 210 teachers, and 60 schools across 42 cities, leveraging digital learning tools and meth-

ods. Through interactive online tutoring and teacher training, the program achieved an impressive 75% improvement in overall student performance, setting a benchmark for integrating technology in education.

“Education is a powerful catalyst for progress, and the Digital Scholars Program highlights how technology can bridge gaps and improve learning

outcomes,” said Andleeb Aslam, Zong's official spokesperson. “We are dedicated to empowering communities through innovation and ensuring that no student or teacher is left behind in this digital age.”

As Pakistan's leading digital connectivity provider, Zong 4G continues to drive transformative change, fostering an inclusive and technology-driven educational ecosystem.

DIG Traffic ensures effective measures to address traffic jams in North Karachi Industrial Area

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The DIG Traffic Ahmed Nawaz, on the directive of IG Sindh, has assured that effective measures will be taken to ensure uninterrupted transportation of raw materials and export goods in the North Karachi Industrial Area. He said that efforts will continue to keep heavy traffic clear to sustain industrial activities so that we can collectively contribute to economic growth.

He made these remarks while addressing members during a visit to the North Karachi Association of Trade & Industry (NKATI), accompanied by SSP Traffic Dr. Qamar Rizvi and other officers. The meeting was

attended by NKATI President Faisal Moiz Khan, Deputy Chief CMC Syed Yasir Ali, Assistant Chief CMC Shahzad Elahi, President NKATI Welfare, Sajjad Vazir, Deputy Chief DMC NKATI, Asfer Hussain, Syed Tariq Rashid, Syed Sabir Ali, Faisal Shabu, and other members.

NKATI President Faisal Moiz Khan welcomed DIG Traffic and highlighted the traffic issues faced in the North Karachi Industrial Area. He drew attention to the increasing encroachments along the roads, stating that the overwhelming presence of encroachments is causing difficulties for industrialists in the delivery of imported and exported goods.

Daraz Pakistan introduces ‘Choice’ for consumers

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Daraz Pakistan, the country's leading online marketplace, has introduced an innovative new Choice channel on its platform, offering shoppers a curated selection of over 300,000 top-rated, value-for-money products.

Previously launched as ‘Any 3’ a year ago, the refreshed channel will be covering a diverse range of categories, including FMCG, Fashion, Health & Beauty, and Lifestyle, and ensuring customers enjoy competitive prices while discovering quality products that meet all their needs.

Additionally, shoppers can unlock free shipping when purchasing three or more items, making the shopping experience

even more convenient and cost-effective for low-ticket purchases.

“We have introduced the Choice channel in direct response to our customers’ consistent demand for an enhanced shopping experience and superior product quality while maintaining the value for money that has become synonymous with Daraz.

With exciting offerings such as free and fast delivery on orders of three or more products coupled with hassle-free returns, we aim to foster deeper customer loyalty and reinforce our position as a market leader. Looking ahead, we remain committed to refining and expanding the Choice offering,” said Ehsan Saya, Managing Director, Daraz Pakistan.

Dr. Zeelaf Munir elected as the new Chairperson of the Pakistan Business Council

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) in its meeting of February 7th, 2025, elected Dr. Zeelaf Munir as its new chairperson for a tenure of 18 months. Dr. Zeelaf previously served as the Vice Chairperson of PBC. She succeeds Shabbir Diwan, the CEO of Gatron (Industries) Limited. The board also elected Mr. Ziad Bashir, the CEO of Gul Ahmed Textiles as the vice chairman.

The directors elected to the Board of Directors of the Pakistan Business Council to serve for three years were Mr. Abdul Samad Dawood,

Mr. Azam Faruque, Mr. Danish A Lakhani, Mr. Mohamedali R Habib, Mr. Mohammad Ali Tabba, Mr. Muhammad Arif Habib, Mr. Rizwan Diwan, Ms. Saira Awan Malik, Mr. Samir Chinoy, Mr. Syed Hyder Ali, Mr. Taimur Dawood, Mr. Yousaf Hussain, Mr. Ziad Bashir and Dr. Zeelaf Munir. The new Board thanked the outgoing board, chaired by Mr. Shabbir Diwan, noting his able leadership and accomplishments in a challenging economic environment.

Commenting on her appointment, Dr. Zeelaf Munir stated, “It is an honor to lead the Pakistan Business Council at such a crucial time for

the economy. PBC has always been at the forefront of advocating policies that drive sustainable business growth, enhance exports, and strengthen Pakistan's industrial and manufacturing capabilities. I look forward to working alongside industry leaders to further these goals and contribute to a stronger economic future for Pakistan.”

The Pakistan Business Council is a pan-sectoral business advocacy body composed of over a hundred leading private sector companies, including national and multinationals. Its research and advocacy efforts focus on job creation, export growth, reducing import reliance,



ance, providing a level playing field for domestic industry and formalizing the economy.

Serena Masters Cup kicks off in Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Serena Masters Cup is set to begin tomorrow at the Serena Hotel Faisalabad tennis courts. This marks the second edition of the Serena Masters Cup, following the inaugural event held in Peshawar in January 2025. The tournament is part of the Serena Sports Diplomacy Initiative, aimed at promoting tennis in Pakistan.

Top Eight male and female players from across the country will compete in the tournament, including Mr. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF).

Speaking at a press conference at Serena Hotel Faisalabad, Mr. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi expressed his gratitude to Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, for launching the Serena Masters Series. He praised the initiative as a significant step towards the growth and development of tennis in Pakistan. He further stated that the PTF and Serena Hotels will continue working together to elevate tennis to new heights.

Veteran tennis player Mr. Aqeel Khan, winner of the first edition in Peshawar, also acknowledged the importance of the Serena Masters Cup. He expressed his determination to maintain his winning momentum in Faisalabad.

Col. Zia-ud-Din Tufail, Secretary General of PTF, also extended his appreciation to the Serena management for



organizing the event and providing excellent hospitality to the players. He

emphasized that such initiatives offer valuable opportunities for Pakistan's

tennis players to showcase and enhance their skills.

Denning Sports Festival: IoBM Dominates Badminton Event, Director Abdul Qadir

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) dominated the badminton event of the second Denning Sports Festival, organized by Denning Sports Society in collaboration with Denning Sports Department. IoBM clinched the title in both the boys' and girls' categories. The event saw the enthusiastic participation of 16 universities from Karachi. According to Denning University's Regional Sports Coordinator, Kashif Ahmed Farooqui, the boys' and girls' badminton matches were held at the Sindh Sports Board's Badminton Hall. The event was officially inaugurated by the chief guest, Prof. Naveed Ahmed Hashmi, Principal of Government for men College. Other notable attendees included Sindh Olympic Association Secretary General Ahmed Ali Rajput, Denning Sports Society President Zehra Mazhar, Sindh Fencing Associa-



tion Secretary Muhammad Taqi, along with Professor Ghori Khan, Azeem-ul-Shan, Tahseen Ahmed, Muhammad Wasim, Mazhar Channa, Muhammad Talha, Hassan Irfan, and sports journalists Asghar Azeem, Shakeel Yamin Kanga, Shehzada Moeen,

Umar Shaheen, Muhammad Hammad, Waseem Qureshi, Arshad Wahab, Rehan Akram, Shehzad Qadir, Junaid Rajput, Muhammad Nadeem Siddiqui, Adnan Siddiqui, and others.

Chief guest Prof. Naveed Ahmed Hashmi emphasized

that in the past, talented athletes emerged from colleges and universities, and he was highly impressed with the performance of the players in this event. He congratulated Regional Sports Coordinator Kashif Ahmed Farooqui, his team, and the

Denning University administration for successfully organizing a university-level sports festival. In the boys' badminton competition, IoBM secured first place, Iqra University finished second, and FAST University claimed third. In the girls' category, IoBM emerged victorious again, with Bahria University securing second place and Iqra University taking third.

The technical officials for the event included Muhammad Nasir, Damir Ahmed, Shayan Khan, Sunil Hussain, Muhammad Aman, and Azeem. The Denning Sports Festival was sponsored by Master Face Mask, MT Merchani Travels, Temla, Al-Ghani Motors, Saad Heights, MMY Associates, Elevator ES, Fay Company, Just Drive, Maidan, Afshan Kanwal, and Quice. The second Denning Sports Festival features seven sports: badminton, table tennis, cricket, futsal, rowing, basketball, and throwball.

14th Rashid D. Habib Golf: Ahmad Baig defends his title

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Bank AL Habib's 14th Rashid D. Habib Memorial National Professionals Golf Tournament concluded in grand fashion at the Karachi Golf Club, witnessing stellar performances from some of the finest professional golfers in Pakistan. Ahmed Baig (PAF) displayed remarkable consistency to clinch the Professional Champion Title, shooting 273 (-15) and taking home Rs 937,676. Muhammad Zubair (KGC) finished as runner-up, posting 275 (-13) and securing Rs 602,787.

The event, held from February 6 to 9, 2025, brought together top senior, junior, and professional golfers, competing for a substantial prize purse across multiple categories.

Muhammad Tariq (ICGC) emerged victorious in the Senior Professionals category, finishing with a total of 140 (-4) over two rounds.

Aurangzeb Khan (KGC) closely followed with 141 (-3) in the Junior



Professionals division, Syed Ali Noshairwan Naqvi (LGG) secured the title with a total score of 151 (+7), narrowly edging out Rehan Babar (LGG) at 152 (+8).

The PRO-AM event saw 27 professionals participating, with Muhammad Zubair's team winning the top prize of Rs 50,000. Minhaj Maqsood's team finished as runners-up, while Shahid Javed Khan's team claimed third place.

Kamram Zahoor was the winner in

KGC Caddies, Saleem Inayat in KGC Senior Professionals and Abdullah became title holder in KGC Professionals category.

Top five golfers according to PGF criteria, were paid appearance money of PKR200,000 each among Muhammad Shabbir (Islamabad Golf Club), Muhammad Alam (Garrison), Muhammad Munir (Rawalpindi), Minhaj Maqsood (Rawalpindi), and Muhammad Zubair (Karachi).

Similarly PKR 75,000 each were paid as appearance money to Senior Pros: Muhammad Akram, Nisar Hussain and Muhammad Tariq. PKR 150,000 were equally distributed among junior professionals Rehan Babar, Muhammad Sahil and Shahbaz Ali.

Amjad Yousuf from Rawalpindi scored a spectacular Hole-in-One at Blue Hole #4, winning a Toyota Altis. Tallat Ijaz achieved second Hole-in-One in the same category and was awarded a Golf Kit.

The Chief Guest Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Mr. Jamil Ahmed said that Bank AL Habib's Rashid D. Habib Memorial Tournament remains a landmark in Pakistan's golf calendar, honoring the legacy of the late Rashid D. Habib. The Chief Guest presented mementos and awards to the winners.

The tournament saw intense competition, incredible talent, and sportsmanship, reinforcing its stature as a key platform for professional golfers in the country.



LAHORE: Players of South Africa and New Zealand stand alert for their National Anthem before start of the 2nd match of tri-Nation series between New Zealand and South Africa at Qaddafi Stadium in Provincial Capital. Photo: Online

Two matches conclude in first Nighat Omar T-20 Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two more matches were decided in the first Nighat Omar T-20 Cricket Tournament at Young Fighter Ground.

The tournament is being organized by the Regional Cricket Association Karachi Zone-VI.

Sun Cricket Club beat Shama Sports by 6 wickets and Metropolitan Cricket Club beat Hyderi Sports by 10 wickets.

In the first match, Shama Sports batted the first 88, all out in 13.1 overs, Faraz Ahmed 31 batted with confidence against the deadly bowling of Sun CC bowlers, Fawad Akbar off break captured 3 wickets for 15 runs.

In reply, Sun Cricket Club reached the victory target of 89 runs for the loss of 4 wickets in 8 overs, Talal Mehmood 23, Khawaja Muhammad Hafeez 20 not out Shahid Khan 2-18.

In the second match, Batting first Hyderi Sports 105 all out in 19.4 overs, Adnan Khan 36, Ismail Shah 21 runs batted well, Niqab Shafiq Slow left armer captured 3 wickets for 21 runs, Wahab Hassan 2-12, Naveed Ahmed 2-14.

Metropolitan Cricket Club achieved the victory target of 106 runs without loss in 9.5 overs, Arbaz Khan 62 runs with the help of 7 boundaries and 3 sixes, Abdul Rehman Niazi 43 runs with 6 boundaries.

Mohammad Sultan won the title of Mr. Rawalpindi in Bodybuilding Competition Rawalpindi (PR) Mr.

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: competition was held in local hall at saddar cantt, it was successfully organized by the Young Bodybuilders Association (YBA) and attended by 70 players of the city in both senior and junior categories. According to President Sheikh Akram, Vice President Siddique Sheikh, General Secretary Asad Ali Bobby of association, the position holder will participate in the next stage of Mr. Punjab and Prime Minister's Mr. Pakistan competitions in Lahore events. Talking to the media the officials of YBA said that maintaining a healthy body and mind is the foundation for a fulfilling life, allowing individuals to enjoy activities, relationships, and personal achievements, while highlighting the negative consequences of neglecting physical and mental well-being, encouraging proactive steps like regular exercise, balanced diet, and stress management to prioritize overall health and happiness; essentially stating that "health is wealth." In this event, Muhammad Sultan won the title of Mr. Rawalpindi 2025, where as in other categories Rawalpindi zone Men physique and Master Rawalpindi Jahanzeb Khan Salar Ali Lashari and Hussain Shah got first positions respectively. The Chief guest of the ceremony was Member of Punjab Assembly Malik Iftikhar along with special guests President small chamber Sardar Saqib SV President Dost Jan Vice president Asif Iqbal Sheikh Abrar Muhammad Mahfouz Asimullah Qureshi and Ripja President Sajjad haider. The speakers paid tribute to the Young Bodybuilders Association in their address and said that organizing such healthy activities is very important so that our young generation stays away from the negative effects of society and can achieve a better position. When we are healthy and fit, we are able to enjoy our life well. We can talk to our near and dear one. We can laugh, smile, travel, enjoy food, and sleep well. But when our health and fitness are not up to the mark, we are unable to do anything properly and stay behind. We can not enjoy eating, watching sports or movies. In the end, a chief guest, along with Sheikh Siddique, distributed cash prizes and certificates among all winners of competition.

Sindh Pink Games Kick Off in 30 Districts Under Sindh Government's Sports Department



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: Under the patronage of the Sindh Government's Sports Department, the Sindh Pink Games 2025 have been launched across 30 districts of the province. The event was inaugurated by Sports Minister Muhammad Bakhsh Mehr and Secretary Abdul Aleem Lashari. The opening ceremony was attended by Director of Sports Imdad Ali Abro and sports officers from all districts of Karachi.

Speaking to the media, Sports Minister Muhammad Bakhsh Mehr highlighted that the Sindh Pink Games mark a significant step towards promoting and encouraging women's participation in sports. He emphasized that this initiative provides female athletes with an opportunity to showcase their talents and gain national recognition.

He further stated that such an event has never been held in Sindh before. The Sindh Pink Games have commenced across the province and will continue until February 15. The minister also announced that special games for children with disabilities have been included, and for the first time in Pakistan, a dedicated sports club for such children is being established in Sindh.

According to the provincial minister, over 6,000 women from all districts of Sindh are participating in the Sindh Pink Games, with competitions in 15 different sports. The games include athletics, table tennis, badminton, football, cricket, hockey, martial arts, wrestling, ring ball, volleyball, boxing, throw ball, and other sports.

Protesting lawyers stage sit-in at Islamabad's D-Chowk

Continued from Page 1

Earlier, leaders of the Lawyers Action Committee, who have reached Islamabad from Karachi and other parts of the country to register their protest against the passage of the 26th Amendment as well as the JCP meeting, have held a demonstration outside a private hotel in the federal capital.

Speaking to the protesters, senior lawyer Munir A Malik, while reminding the government

that lawyers had held protests in the past too, described the passage of the 26th amendment as 'an assault on the judiciary and the state.'

He lamented that nearly all routes in the federal capital had been sealed in order to prevent lawyers from protesting. "Through this protest, we want to convey to the JCP that we are not at all pleased with its meeting."

Speaking on the occasion, another senior lawyer Ali Ahmad

Kurd said that he would continue to stand by the lawyers on the issue. "Being in power does not make people great. Those who passed the amendment at 2:00 in the night should be ashamed of themselves. We don't accept the amendment," he said, adding, "And we want the judicial commission meeting to be postponed."

Metro Bus Service partially suspended

Meanwhile, the metro bus

service, connecting the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, has been suspended from Faiz Ahmad Faiz station to the secretariat to keep lawyers from joining their colleagues in the protest.

The administration, on the other hand, has said that the service has been partially suspended due to security reasons.

Hyderabad lawyers condemn Islamabad police

Lawyers in Hyderabad on Monday held a protest demonstration outside the press club to express their solidarity with their colleagues, protesting against the 26th Constitutional Amendment and the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) meeting in Islamabad, who were baton-charged by the police.

Chanting slogans against the federal government, the lawyers even trampled on the banners of SSP Hyderabad.

Group Photo

QUETTA: Acting President Yusuf Raza Gilani posing for a group photo along with Command and Staff College in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

President Zardari, Tayyip Erdogan discuss mutual ties

Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday held a meeting with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a brief stopover at Istanbul Airport en route to Portugal.

Foreign Minister of Turkiye Hakan Fidan warmly received the president at the airport.

In the meeting, President Zardari and President Erdogan

discussed the bilateral ties and the matters of mutual interest besides exchanging courtesies.

After a brief meeting with Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President Asif Ali Zardari reached Portugal.

President Zardari will express condolences on the passing of Prince Karim Aga Khan.

Before this, the president was on his five-day visit to China.

During the visit, President Asif Ali Zardari met with his Chinese counterpart, President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang. President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president also attended the opening ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games in the Chinese city of Harbin.

During the visit, memorandums of understanding were signed between Pakistan and



President Asif Ali Zardari meeting with the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, during his brief stopover in Istanbul on February 10, 2025.

China for bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Pakistan, Belarus agree on enhanced collaboration across key sectors

News Desk

ISLAMABAD/MINSK: The 8th Session of the Pakistan-Belarus Joint Ministerial Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was successfully concluded with the signing of important protocols in Minsk, Belarus. The session was marked by positive and constructive discussions aimed at further strengthening the economic, commercial, and technical ties between the two countries.

The meeting was co-chaired by H. E. Aleksey Kushnarenko, Belarusian Minister for Energy, and H. E. Jam Kamal Khan, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce. Special Secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Economic Affairs, Muhammad Humair Karim, also accompanied Minister Jam Kamal Khan, contributing to the success of the session. The meeting witnessed the participation of senior officials and diplomats from both countries, who engaged in detailed deliberations on key areas of bilateral cooperation.



Both sides recognized the importance of addressing labor migration issues and expressed a shared interest in strengthening cooperation in this area. They agreed to begin discussions

on the prospects for bilateral collaboration, focusing on improving labor mobility and ensuring the protection of workers' rights. Both countries also committed to holding talks

aimed at finalizing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to establish a framework for cooperation, creating new opportunities for skilled workforce exchange, and further reinforcing economic ties between Pakistan and Belarus.

On the sidelines of the JMC, the Pakistani delegation engaged in productive discussions with key Belarusian officials, including H. E. Aleksey Kushnarenko, Minister for Energy, H. E. Anatoly Linevich, Minister for Agriculture, and H. E. Sergey Lukashevich, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. These high-level meetings paved the way for strengthening collaboration in the vital sectors of energy and agriculture, fostering deeper ties and creating promising opportunities for mutual growth and development.

Both sides agreed that the 9th Session of the Joint Ministerial Commission will be held in Islamabad, Pakistan, in 2026, with the exact dates and agenda to be mutually decided through diplomatic channels.

PM's aide calls for global cooperation, sustainable solutions to tackle climate challenges

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alamb highlighted the escalating climate challenges faced by developing countries, particularly members of the African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO).

Addressing a training program on "Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation" held on Monday, she emphasized that limited financial resources and inadequate infrastructure exacerbate the impact of climate change, urging immediate global cooperation and the adoption of sustainable climate



solutions.

During her address, Ms. Alamb

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DPM Dar, Saudi FM agree to convene extraordinary OIC meeting of FM's on Gaza



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Monday agreed to urgently convene an Extraordinary Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting of Foreign Ministers to discuss the developments relating to Gaza.

The DPM and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar spoke with the Foreign Minister

of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and strongly condemning Israeli Prime Minister's irresponsible and provocative remarks, said a statement from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The DPM and FM reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the Kingdom's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as unflinching support to the Palestinian cause.

The Saudi Foreign Minister thanked the DPM for Pakistan's consistent and time-tested support to the sanctity and inviolability of the Kingdom.

Second Round of Pakistan-Qatar Bilateral Political Consultations



News Desk

DOHA: The 2nd round of Pakistan-Qatar Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held on 10 February, 2025 in Doha, Qatar. Foreign Secretary, Amna Baloch led the Pakistan delegation, while the Qatari side was headed by State Minister for Foreign Affairs, State of Qatar, Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi.

The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations including: political, economic, consular and people-to-people contacts to further expand bilateral

cooperation.

They also exchanged views on regional and international issues and reaffirmed commitment for continued collaboration and consultation.

While acknowledging the upward trajectory in bilateral relations and the momentum of high-level visits and exchanges, the two sides agreed to further strengthen the bilateral ties in all areas of mutual interest.

The next round of Pakistan-Qatar Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) will take place in Islamabad on mutually agreed dates.

Indian PM Modi 'uses' Pakistan's airspace during flight to Paris

Asim Tanveer

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aircraft used Pakistan's airspace while traveling to Paris from New Delhi, citing civil aviation sources.

Narendra Modi's aircraft "India 1" entered Pakistani territory from Sheikhupura, Hafizabad, Chakwal and Kohat and remained within the country's borders for 46 minutes.

Sources privy to the development further said the Indian PM's aircraft was granted permission due to closure of Afghan airspace.

This is not the first time that Indian PM Narendra Modi's plane used Pakistani airspace.

Last year in August, Modi's plane



also utilized Pakistan's airspace while traveling from Poland to Delhi.

The aircraft entered Pakistani territory at 11:00 PM and remained within the country's borders for 46 minutes.

Narendra Modi visited the Polish capital Warsaw en route to Kyiv, to meet the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Nine additional judges of LHC take oath

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Justice Lahore High Court (LHC) Miss Aalia Neelum on Monday administered oath to nine new additional judges.

As per details, Mr. Hassan Nawaz Makhdoom, Advocate Supreme Court, Malik Waqar Haider Awan, Advocate Supreme Court, Sardar Akbar Ali, Advocate Supreme Court, Syed Ahsan Raza Kazmi, Advocate Supreme Court, Malik Javid Iqbal Wains, Advocate Supreme Court, Mr. Muhammad Jawad Zafar, Advocate Supreme Court, Mr. Khalid Ishaq, Advocate Supreme Court, Malik Muhammad Awais Khalid, Advocate Supreme Court and Chaudhry Sultan Mahmood, Advocate Supreme Court, were administered oath as additional judges of

LHC.

The ceremony was attended by the sitting judges of the LHC, officers, lawyers and the families of the newly appointed judges.

The appointment of aforesaid judges was finalised in a meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan held on February 6.

The Commission unanimously decided that nominees who did not secure the required majority of the total membership of the Commission for finalization of their nominations this time may be renominated for future vacancies.

The Chairperson also appreciated the services rendered by the staff of the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) for assisting the members in using the web portal for the proceeding of the meeting.