



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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 ابو رافع رضی اللہ عنہ نے سید بن ابی طالب رضی اللہ عنہ کو ایک گھوڑا سوار مشتاق میں بیٹا اور کہا کہ اگر میں نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے نہ سنا ہوتا تو آج یہودی قبیلوں کا پادشاہ تھا اور یہ تو میں آپ کو یہ گھوڑا دیتا اور کسی کے ہاتھ لگا دیتا۔
 (صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6981)

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FS Amna Baloch, Congressmen discuss Pak-US bilateral ties

Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch on Saturday met the visiting US Congressional delegation comprising Congressman Jack Bergman, Tom Suozzi and Jonathan Jackson. The two sides resolved to further strengthen and diversify bilateral relations in the areas of mutual interest, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.



Iran, US end high-level talks in Oman, agree to resume 'next week'

Iran and the U. S. held talks in Oman on Saturday and agreed to reconvene next week, the Iranian side said, a dialogue meant to address Tehran's escalating nuclear programme with President Donald Trump threatening military action if there is no deal.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Shawwal Al-Mukarram 14, Sunday, April 13, 2025

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 358 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Game changing

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb addressing during his visit to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Photo: Online

Minerals, IT going to be game changers for Pakistan's economy: Finance Minister

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Saturday that Information Technology and mineral sectors are going to be game changers for Pakistan's economy and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is leading the economy and the nation would see best results soon.

He was addressing the business community here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman, Vice President Shahid Nazir

Chaudhry, SAARC Chamber's Vice President Mian Anjum Nisar and Executive Committee Members also shared their problems and suggestion with the Finance Minister. Representatives of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and other chambers were also present.

The Finance Minister said that only nickel became a major export driver for Singapore with USD

22 billions of share in exports, citing that copper has the potential to yield similar dividends for Pakistan. He said that global interest in Pakistan's mineral sector and IT potential is growing and the government is focused on removing all barriers to attract

and facilitate both local and foreign investment in these key sectors.

Muhammad Aurangzeb said, "We are here to serve the people. I am visiting chambers to listen, understand and resolve problems of the business community. The legitimate demands of the chambers will be accepted. We talk about economic stability. It is very important that if we cannot return the money of our country's investors on time, how can we move forward? Lowering inflation is essential for economic stability. The interest rate was at 22 percent, today it is at 12 percent."

He was of the view that indus-

trial growth is only possible if financing costs, power tariffs are reduced and improve taxation policies are put in place. Under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, he mentioned, the economic direction of the country has clear goals and positive results would soon be evident.

The Finance Minister said that hurdles to profit repatriation for foreign investors have been addressed which boosted their confidence in the Pakistani market. "We are ensuring that the benefits of reduced inflation directly reach the common man. Middlemen will not be allowed to exploit the system," he vowed.

While talking about taxation,

he admitted that the salaried class is bearing the tax burden, as income tax is deducted at source, and 'we intend to offer relief to the salaried segment.' He disclosed that 24 national entities have been earmarked for privatization, stressing the need for reduced human interaction to resolve systemic issues.

"If we can increase the tax-to-GDP ratio to 13 percent, we can offer broader relief to various sectors," he observed. If our policies are not having an impact on the common man, then there is no point, he said, citing that edible prices are lowering and now it is impossible for the middleman to continue to take benefits.

US delegation meets Planning minister



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A US Congressional Delegation (CODEL), led by Representative Jack Bergman (R-MI), along with Representatives Thomas Richard Suozzi, Jonathan L. Jackson, and other senior US officials, met with Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Saturday.

The meeting focused on strengthening Pakistan-US bilateral relations, particularly in the realm of development cooperation and future collaboration across various sectors, a news release said.

Welcoming the delegation, Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the deep-rooted relationship between Pakistan and the United States, underscoring shared values, mutual respect,

and a common commitment to progress.

He emphasized that Pakistan's longstanding and broad-based relationship with the United States remains a key pillar of its foreign policy.

A strong partnership between both countries, he noted, contributes significantly to regional stability and global peace, especially in a volatile global environment.

In the realities of new geo-politics, there is a need to establish a new equilibrium in Pak-US relations based on the ground realities, mutual trust and development focused partnership.

Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the need to have understanding of Pakistan's socio-economic challenges in the aftermaths of the two US led wars in the region.

Ch Shujaat elected PML-Q president unopposed



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has been re-elected as the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) president on Saturday.

According to the official communiqué, the intraparty polls of the PML-Q were held in the meeting of the Central General Council. All candidates were elected unopposed during the session of the party's Central General Council. The council meeting witnessed participation from members across all four provinces, the federal capital and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Bilawal Bhutto re-elected as PPP chairman



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has been re-elected as chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) during intra party elections held on Saturday.

During the intra party elections, Humayun Khan was elected as PPP Secretary General, Nadeem Afzal Chan as Information Secretary while Aamna Paracha was elected as Finance Secretary of PPP.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi have congratulated Bilawal Bhutto on getting elected as chairman of Pakistan People's Party.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif felicitated Bilawal Bhutto on becoming party's chairman, Humayun Khan

as PPP Secretary General, Nadeem Afzal Chan as Information Secretary and Aamna Paracha as Finance Secretary of PPP.

The prime minister expressed best wishes for the newly elected leadership of PPP.

Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi said PPP was an important party of the government which along with allies sacrificed its politics in the last tenure of the government for Pakistan's economic stability and progress.

He expressed hope that PPP will continue to play its critical role as a party in the legislative assemblies for representing wishes of people and for the progress and development of the country.

CM Maryam exchanges pleasantries with Turkish President Erdogan



Spokesman Report

ANTALYA: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has exchanged pleasantries with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and First Lady Emine Erdogan during her visit to Antalya to attend a forum on Saturday.

President Erdoğan warmly shook hands with Maryam Nawaz and welcomed to the Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2025. He inquired about the health of Maryam's father and former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif and expressed his best wishes for him.

Talking to the Punjab chief minister, Erdoğan expressed the hope the he will soon meet Nawaz Sharif.

Maryam Nawaz conveyed a message of goodwill from her father and thanked the Turkish president for extending the invitation to attend the forum.

Earlier, Maryam Nawaz also held a meeting with Turkish First Lady Emine Erdogan, discussing matters of mutual interest and exchanging messages of goodwill.

The Punjab ChM landed in Antalya a day earlier and participated in the Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2025 on Saturday.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Warns of the dangers of new Israeli Evacuation and displacement orders in Gaza and Khan Younis

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates views with grave concern the ongoing and expanding evacuation orders issued by the Israeli occupation forces, which targeted larger areas in the cities of Gaza and Khan Younis. The Ministry views these orders as part of the continued systematic acts of genocide against the Palestinian people and the killing of

more innocent civilians, and confining them to an increasingly narrow area, paving the way for their forced displacement through starvation, thirst, denial of medical care, and the stripping of their most basic human rights.

The Ministry reiterates the urgent need to end the brutal assaults and the targeting of innocent civilians, and calls on the international community to provide an immediate protection for the Palestinian people.

Sindh CM launches scathing attack on opponents over six-channel scheme

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

THATTA: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has launched a strong critique against political adversaries, accusing them of attempting to tarnish the Pakistan People's Party's public image through what he described as the propagation of misinformation surrounding the contentious six-channels scheme. The Chief Minister voiced these accusations while addressing a significant public gathering held at Mohsin House in Thatta. His visit to the district was aimed at engaging with local party leadership, dedicated political workers, and staunch supporters of the PPP from the Thatta and Sujawal chapters.

During his address, Chief Minister Shah emphasized the inclusive approach of the party leadership, stating, "PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari wants to seek the opinion of the public prior to launching development schemes across Sindh." He further elaborated on the provincial



government's commitment to equitable development, announcing the introduction of new schemes for various districts in the near future, with each district slated to receive development projects with an estimated value of up to fifty million rupees.

Addressing the pressing issue of the ongoing water crisis and the controversial six canals scheme, the Chief Minister adopted a firm stance. He

declared that while "the option of parting ways with the Federal government was also available," the provincial government would first pursue a democratic course of action by presenting Sindh's case regarding water rights at the meeting of the Council of Common Interest (CCI) and subsequently on other relevant forums.

He firmly asserted the PPP's

commitment to safeguarding Sindh's water interests, stating, "The PPP is fighting the case of Sindh's water in a much better way than any other party or group." He further alleged that the PPP's political opponents were engaged in a campaign to propagate against the party leadership by misrepresenting the six-canal issue. Issuing a strong warning, Chief Minister Murad stated, "We would not spare a minute in going separate ways from the Federal Government if it did not pay heed to the reservations of the PPP on the issue of the six canals scheme." He also pointed out that the PPP was not part of the Federal government when the permission for the contentious canals was initially granted.

During his visit to Thatta, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah was accompanied by prominent party figures including Nisar Khurro, Ajiz Damrah, provincial ministers Muhammad Ali Malkani and Ali Hassan Zardari, as well as Syed Ayaz Shah Shirazi, among other notable leaders.

DC Surprise Visits to THQ Hospital Gojra



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, efforts to improve public healthcare facilities across the district are underway with renewed focus and pace. As part of this initiative, Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh, Muhammad Naem Sindh, paid a surprise visit to THQ Hospital Gojra, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Gojra, Kamran Ashraf. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various departments, including the registration counter, OPD clinics, emergency unit, laboratory, pharmacy and inpatient wards. He inquired from patients about the availability of free medicines and sought their feedback regarding the quality of treatment, the attitude of doctors and paramedical staff, and the overall hospital facilities.

Muhammad Naem Sindh directed the hospital administration to further improve cleanliness, ensure staff attendance, and streamline overall management. He emphasized that the provision of free medicines must be ensured at all costs and warned that negligence in this regard would not be tolerated. He reiterated that the Punjab government is prioritizing the uplift of the healthcare sector and added that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif envisions quality and free medical care for every citizen across the province.

Kashmiri leaders condemn Amit Shah's visit as "Rubbing Salt on Wounds"

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Trade and Travel Authority and Small Industries of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir State, Ms. Professor Taqdees Gilani, said that Amit Shah's visit to occupied Kashmir is tantamount to rubbing salt on the wounds of the Kashmiri people. She has termed the recent visit of the Indian Home Minister to occupied Jammu and Kashmir as rubbing salt on the wounds of the Kashmiri people and a provocative move. We condemn the Waqf Bill and other anti-Muslim measures in India. The Azad Kashmir government will fulfill its responsibility regarding the Kashmir issue in consultation with the Hurriyat Conference under the leadership of Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq. The Azad Kashmir government's top priority is the Kashmir Freedom Movement. She expressed these views while addressing a press conference along with All Parties Hurriyat Conference Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, General Secretary Advocate Pervez Ahmed, Information Secretary Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, Senior Hurriyat Leader Muhammad Farooq Rahmani, Ms. Shamim Shawl, Sheikh Abdul Mateen and others. Professor Taqdis Gilani said that Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, his cabinet and the people of the state will play the role of a real base camp. Together with the Hurriyat Conference, they will further strengthen the Kashmir freedom movement. Taqdis Gilani said that just as the Red Sea and the Black Sea cannot meet despite living together, similarly Kashmiris can never meet with India.

Postcards offer a rare glimpse into pre-partition History of Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), renowned historian and scholar Fakir Syed Aijazuddin, OBE, FCA, emphasized the historical significance of postcards as a popular medium of communication during the 19th and early 20th centuries. He noted that postcards allowed people to share their experiences, thoughts, and impressions in a way that was both personal and visually expressive.

Reflecting on his latest publication, 'Forgotten Images: Postcards of Pre-Pakistan, 1890-1947', F. S Aijazuddin explained that these seemingly simple cards offer far more than brief messages—they serve as enduring historical records. "Postcards not only depict notable landmarks from cities across what is now Pakistan, but also reflect the cultural and social fabric of their times," he said. "Through these images, the book reveals the transformation of cities, communities, and architectural heritage, while also capturing the everyday, sometimes extraordinary, lives of people during the pre-Partition era."

He described the collection as a visual journey through time, highlighting the evolution of urban spaces through carefully curated postcards representing various regions and cities.

Also speaking at the event, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the IRS, underscored the importance of remaining connected to one's history. He stressed that preserving and understanding national heritage is essential for shaping a more informed and cohesive future.

Governor Kundi congratulates newly elected office-bearers of PPP

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Saturday extended heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected office-bearers of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) following their success in the party's intra-party elections.



In his message, Governor Kundi conveyed his best wishes to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Secretary General Humayun Khan, Information Secretary Nadeem Afzal Gondal (Chan), and Finance Secretary Amina Piracha on assuming their new responsibilities.

He said that the elections, held in accordance with the party's constitution, are a reflection of the strength of democracy and institutional stability within the PPP.

Governor Kundi expressed hope that the newly elected leadership would play a vital role in making the party more dynamic and aligned with public expectations.

Reaffirming his complete confidence in Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's leadership, he said that his energetic and visionary guidance would lead the party toward greater success in the future.

Security

KARACHI: Security personnel stand guard outside the National Stadium in the Provincial Capital, ahead of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) Twenty20 cricket match between Multan Sultans and Karachi Kings.



Photo: Online

Chaudhry Riaz vows full participation in elections under Faryal Talpur's leadership

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi called on Senior Leader of the Peoples Party Chaudhry Riaz, Special Assistant to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Deputy Secretary Information of the Peoples Party Syed Azadar Hussain Kazmi, President of the Peoples Party UK Mohsin Bari and Bureau Chief of Hum News UK Rafiq Mughal were also present on the occasion.

Party matters, upcoming elections, and matters of mutual interest were discussed between the two leaders.



Chaudhry Riaz said that the Peoples Party will participate fully in the

upcoming elections under the leadership of Ms. Faryal Talpur, the party is fully committed to the mission of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

He said that President Asif Ali Zardari has brought the country out of crisis and the country is on the path of economic stability.

Chairman of the Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari understands the pain of the people and has made the Peoples Party a force for the people in the true sense. Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi said

that the PPP is a strong force in Azad Kashmir.

Muslim Conference Youth Wing Condemns Israeli Brutality in Palestine



Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI/MUZAFFARABAD: After the consultative meeting of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Youth Wing Muzaffarabad Division and Poonch Division, the meeting of the Youth Wing Mirpur

Division was held at the Muslim Conference Central Secretariat Rawalpindi yesterday under the chairmanship of Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan.

The meeting, including the organization of the Muslim Conference Youth Wing, and the ongoing Israeli

brutality in Palestine were strongly condemned.

The meeting was attended by Raja Iftikhar Ahmed Khan, former candidate for the assembly, Raja Shafiq Ahmed Khan, Qazi Zafar Ali, President of the UAE, Raja Waseem Khalid, Hamza Arif Jaral, Malik Ashfaq

Ahmed, Malik Imran and other youth wing workers. Addressing the meeting, Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan said that a just and lasting solution to the Palestine issue should be found in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

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SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:15 am
Zohr	12:09 pm
Asr	4:46 pm
Maghrib	6:37 pm
Isha	8:03 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864

Pervaaaz Campaign Celebrated in Brussels for Driving Digital Awareness on Migration in Pakistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pervaaaz Campaign, launched under the European Union-funded SAFER Project (Safe and Legal Alternatives for Pakistani Potential Migrants and Migrants on the Route), received widespread recognition at the final SAFER event held in Brussels for its transformative role in raising awareness around irregular migration among Pakistani youth.

At the gathering—hosted at the Press Club Brussels Europe on April 7, 2025, and attended by migration experts, EU stakeholders, and international partners—the campaign was highlighted as a model of impactful, community-based digital engagement. Through emotionally resonant storytelling, regional influencer partnerships, and multilingual content, Pervaaaz created meaningful dialogue around dignified and informed migration choices.

Backed by the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and implemented by the European Research Institute (ERI) in partnership with Cirrus Pakistan, as the local implementation partner in Pakistan, the Pervaaaz Campaign successfully bridged the information gap faced by vulnerable communities, particularly in rural and low-literacy areas.

Zaireen Khidmat Committee demand action against shrine attack

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: An important meeting of the Zaireen Khidmat Committee Masooma-e-Sindh Bibi Maham (SA) binte Imam Musa-e-Kazim (AS) Shrine Agham Kot was held Friday at the offices of the Karachi Editors Club (KEC) under the chairmanship of Syed Manzar Naqvi. The meeting was attended among others by Mubashir Mir, Zawar Niaz Hussain Laghari, Sardar Ghulam Abbas Lanjwani, Khawaja Liaquat Ali Jafri, Gul Muhammad Jafri, Qazi Riaz Haider, and Ghulam Mehdi Laghari.

In the meeting, a detailed briefing was given to KEC officials regarding the armed attack on the holy Shrine and the events following the lodging of the FIR. A comprehensive discussion took place on related matters. Deep concern was expressed over the lack of progress by the relevant police authorities.

The participants of the meeting demanded of the Government of Sindh, the IGP Sindh Police, and all relevant security agencies to take immediate and serious notice of the situation and take effective measures to prevent any interference in the ongoing official



construction work.

In a Press statement issued after the meeting, Karachi Editors Club President Mubashir Mir, Secretary General Syed Manzar Naqvi, and other office-bearers said that although it has been

12 days since the FIR was registered regarding the armed and violent attack on the holy Shrine of Masooma-e-Sindh located in Agham Kot, District Badin, the staff of Gulab Laghari Police Station in District Badin has made

no effort to investigate this case of important and sensitive nature. This indicates that the police personnel at Gulab Laghari Police Station are trying their utmost to protect the individuals named in the FIR.

Meeting

Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Khalid Khan Magsi, addressing the Inaugural Session of the 51st PEC Governing Body Meeting held in Murree on Saturday.



Photo: Ramzan Mughal

GCWUF Vice Chancellor Leads the Way in Interdisciplinary Research for Sustainable Health

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen, Vice Chancellor of Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF), participated in the Interdisciplinary Research Conference and Consortium on One Health (IRCOH-2025), held at the University of Sargodha. Themed "Connect, Collaborate, and Translate One Health Research for a Sustainable Future," the event brought together key academic leaders, researchers, and policymakers.

The event was graced by HEC Chairman Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and hosted by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas. It featured the launch of major initiatives, including the Interdisciplinary Research Center for



One Health, the Pakistan One Health University Network, and Pakistan's first One Health Research Lab under the Belt

and Road Initiative. Worthy Vice Chancellor's participation highlighted GCWUF's commitment to

collaborative research for sustainable health solutions across human, animal, and environmental domains.

Federal Minister Khalid Hussain Magsi Inaugurates Digital Initiatives Under Smart PEC Drive

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move towards digital transformation in Pakistan's engineering sector, the Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi, soft-launched several forward-looking initiatives under the "Digital Drive Towards Smart PEC" during the 51st Governing Body meeting of the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) held at PC Bhurban. The initiatives include Pakistan's first Digital Map, PEC Live Mobile App for engineers, Brain Gain Portal, PEC Data Strategy, plans for revamping the PEC website, and the introduction of the PEC E-Card.

Speaking at the launch, Federal Minister Khalid Hussain Magsi stated, "These initiatives reflect our commitment to integrating technology for the growth of Pakistan's engineering sector. By going digital, we are empowering our engineers, improving governance, and creating a smarter regulatory framework."

The meeting brought together senior PEC leadership, including Senior Vice Chairman Engr. Dr. Serosh Hashmat Lodhi, Vice Chairman Punjab Engr. Dr. Shuaib Aftab Qureshi, Vice Chairman Sindh Engr. Mukhtar Sheikh, Vice Chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr. Dr. Qaiser Ali, Vice Chairman Balochistan Engr. Mujeeb Ur Rehman Marri, and members of the Governing Body. Key stakeholders from academia, industry, and government institutions were also in attendance.

Karachi Arts Council organized an art exhibition and talk "Curatorial Confessions"

City Desk

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi's Fine Art Committee organized a thought-provoking session and art exhibition, "Curatorial Confessions," focusing on the art of painting. The event featured insights from Fine Art Committee Chairman Farrukh Shahab, artists M. Zeeshan, Faraz Siddiqui (Karachiwala), and Umaina Khan, while the session was moderated by Shamama Hasnain.

Speaking on the occasion, Farrukh Shahab reflected on the transformation in the art of world over the past four decades. "Forty years ago, the concept of a creator was very different from what it is today. The environment was more about mentorship, and there was no digital media. Access to information wasn't as easy as it is now," he said.

Artist M. Zeeshan emphasized the importance of awareness in an artist's life. "An artist must always keep their eyes open. Everything visible to them can be a medium. Faraz Siddiqui highlighted the importance of networking and organizing in any exhibition. Umaina Khan stressed the need to take art beyond gallery walls. The session concluded with attendees visiting the Ahmed Pervez Art Gallery, where they admired the display of sketching, drawing, and painting works, appreciating the creative expressions showcased in the exhibition.

CDA warns resident to dump, burn waste material

ISLAMABAD, APR 12 (APP): Capital development Authority (CDA) has strictly warned the citizens of the federal capital to refrain from dumping or burning the waste materials other than the designated places, announcing swift legal action against violators.

The Directorate of Solid Waste Management of CDA informed citizens that the Islamabad Territory Solid Waste Management Regulations 2023 are being strictly enforced to maintain high standards of cleanliness and safety in the city, said a press release.

Exploring the Future of Psychoanalysis in Pakistan

City Desk

KARACHI: In an ambitious effort to cultivate psychoanalytic thinking in Pakistan, the Aga Khan University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) has partnered with the Department of Psychology at the University of Exeter, to host an international conference titled "Journeying Beyond the West: Can Psychoanalysis Find New Roots in Pakistan?" at AKU's Stadium Road campus in Karachi.

Psychoanalysis is a type of therapy that not only gives relief from mental health issues, but

also helps people know more about themselves, and make better choices in life. While Pakistan has no formal history of psychoanalysis, practitioners, and theorists with a keen interest in psychoanalysis exist across the country. The three-day conference serves to unite them along with other clinicians, scholars, and artists to create an inclusive space for further inquiry and practice of psychoanalysis.

"Psychoanalysis is often assumed to belong solely to the West, but its emphasis on speech, subjectivity, and the unconscious knows no borders," said

Dr Duane Rousselle, Associate Dean of Research and Associate Professor at FAS and lead organizer of the conference. "Psychoanalysis is an urban city phenomenon, and Karachi is an urban mega city."

Speakers included distinguished local thinkers and practitioners, as well as members of the British Psychoanalytic Association and the New Lacanian School. Their aim was to identify and understand the traces of a psychoanalytic presence in Pakistan. Discussions also centred on clinical and theoretical ideas relevant to Pakistan and its diaspora, and the potential for establishing psychoanalytic training programmes, inviting participants to contribute to shaping the future of this field in the country.

"The event responds to a growing but unmet demand for serious intellectual forums on psychoanalysis in Pakistan, particularly in urban centres like Karachi," said Dr Stephen Lyon, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. "It also reflects FAS's commitment to making space for new conversations within the liberal arts in Pakistan. We're proud to be part of this pioneering effort."



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Israel's war on Palestinian political life in Jerusalem

While the world is focused on global economic issues and the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, Israel's recent harsh policies in East Jerusalem mark an alarming new chapter in a long-standing campaign to eliminate any form of organized Palestinian political or civic presence in the city.

a growing trend of targeting Palestinian institutions under the guise of maintaining order or preventing "incitement."

But the true motive is plain to see: political erasure. The goal is to delegitimize any Palestinian institutional presence in Jerusalem, thus severing the city's Palestinian residents from their national identity and collective memory.

Perhaps even more concerning is the fact that these actions are taking place not in the West Bank or Gaza, but within the municipal boundaries of what Israel unilaterally annexed. In doing so, Israeli authorities contradict their own legal and political frameworks.

Under the pretext of security, Israel has persistently targeted and dismantled institutions that serve as pillars of Palestinian society, be they unions, schools, cultural centers or political offices.

In the latest examples of this, Israeli authorities this week presented orders to shut down six UN-run schools by May 8, and ordered the immediate closure of the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions.

This pattern is not new. For years, and especially since the signing in 1993 of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, also referred to as the Oslo Accords, Israel has worked to dismantle Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem.

Such actions reveal an apartheid reality. Despite claiming East Jerusalem as part of its "unified capital," Israel continues to act in ways that starkly contradict its self-declared identity as a democratic state.

The raid on the trade union office on April 9 was carried out with characteristic force. Israeli officers stormed the premises, arrested union officials and issued an immediate closure order.



Analysis

Daoud Kuttab

children's right to education, yet another pillar of communal life that is being targeted under the current escalation.

This is not just about buildings or institutions, it is about the dismantling of an entire social fabric. Civil society organizations, trade unions, educational bodies and religious institutions are the lifeblood of any community.

The consequences are becoming more visible year by year. For example, figures published by the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf Department, which is overseen by Jordan, reveal a dramatic decline in the number of worshippers who attended Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan this year.

On the final Friday of the holy month in 2022, 160,000 people worshipped at the mosque. This fell to 130,000 in 2023, and 120,000 in 2024. This year, in Islam's third-holiest city, a mere 75,000 worshippers attended the final Ramadan Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa.

This is no coincidence. The decline is directly linked to Israeli-imposed restrictions. Measures such as arbitrary quotas, age limitations and checkpoint closures prevent Palestinians in the West Bank and surrounding areas from accessing the holy sites.

exceed a quota of 10,000 worshippers from outside of Jerusalem. In effect, the faithful are locked out of their own sacred mosque during the holiest days of the year.

These measures are not simply about security, they are about sovereignty, about who belongs in Jerusalem and who does not. By stripping away Palestinian institutions, silencing political voices and preventing cultural and religious gatherings, Israeli authorities are redrawing the city not only physically, but socially and spiritually.

Yet in the face of all this, the resilience of the Palestinian community in Jerusalem remains strong. Despite the closures and restrictions, worshippers continue to flock to Al-Aqsa Mosque. Teachers, trade unionists and community organizers persist in their work, often at great personal risk.

The international community, in particular Israel's allies, must also take note: Silence in the face of these violations is complicity. As Israel continues to claim the mantle of democracy, its actions in East Jerusalem tell another story, one of exclusion, repression and systematic erasure.

- Daoud Kuttab is an award-winning Palestinian journalist and former Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton University. He is the author of "State of Palestine NOW: Practical and Logical Arguments for the Best Way to Bring Peace to the Middle East." X: @daoudkuttab

UN economist sees three percent fall in global trade due to US tariffs

Global trade could shrink by three per cent as a result of the United States' new tariff measures which in the longer term could reshape and boost as-yet untapped regional commercial links, a top UN economist confirmed Friday.

"There will be shifting, I think, in supply chains, there will be a reassessment of global alliances. There will be geopolitical shifts and economic as well," said Pamela Coke-Hamilton, head of the International Trade Centre (ITC).

Speaking in Geneva after Wednesday's announcement by the White House of a 90-day pause on "reciprocal tariffs" for most countries with the exception of China, Mrs. Coke-Hamilton noted that exports from Mexico had already been "highly impacted" by earlier seismic changes to US trade policy.

"Countries like Mexico, China and Thailand, but also countries in southern Africa are among the most affected, alongside the US itself," she said.

While the 90-day pause on the so-called reciprocal tariffs applies to imports from most countries and brings down rates to a still hefty 10 per cent, tariffs on imports from China currently stand at 145 per cent.

China, meanwhile, has raised tariffs against US exports - in effect import taxes on goods - to 125 per cent.

Already, Mexico's products for export have shifted away from markets such as the US, China, Europe and other Latin American countries to make "modest gains" instead in Canada, Brazil "and to a lesser extent, India", the ITC chief insisted.

Other countries have followed suit, including Vietnam, whose exports "are redirecting away from the US, Mexico and China", while "increasing substantially" towards the EU, South Korea and others, said Mrs. Coke-Hamilton, whose UN specialized agency offers assistance to developing countries.

The problem for emerging economies is that they are less well equipped to "pivot" when faced with "instabilities", the ITC chief explained, since they often lack the manufacturing diversity and ability to add value to raw commodities of more industrialized nations.

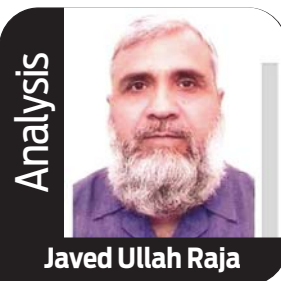
Especially vulnerable trading partners of the US include Lesotho, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Madagascar and Myanmar that are "the most exposed", she continued.

Confirming that the World Trade Organization (WTO) had estimated that commerce between China and the US could drop by up to 80 per cent if the highly unusual situation continues, the ITC Executive Secretary pointed out that they constituted only "three per cent to four per cent of world trade...[so] there is 96 per cent out there that is still trading and that will trade".

Nonetheless, the impact of the "indeterminate extension of 90 days on and on" has not been good for global commerce and "does not necessarily lend itself to stability", Mrs. Coke-Hamilton continued.

Frail Hands Await Enforcement of Court Orders

The banking sector plays a pivotal role in Pakistan's financial infrastructure. The strength and success of this system have been built on the shoulders of countless employees who devoted their prime years, skills, and unwavering commitment to its service.



Analysis

Javed Ullah Raja

Hundreds of retired employees of Allied Bank, along with their families, are suffering from intense financial, physical, and emotional hardship. After spending decades in loyal service to the institution, they now find themselves seeking justice asking a simple question: when will they receive their rightful dues?

What makes this situation even more tragic is that the country's highest courts including the Supreme Court and various High Courts have issued clear, binding decisions in favor of these retired employees. These rulings mandate that the bank pay proper pensions and dues in accordance with the law.

In February 2018, the Chief Justice of Pakistan ruled that the minimum pension for retired Allied Bank employees must not be less than Rs. 8,000 per month. Unfortunately, this decision has yet to be implemented. In light of this continued negligence, the retired employees have once again approached the Supreme Court, filing a petition to demand enforcement of the previous rulings.

ability. Across the world, retired workers are treated with respect, provided social protection, and honored for their service. But here in our country, those who dedicated their lives to building the nation's institutions are forced to spend their twilight years begging for what is rightfully theirs.

The retired employees appeal to the Government of Pakistan, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Law, the State Bank, and all concerned authorities to take immediate and decisive action. Court decisions must be implemented without delay. Full pensions and outstanding dues should be paid in accordance with years of service. Annual increases should be ensured to keep up with inflation, and the ongoing legal battle of these retirees should be recognized with the respect and urgency it deserves.

This is not merely a plea for pensions; it is a cry for justice from a generation that has served this country and now hopes to live their remaining days in peace, dignity, and security.

Writer is reached at javedullahraja@gmail.com

'The Gaza Crises: A Cry for Humanity'

Dear Editor, As I hold my pen today, I feel a sense of purpose to raise my voice for those who need to be heard. Though my actions may not be enough, I believe that my words can touch those who do matter to take action against the ongoing genocide and humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The media is currently filled with heart-wrenching news about Gaza, from the devastating airstrikes on residential areas to the tragic stories of civilian casualties.

appoint for us a helper?" (An-Nisa'a, Verse 75) We demand that all Muslim parties and armed forces take immediate action to protect our Muslim brothers, uphold international humanitarian law, and avoid inhumanity. This includes diplomatic engagement, humanitarian assistance, and support for investigations into alleged war crimes and human rights violations. We condemn the brutal massacre of innocent people and indiscriminate heavy bombardment against Gazans. We also condemn cutting off energy, food, and water supply against the trapped Palestinian brothers. The ongoing crisis in Gaza has resulted in a severe humanitarian emergency, with thousands of civilians affected and in dire need of assistance. The delivery of humanitarian supplies, including food, water, medicine, and shelter, is crucial to alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people.

As we reflect on the struggles of the oppressed, we are reminded of the words of ALLAH Taa'la in the Holy Qura'an: وَمَا لَكُمْ لَا تُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَالْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ وَالنِّسَاءِ وَالْوِلْدَانِ الَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا مِنْ هَذِهِ الْقَرْيَةِ الظَّالِمِ أُمَّهَاتُهَا وَاجْعَلْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ وِلِيًّا وَاجْعَلْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ نَصِيرًا ﴿٥٧﴾ "And what is with you that you fight not in the cause of Allah and the oppressed among men, women and children who say, 'Our Lord, take us out of this city of oppressive people and appoint for us a protector and

In light of the recent shocking events in Gaza, it is vital that we promote the important message to condemn the genocide. So, my appeal to all readers is to heed my wake-up call. True humanity is about finding echoes of another in yourself and the measure of it lies in how it treats its most vulnerable members. Awaken your humanity! It's time to choose compassion over cruelty. The devastated Gazans' future depends on our collective kindness. Let's act now. Sincerely, Sadaf Dilawar Sialkot Iamsdf07@gmail.com



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

'Flowing water cannot be severed' – How Xi Jinping promotes China-Malaysia friendship

✉ Xinhua)

BELJING: Over three decades ago, when Xi Jinping, then the top official of China's southeastern city of Fuzhou, visited Malaysia on an investment promotion trip, he found himself deeply impressed by two symbolic sites.

One is the Poh San Teng Temple, a long-standing homage to renowned Chinese navigator Zheng He (1371-1433) of the Ming Dynasty. The other is the city of Sibul, which became known as "New Fuzhou" after Wong Nai Siong, a Fuzhou native, migrated to Malaysia with over 1,000 Chinese people more than a century ago.

Both places testify to the millennium-old China-Malaysia friendship, a bond Xi has repeatedly pledged to inherit and cement as China's head of state. During a 2013 visit to Malaysia, he quoted a local proverb to illustrate the commitment: "Flowing water cannot be severed."

It was also during that Southeast Asia tour to Indonesia and Malaysia that Xi invoked again the legacy of Zheng He and put forward the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, an essential component of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Now as Xi travels to Malaysia for a new state visit, the two nations are poised to further build on their time-honored friendship and fruitful cooperation, and steer bilateral relations toward a more promising shared future in the new era.

COOPERATION ON FAST TRACK
On a hillside overlooking the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project in Malaysia's eastern state of Pahang, a string of bold Chinese and Malay characters stand out against the landscape: "Extensive consultation, joint contribution, shared benefits — building a better future."



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcoming ceremony for Malaysia's King Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar, who is on a state visit to China, in the Northern Hall of the Great Hall of the People prior to their talks in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 20, 2024. (Xinhua/Yin Bogu)

The phrase, concise and resonant, is the main tenet of the BRI, which has now become a leading global infrastructure and development framework and fostered a host of flourishing partnerships across continents.

As a vital node along the ancient Maritime Silk Road, Malaysia is among the first to participate in Belt and Road cooperation. Thanks to joint efforts and Xi's steadfast push, bilateral collaboration within the BRI framework has borne rich fruit.

A notable example is the ECRL, a 665-km railway whose construc-

tion is in full swing. In a sign of the importance Xi attaches to the flagship project, he dispatched a special envoy to its launch in 2017. During his meeting with Malaysia's King Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar in Beijing last September, Xi once again called for concerted efforts to ensure its success.

The railway, once completed, will bridge Malaysia's less-developed east coast with its economic powerhouse on the west coast, enhancing connectivity and fostering balanced growth. It will also potentially link up with the China-Laos and China-Thailand rail

networks, all part of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, a vital international trade route.

"If that were to materialize, the ECRL would be able to tap into Thailand's entire rail network and link with Kunming in southwestern China, via Laos, achieving greater free flow of goods and passengers within the region," said Malaysian Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook.

Beyond the rail project, China-Malaysia collaboration is expanding across the horizon. China has remained Malaysia's largest trading partner for



This photo shows the launching site of the East Coast Rail Link project in Kuantan, Malaysia, on Dec. 11, 2023. (Photo by Xu Xinyu/Xinhua)



A staff member shows a durian from Malaysia at the Food and Agricultural Products exhibition area during the second China International Import Expo in Shanghai, east China, Nov. 9, 2019. (Xinhua/Cai Yang)

16 consecutive years, with the volume hitting an all-time high of 212.04 billion U.S. dollars in 2024. In recent years, Malaysia's tropical fruits such as durian, mangosteen and jackfruit have become increasingly popular among Chinese consumers.

In his meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim last year in Beijing, Xi encouraged Malaysia to bring more Malaysian quality and specialty products to the Chinese market, and urged closer cooperation in such new areas as digital economy, artificial intelligence and new energy.

"The flourishing economic ties between Malaysia and China demonstrate the resilience and mutual benefits of our bilateral relationship," said Samirul Ariff Othman, an economist at Malaysia's Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS. "The continued expansion of investments in high-value sectors such as technology, green energy and manufacturing will further deepen our cooperation."

FRIENDS IN NEED

In 2012, Yong June Kong, a Malaysian young man who had studied medicine in China, donated his hematopoietic stem cells to a Chinese boy suffering from leukemia, successfully saving the 7-year-old child and making himself the first foreign stem cell donor in China.

During Xi's 2013 visit to Malaysia, the president referenced this moving episode to highlight the deep friendship between the Chinese and Malaysian people. "We will also not forget" the story, Xi said with deep emotion.

"I never imagined that such a simple act would receive such high-level recognition," said a doctor at Renji Hospital in Shanghai, told Xinhua. "I couldn't sleep the whole night after learning that the Chinese president had spoken of me," he recalled.

Xi's recognition was not only a personal honor but also a tribute to the spirit of mutual support between the nations, Yong added.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 31, 2023. (Xinhua/Rao Aimin)



Artists perform at the Canton Rhythms for Silk Road concert at Xiamen University Malaysia (XMUM) in Selangor state, Malaysia, Nov. 24, 2023. (Xinhua/Cheng Yiheng)

Xi Jinping and his 'ironclad friends' from Cambodia

✉ Xinhua writers Chang Yuan, Liu Chang

BELJING: In February 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted then Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen at the Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing, an appointment between the two old friends.

Back in early 2020, Hun Sen visited Beijing as China was battling the COVID-19 epidemic. He visited to show Cambodia's staunch support for the Chinese people at a critical moment. Three years later, Hun Sen visited China again as promised.

At their 2023 meeting, Xi recalled the prime minister's trip to China during a heavy snowfall, saying he was happy to fulfill this "three-year appointment" with the visiting leader.

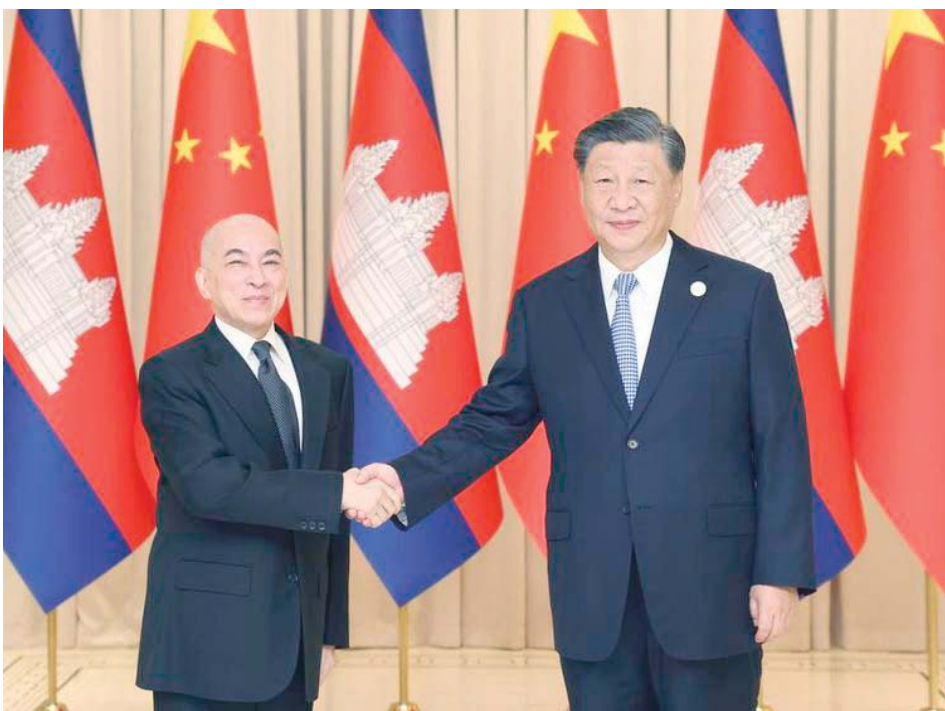
The warm and sturdy friendship between Xi and Hun Sen serves as a faithful reflection of the close bond between China and Cambodia, carefully nurtured by generations of leaders of both sides over the decades. And this relationship, described by Xi as "ironclad," will surely be renewed as the Chinese leader is set to embark on his second state visit to the Southeast Asian country.

A CHAIR OF UNIQUE FRIENDSHIP

On the very day Xi arrived in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh in 2016 for a state visit, he made a special visit to the royal palace to see Queen Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk. The queen mother invited Xi to sit in a chair that was frequently used by her late husband, King Father Norodom Sihanouk.

This chair had been meticulously preserved by the Cambodian royal family since the king father's passing — covered and untouched, until Xi's visit.

"This is a privilege reserved only for the most esteemed and dearest friends," explained Prin-



cess Norodom Arunrasmy, who was present.

With a warm smile, Xi spoke fondly of King Father Sihanouk, describing him as "a revered friend of the Chinese people and a symbol of China-Cambodia friendship." The king father's deep personal ties with Chinese leaders since the 1950s have played a pivotal role in fostering the ever-renewing friendship between the two countries.

More than once, Xi has quoted an old Chinese saying to underscore how the China-Cambodia friendship has withstood challenges and global transformations: "A long journey tests a horse's strength, and a long span of time reveals a person's heart."

In Xi's signed article published by Cambodian media prior to his 2016 visit to the country, he noted that China will never forget Cambodia's role as one of the first nations to recognize the People's Republic of China and a cham-

pion of China's rightful seat at the United Nations.

The friendship between the two close neighbors has always been mutual. China has been a steadfast partner of Cambodia, supporting its national independence and economic development, including the construction of Cambodia's first cement plant and thermal power station.

To honor the friendship, Xi awarded a Friendship Medal to the queen mother at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing in November 2020. "This weighty 'Friendship Medal' represents the deep respect of the Chinese people for Queen Mother Monineath and the profound friendship between China and Cambodia," he said.

Xi has also shown particular care for Cambodia's royal family. "Beijing is your home. You're more than welcome to return whenever you like," he said while meeting King Sihanouk and Queen Mother Monineath at

not only set an example for big and small countries to get along with mutual respect, equality and win-win cooperation, but also contributed to regional peace and stability, which has brought great benefits to the people of the two countries.

A ROAD TO HOPE

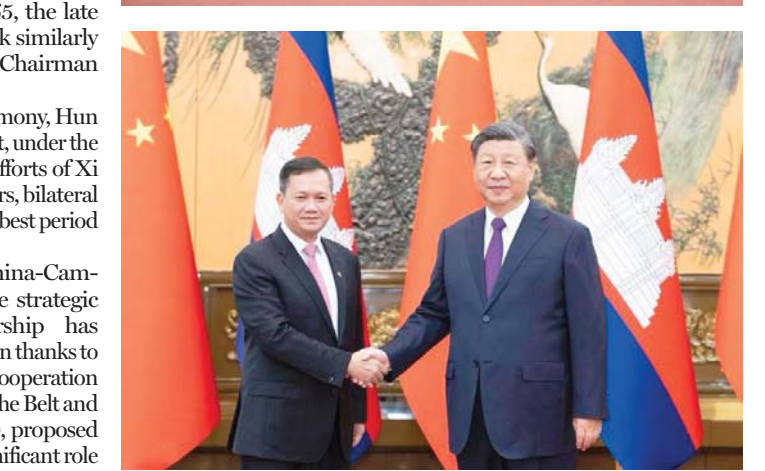
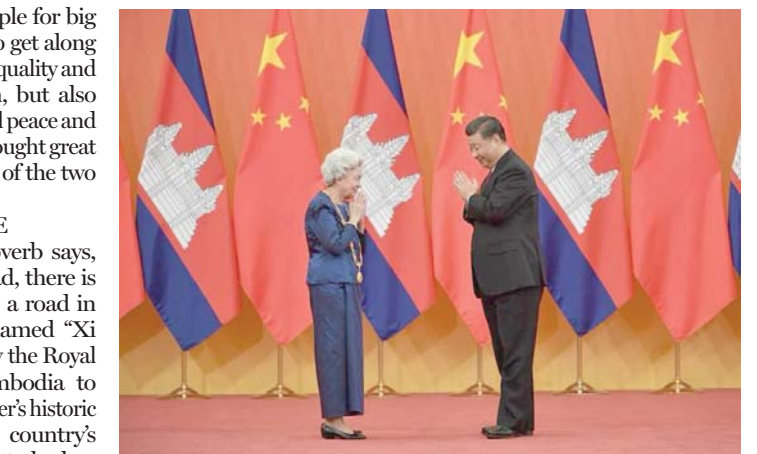
A Cambodian proverb says, "Where there is a road, there is hope." In May 2024, a road in Phnom Penh was named "Xi Jinping Boulevard" by the Royal Government of Cambodia to honor the Chinese leader's historic contributions to the country's development. In 1965, the late King Father Sihanouk similarly named a road after Chairman Mao Zedong.

At the naming ceremony, Hun Manet highlighted that, under the leadership and joint efforts of Xi and Cambodian leaders, bilateral ties have entered their best period in history.

Since 2013, the China-Cambodia comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership has continued to strengthen thanks to flourishing practical cooperation across various fields. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), proposed by Xi, has played a significant role in fostering common development and shared benefits for both sides.

Situated along the ancient Maritime Silk Road, Cambodia was among the first countries to join Belt and Road cooperation. Its leaders have attended in China all three editions of Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in recent years.

Over the years, key BRI projects in Cambodia have reaped fruitful results: the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) has attracted over 200 international enterprises and institutions, generating 32,000 jobs; Cambodia's first expressway, the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway, has reduced travel time between the two cities from over five hours



to less than two; the Siem Reap Angkor International Airport has helped Cambodia's tourism to take off, operating 17 routes by the end of last year.

"The SSEZ, along with other flagship BRI projects, has played a crucial role in helping Cambodia achieve its ambitious targets of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income nation by 2050," said Neak Chandarith, director of the Cambodia 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Research Center.

Bilateral trade and commerce have also thrived. China has been Cambodia's largest foreign investor and trading partner for several consecutive years.

Over the past decade, bilateral trade has nearly quadrupled, official data show. The Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership have facilitated exports of Cambodian products like rice, bananas, longans and Basa fish to Chinese markets.

Xi advocates for a comprehensive approach to China-Cambodia cooperation. This is why he has repeatedly emphasized the importance of the bilateral "Diamond Hexagon" cooperation framework, which covers six major areas: politics, production capacity, agriculture, energy, security and people-to-people exchanges.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
114,853.33	116,189.21
Day's High	Day's Low
115,937.38	114,639.92
Index Value	Change
23,543,544,154	-1335.88
Percentage	Time
-1.15%	11 Apr, 2025 3:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,964.18	+50.93
Percentage	Time
+0.64%	11 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
39,952.55	+358.89
Percentage	Time
+0.91%	11 Apr, 1:27 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,585.58	-1,023.42
Percentage	Time
-2.96%	11 Apr, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	174.00	176.25
Bahrain Dinar	738.85	746.85
Canadian Dollar	199.35	201.75
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	40.15	40.55
Euro	307.40	310.15
Hong Kong Dollar	35.66	36.01
Indian Rupee	3.18	3.27
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.97
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.40	907.90
Malaysian Ringgit	62.57	63.17
New Zealand \$	158.75	160.75
Norwegians Krone	26.4	26.70
Omani Riyal	723.10	731.60
Qatari Riyal	76.28	76.98
Saudi Riyal	74.70	75.25
Singapore Dollar	207.5	209.5
Swedish Korona	27.45	27.75
Swiss Franc	314.86	317.66
Thai Bhat	8.13	8.28
U.A.E Dirham	76.35	77.00
UK Pound Sterling	359.60	363.1
US Dollar	280.65	282.15

BOI Chief highlights initiatives to boost domestic and FDI

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Investment and Chairman of the Board of Investment (BOI) Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh has said that as a businessman himself, he understands the problems of the private sector and their concerns. Board of Investment is making all out efforts to promote domestic and foreign investment.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry, SAARC Chamber Vice President Mian Anjum Nisar, former LCCI Vice President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigal and Executive Committee Members, all of whom also shared their views on Pakistan's investment landscape.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, while addressing the session, said that as a businessman himself, he understands the problems of the private sector and their concerns regarding investment and policy hurdles. He lamented the decline in Pakistan's global standing, saying there was a time when countries like China learned from Pakistan, but today China's exports have surged past \$3.5 trillion while Pakistan's remain around \$92 billion.

LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, while welcoming the minister, stated that the Lahore



Chamber considers investment to be the cornerstone of economic development.

Chaudhry, in his address, underscored the urgent need to invest in local manufacturing of solar panels and said that the depreciation

of the rupee and high gas tariffs are among the biggest challenges faced by the industrial sector.

Souvenir

KARACHI: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries & Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan being presented with memento during his visit to KCCI Karachi on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Close cooperation between police and public is essential to eliminate crime: Anjum Aqeel Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Member of the National Assembly from Islamabad, Anjum Aqeel Khan, has said that close cooperation between police and the public is crucial for eradicating crime. He said the government is striving to resolve all issues faced by the police. Officers of Islamabad Police have set high standards of duty, honesty, and public service. The promotion of ten dedicated officers from DSP to SP is, in fact, recognition of their tireless hard work, commitment, and selfless struggle against crime.

He expressed these views while addressing a dinner held in honor of the promoted officers, organized by Waqar Bachtawari, Executive Member of FPCCI and former President of the Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Islamabad police officers promoted from DSP to SP include Muhammad Sharif



Kolachi, Munawar Ali Mahar, Hakim Khan, Muhammad Mahfooz Kayani, Imtiaz Ali Shah, Abid Ikram, Majid Iqbal, Muhammad Najeeb Shah, Sajjad Haider Shah, and Hassan Raza.

Waqar Bachtawari, while praising the services of the promoted officers, said that the

armed forces and police have made unparalleled sacrifices for the internal and external security of the country, for peace and order, and in the fight against terrorism.

SP Hakim Khan said that this promotion, for him and his fellow officers, is in fact a great responsibility, which

they will fulfill with greater sincerity, honesty, and professional zeal.

Chaudhry Yasin, General Secretary of the CDA Labour Union, said Islamabad police officers have always played a key role in ensuring the safety of workers, traders, and citizens, and their promotion.

ILO, SMEDA, and industry leaders collaborate for formalization roadmap



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: A strategic consultation session was held on 12 April 2025 in Lahore, bringing together over 40 auto parts manufacturers and SME stakeholders. The session, jointly organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and SMEDA under the Ministry of Industries and Production.

Led by key members of the Technical Working Group (TWG), including Mr. Mashood Khan and Mr. Mumshad Ali, the event facilitated a candid exchange of challenges, opportuni-

ties, and recommendations aimed at helping Pakistan's informal businesses & workers transition into the formal economy. This transformation is seen as essential to building a fairer, more resilient, and competitive industrial landscape.

Mrs. Nadia Jahangir Sethi, GM Policy & Planning (SMEDA), and Mr. Sheharyar Tahir, Head of External Relations, emphasized the transformative power of formalization. "Supporting enterprises in their transition from informality is vital for inclusive and sustainable economic growth," they noted.

US tariffs Hike: Site Chief Seeks High-Level Panel, Trade Trips to Lift Exports

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Site Association of Industry Karachi has urged the Pakistani government to form a high-level committee comprising stakeholders from major industrial hubs to strategize against the recent 29% tariff imposed by the US President Donald Trump on Pakistani.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is delivering on his promises, and the business community has confidence in the current government and confident enough they will get benefits from whatever duties implement on Pakistani products with the

right planning and right peoples," said Ahmed Azeem Alvi, President of the SITE Association.

In a statement, president of the SITE association, Ahmed Azeem Alvi, proposed that the committee include representatives from Karachi, Lahore, Sialkot, and Faisalabad, particularly large-scale manufacturers and small & medium enterprises (SMEs) with expertise in trade and industrial affairs. These representatives would analyze how Pakistan can boost exports to the US and meet the growing demand for imported raw materials needed for local industries.

Textile Asia: Pakistan textile sector to get benefits from USA tariff policy

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's overall exports, particularly the textile sector will get benefits from the new USA tariff policy.

This was stated by Shaikh Shafiq Jhok Wala, Chief Coordinator Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) while speaking as a chief guest at the inauguration of 29th Textile Asia 2025 being held on Saturday at Expo Center, Karachi.

The imposition of heavy tariffs on China and other countries by the USA administration will create a demand of textile, garments and various prod-

ucts in the American market that will provide an opportunity for Pakistanis companies to grow their exports of textile and garments manifold to this market.

He said the changing international trade climate is challenging but it will likely be favorable for Pakistani and its industries and export growth.

He said that the Pakistani government is working to facilitate Chinese and Vietnamese companies to establish their industrial units in special zones of Pakistan and produce made-in-Pakistan made-ups in collaboration with local investors and industries. These companies will export their brands through the land

of Pakistan. In this way, Pakistan will grow its exports to up to \$ 35 billion in the next few years with a major contribution of the textile sector.

On the occasion, Project Director Textile Asia Muhammad Uzair Nizam said that the overwhelming participation of foreign delegates and national business leaders in the textile trade fair is testament to an impressive business opportunity and growth in Pakistan.

The objective of this trade fair is to enhance the contribution of the textile sector in national GDP through advancement, innovation and development.

The session was also attended by



foreign diplomats, including Turkey, China, Germany and others.

PPL Partners with Metso Finland to Boost Mineral Exploration in Pakistan



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and Metso Corporation, Finland, a global leader in sustainable technologies and services for the minerals processing industry, have entered a strategic collaboration to advance mineral exploration and processing across Pakistan.

The landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged in the distinguished presence of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shahbaz Sharif, and Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir between Mr. Imran Abbasy, Managing Director and CEO, PPL, and Director Sales Smelting Business Line at Metso Corporation, Lauri Pesonen, representing Metso Corporation. The MoU was earlier signed during the Pakistan Mineral Investment Forum 2025 held in Islamabad witnessed by senior government officials, diplomats, and industry leaders.

This alliance marks a significant step towards transforming Pakistan's mineral sector through the deployment of advanced exploration tools, efficient extraction technologies, and integrated value-added processing solutions.

"This collaboration with Metso signals a bold leap toward harnessing Pakistan's untapped mineral wealth using world-class technology and expertise," stated Mr. Imran Abbasy. "Together, we aim to foster sustainable development while maximizing national resource potential." The MoU sets the stage for joint initiatives in capacity building, technology transfer, and feasibility studies that will drive investment, create employment, and uplift the mineral value chain across Pakistan.

2nd PSL match ends successfully amid foolproof security arrangements: Punjab Police

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: The second match of Pakistan Super League-X between Quetta Gladiators and Peshawar Zalmi ended successfully here at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium amid foolproof security arrangements by the Rawalpindi Police on Saturday evening.

On the instructions of Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, more than 6,000 officers and personnel were in the field for security duty while 400 traffic wardens maintained traffic flow on the city roads, a Punjab Police spokesman said in a statement.

Full security was provided to the players, officials and cricket fans while Regional Police Officer Babar Sarfraz Alpa and City Police Officer Syed Khalid



Hamdani along with senior officers remained on the ground to personally supervise all the

arrangements. The IGP directed the police personnel to be highly alert at

duty points and keep a close watch on suspicious activities. The police force adopted a

better strategy than before for the security of PSL matches. Coordination with all institutions including the district administration and security agencies was complete for the peaceful conduct of PSL matches.

Dolphin Squad, Police Response Unit and Elite Force teams patrolled the routes from the players' residences and around the stadium effectively, while important places including the teams' routes, stadiums and residences were monitored at all times with CCTV cameras.

The spokesman said that a traffic advisory had been issued for the awareness of the citizens and traffic flow, and urged the fans to follow the police instructions to enjoy the game of cricket.

Parkha wins title, Shabbir sets pace amidst rain drama at JA Zaman Memorial Open Golf

Tahir Amin Mfalik

LAHORE: The 11th JA Zaman Memorial Open Golf Championship 2025 delivered a compelling mix of skill, strategy, and resilience as players battled both fierce competition and unpredictable weather at Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course.

Parkha Ijaz Claims Ladies Amateur Title with Clinical Precision

In the Ladies Amateur Division, Parkha Ijaz delivered a masterclass in consistency and control, clinching the top gross honors with an impressive total score of 234. Her dominance was particularly evident during the second round, where she fired sublime rounds of 71 and 70, setting herself apart with composed putting and sharp course management. Bushra Fatima (239) and Aania Farooq Syed (247) secured second and third place in the gross category, rounding off the top-tier performers.

In the net category, Saqiba Batool emerged victorious with a net score of 230. Leveraging her 17-handicap with smart decision-making, she outpaced her competitors. Aleesa Rashid (262) and Ana James Gill (238) followed in second and third place, respectively, showcasing grit and determination.

The dual focus on gross and net categories highlighted not only pure golfing prowess but also the strategic edge that handicaps bring, offering a well-rounded celebration of talent.

***Shabbir's Stellar 65 Headlines Men's**



Professional Division*

Despite challenging weather conditions and rain-induced delays, the second round of the Men's Professional Division produced electrifying performances. Foremost among them was Muhammad Shabbir, who fired a sensational 65—four strokes better than his solid opening round of 69. His dominance in the wet, softened conditions was underscored by impeccable drives and a clinical short game, reasserting his status as a championship favorite.

Talib Hussain and Asif Ali made

remarkable comebacks, each carding 67s after difficult opening rounds. Their nine-stroke improvements were a testament to mental resilience and technical adjustments. Muhammad Minhaj also stood out, improving to a 68 and moving into second place, displaying calm under pressure and consistency across both rounds.

Conversely, players like Kamran Shafiq (74 from 70) and Muhammad Zubair (73 from 70) faced setbacks as the demanding conditions exposed flaws in precision and adaptability. Interestingly, six of the top ten players improved their scores in

Round 2, with the average top-10 score dropping from 71.8 to 70.7. Meanwhile, the overall field saw a 1.5-stroke increase in scoring average—underscoring that adaptability and mental strength separated the elite from the rest.

Rain and Resilience: The Unsung Heroes Behind the Scenes

The tournament's opening day was marked by rain that forced the postponement of the amateur division's first round. Yet the championship was kept alive thanks to the tireless efforts of green-keepers and course staff. Armed with blowers, rollers, and relentless dedication, they restored playability and ensured a fair contest despite nature's disruption. "We can't thank the ground crew enough," said a senior tournament committee member. "Their efforts often go unnoticed, but they made this event possible."

Organizers and Referees: The Backbone of Fair Play

Tournament organizers issued a statement applauding the players' professionalism and patience. "This championship is not just about scores; it's about spirit. From players to staff, everyone rose to the occasion. The show went on because of you." A quiet yet crucial figure throughout the event was Chief Referee Munazza Shaheen, who upheld the tournament's integrity with diligence and fairness—particularly in managing rain-affected zones and maintaining consistent rule enforcement.

Gladiators secure 80-run win over Zalmi

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Openers Saud Shakeel and Finn Allen's half-centuries while Abrar Ahmed's four-wicket haul led Quetta Gladiators to an 80-run win over Peshawar Zalmi in the second match of HBL PSL X at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

Quetta, after being asked to bat first, posted 216 for five in their 20 overs. The opening pair of Saud (59, 42b, 6x4s, 2x6s) and Allen (53, 25b, 5x4s, 4x6s) added 88 runs in just 7.1 overs, setting the tone for a big total.

Allen took on the Zalmi bowlers early, hitting 22 runs in an over off Sufyan Moqim before falling on the last ball of fit.

Hasan Nawaz made 41 off 32 balls but got out to Alzarri Joseph. Saud was dismissed in the 16th over by Ali Raza,



who claimed his maiden HBL PSL wicket.

Quetta finished strongly with Rossouw (21* off 10) and Mendis (35* off 14)

scoring 44 runs in the last three overs.

In reply, Zalmi lost captain Babar Azam in the first over to Mohammad Amir. Abrar then dismissed Mohammad

Haris and Tom Kohler-Cadmore in the same over to leave Zalmi reeling at 30 for three.

Saim Ayub scored a fighting fifty in his comeback game but was dismissed soon after reaching the milestone.

Hussain Talat struck 35 off 19 balls, including two sixes against Shoaib Malik, before falling to Usman Tariq.

The mystery spinner also removed Max Bryant on the next ball and ended with two wickets. Zalmi could only manage 136 in 15.1 overs.

Scores in brief: Quetta Gladiators: 216-3, 20 overs (Saud Shakeel 59, Finn Allen 53; Ali Raza 1-31, Sufyan Moqim 1-39).

Peshawar Zalmi: 136 all out, 15.1 overs (Saim Ayub 50, Hussain Talat 35; Abrar Ahmed 4-42, Mohammad Amir 2-11, Usman Tariq 2-26).

Abu Rehan Cricket Club Wins thrilling Match in Asif Mahmood Memorial Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: In an exciting match of the inaugural Asif Mahmood Memorial Junior District Club Cricket Tournament organized by the Regional Cricket Association Karachi Zone One, Abu Rehan Cricket Club defeated Young Fighter Cricket Club and advanced to the next round. Muhammad Azlan played a stellar role in his team's success, scoring a brilliant century of 104 runs, leading Abu Rehan to a total of 246/7 in their allotted 40 overs. Azlan's knock included 16 fours and a six, while Hamza Saleem contributed with a solid 50 runs. Muhammad Ali added 14 runs, and despite a good bowling performance from Mirza Ammar (3 wickets) and Ahmed Khan (2 wickets), Young Fighter couldn't defend the target. In response, Young Fighter Cricket Club was bowled out for 147 runs in 29.4 overs. Zubair top-scored with 51 runs, and Shayan contributed 37. However, Muhammad Hamad's exceptional bowling performance, claiming four wickets for just 12 runs, along with support from Inshal Nawab (2 wickets) and Azlan and Faraz Ahmed (1 wicket each), ensured Abu Rehan's comfortable victory.

Minister congratulates Noor Zaman on winning U-23 World Squash Championship

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Syed Fakhar Jihan has extended heartfelt congratulations to Noor Zaman for winning the Under-23 World Squash Championship held in Karachi.



The minister praised the young player exceptional performance and called him a shining star of the province.

"Noor Zaman's victory has brought pride not only to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but to the entire nation," said Fakhar Jihan. He said that his talent and dedication make him a true national asset and his achievement marks a historic milestone in our squash journey and serves as a powerful source of inspiration for emerging players across the country.

The minister emphasized that Noor Zaman's success is a beacon of hope for the youth and a testament to the potential of Pakistan's rising talent.

"This is a significant comeback for us on the global squash stage after a long time," he added.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to sports development, Syed Fakhar Jihan stated, "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur and in line with the vision of our leader Imran Khan, we will continue to support and uplift our athletes at every level."

Karachi Kings announce replacements for HBL PSL 10

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Karachi Kings have made two replacements for the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) Season 10, bringing in Australian wicketkeeper-batter Ben McDermott and Pakistan U19 captain Saad Baig in the squad.

McDermott replaces Bangladesh's Litton Das, who was picked in the Silver Category during the HBL PSL Players Draft 2025 but has been ruled out due to an injury sustained during practice ahead of Karachi Kings' first match.

The explosive Australian batter, known for his aggressive stroke play and versatility, brings valuable T20 experience, having featured in leagues worldwide, including the Big Bash League (BBL) and The Hundred.

Additionally, Karachi Kings have picked Pakistan U19 captain and wicketkeeper-batter Saad Baig as a partial replacement for Kane Williamson. The New Zealand star, originally picked in the Supplementary Category, will be unavailable for the Karachi leg of the tournament.

Baig, who was part of Karachi Kings' squad as Emerging Category player last season, impressed during the ICC U19 World Cup and is regarded as one of Pakistan's most promising young talents.

PSL X: Vince, Khushdil earn Karachi Kings victory over Multan Sultans



James Vince and Khushdil Shah led Karachi Kings to grab an impressive win against Multan Sultans by chasing a massive target of 235 runs in the third match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) Season 10 being played at the National Bank Stadium, Karachi.

Chasing a daunting 235-run target, the home side amassed the total for the loss of four wickets and as many balls to spare. Leading the way for the Kings was Vince, who top-scored in the run chase with a quickfire 101 off just 43 deliveries with the help of 14 fours and four sixes.

He was also involved in a match-winning 142-run partnership with Khushdil Shah, who made a blistering 60 off 38 deliveries, laced with five fours and four sixes.

The duo, however, perished in the span of just deliveries, bringing the Kings' total down to 222/6 in 18.3 overs. But a sensible partnership for the seventh wicket between Muhammad Irfan Khan and Abbas Afridi sailed the Kings over the line on the second delivery of the final over.

Earlier, opening batter Tim Seifert gave the home side a desired start with a brisk 32-run cameo from just 16 deliveries, smashing two fours and three sixes.

For the Sultans, Akif Javed took three wickets, while Michael Bracewell and Usama Mir made one scalp apiece.

Put into bat first, the visitors registered 234/3 in their allotted 20 overs, courtesy of Rizwan's masterful knock.

3 Pakistani boys reach finals at ITF Memorial Tennis Championship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ITF Pakistan Zainab Ali Naqvi Memorial World Juniors Tennis Championship 2025 concluded successfully at the PTF Tennis Complex in Islamabad, featuring participants from 14 countries.

According to a press release, the tournament saw 38 boys and 21 girls compete, showcasing young talent from nations including Kazakhstan, Japan and the United Kingdom.

In an exciting boys' singles final, Abubakar Talha triumphed over Nadir Mirza with a score of 6-3, 7-5. The boys' doubles final also featured Nadir Mirza, who partnered with Mikael Ali Baig



to defeat Singapore's Abubakar Talha and Luke Jie Xi Ho, winning 6-3, 6-4.

The girls' doubles final saw Haniya Aman Minhas from Saudi Arabia and Zihan Feng from China beat Kazakhstan's Aruzhan Bayalina and Sofiya Malysheva, with a score of 6-1, 6-2.

This year's championship was particularly memorable as three Pakistani boys—Nadir Mirza, Abubakar Talha, and Mikael Ali Baig—reached the finals on the same day, highlighting the country's growing talent in junior tennis.

The event was dedicated to the memory of Zainab Ali Naqvi, a young tennis player who trag-

ically passed away in February 2024 during an ITF tournament. The championship served as a heartfelt tribute to her dedication to the sport.

The closing ceremony was attended by Mr. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF), along with Zainab's parents as guests of honor. Mr. Qureshi expressed pride in the achievements of the young players, stating, "This reflects the promising direction our junior talent is heading toward."

Col. Zia-ud-Din Tufail, Secretary PTF, and other dignitaries also congratulated the winners and participants for their outstanding performances.

Solidarity with Palestine

LAHORE: Members of civil society hold placards and shouting slogans during protest against Israel attack on Gaza, outside press club, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Eight Punjabi workers killed in Iranian province of Balochistan-Sistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: 8 Pakistani workers were killed in Iranian province of Balochistan-Sistan on Saturday morning. According to sources, the victims were resident of Bhawalpur district in southern Punjab. The incident took place in the village of Hasab Payin in the Iranian district of Mehrestan of the Iranian province of Balochistan and Sistan. The unknown attackers who were



more than a dozen managed to escape from the scene after the attack.

All the deceased workers were motor mechanics in a workshop. The five victims

were identified as Dilshad, Naeem, Jafar, Danish and Nasir. The deceased Dilshad is said to be the owner of the motor workshop that was targeted by the terror attack.

The deceased, Dilshad and Naeem, were father and son. The deceased belonged to Bahawalpur district of southern Punjab. The bodies have been shifted to nearby hospitals.

The process of identification and verification of the citizenship of the remaining

bodies is ongoing.

A team from the Pakistani embassy has left for the Iranian province of Balochistan, Sistan and Balochistan. Pakistani embassy officials will visit the accident site and hospitals to assess the situation.

Due to the remote location near Pak-Iran border, there is difficulty in obtaining information. The alleged involvement of the banned BLA in terrorism cannot be ruled out, diplomatic sources

Pakistani nation stands with Palestinians: Mashhood

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Saturday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Palestine.

Speaking at a rally organ-

ized by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to express solidarity with Palestinians and appreciation for electricity bill relief measures by the government, he said that nationwide protests continued against Israeli brutality.

He emphasized that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had



raised a strong voice for the oppressed Muslims of Gaza on all international platforms. "No government in the past has defended Palestinian rights as boldly as the current leadership," he said, adding

that the prime minister even boycotted the Israeli Prime Minister's speech at the United Nations.

Rana Mashhood said that PM Shehbaz Sharif's people-friendly policies had brought

down electricity bills and inflation, offering relief to the common man. He criticized the PTI's IMF programme, blaming it for worsening the economic conditions of the masses.

Climate-Smart Agriculture: NIAB holds national training for promotion of castor bean

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) organised a national training workshop in the context of climate shifts and scope of castor bean in Pakistan here on Thursday.

Dr. Masood Iqbal, Member Science Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission was the chief guest on this occasion. In his speech, he highlighted the contribution of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) in the socioeconomic development of the country by using nuclear technology. PAEC has been striving hard to achieve sustainable development goals in different areas of national importance including energy, healthcare, food safety, agriculture and radio isotope production. He particularly mentioned the application of nuclear technology in the agriculture sector by the Commission and told that four agriculture centres of PAEC — namely, the National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE) and NIAB Faisalabad and Nuclear Institute of



Agriculture (NIA) Tandojam and Nuclear Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Peshawar have so far introduced over 159 high-yield and climate resilient varieties of different crops in the country of which 68 varieties are still being sown in the fields.

Dr. Masood Iqbal said, "It gives me immense pleasure to be invited to this unique training workshop. The huge number of participants is proof of the active collaboration of NIAB with farmers which is a matter of pride for

Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission management as well.

PAEC was established in 1956 with the mandate of peaceful use of nuclear technology and the first agriculture centre of PAEC named Nuclear Institute of Agriculture (NIA) was established in 1961 in Tandojam.

Earlier, Dr. M. Yussouf Saleem, Director NIAB welcomed the participants and explained the purpose of conducting the training workshop by NIAB with the aim of promoting

castor bean through transfer of technology policy. He shared with the participants that the castor bean varieties introduced by NIAB have the potential of giving 100 maund per acre yield in just 140 days. On this occasion, Dr. Mehmood ul Hassan, Focal Person of NIAB for castor bean and sesame, gave a detailed presentation on the national event and welcomed the participants.

Syed Asghar Ali Shah Ex. Federal Minister & Agri. Minister from Noshero Feroz, Sindh and Dr. Sohail Zafar Ex. Minister of Commerce & Industries also delivered speeches.

The event titled "Training for cultivation of modern varieties of NIAB at low intensity to increase income generation at farmers' fields" attracted nearly 400 stakeholders associated with castor bean including progressive farmers, seed companies, industries, exporters, scientists, faculty members of R&D Institutes and universities. Participants gathered from all four provinces, AJK and abroad — primarily from the UK, Oman, and Korea.

President Erdoğan receives PM Mustafa, who warns of famine and medical shortages in Gaza

News Desk

ANTALYA: Prime Minister's Office - President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, received Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Mohammad Mustafa today, Saturday, on the sidelines of the 4th Antalya Diplomacy Forum.

The meeting was also attended by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Palestinian Ambassador to Turkey Faed Mustafa and Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Omar Awadallah.

Prime Minister Mustafa conveyed the greetings of President Mahmoud Abbas to President Erdoğan and the Turkish people, expressing deep appreciation for the strong and long-standing bilateral relations between the two nations.

He commended Turkey's consistent support for Palestine in international forums, its vital



humanitarian and relief efforts in the Gaza Strip, its medical treatment of wounded Palestinians, as well as Turkey's persistent efforts to end the aggression against the Palestinian people.

Mustafa emphasized the urgent need for intensified international pressure to halt the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, warning that the continued closure of border crossings and the obstruction of aid are threatening to expand famine and exacerbate the shortage of medicine in the besieged enclave.

CJCSC calls on Nigerian Defence Minister, Chief of Defence Staff, Services Chiefs



RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), who is on an official visit to Nigeria, called on Mohammed Badaru Abubakar, Defence Minister, General Christopher Gwabiri Musa, Chief of Defence Staff, Lieutenant General Olufemi Olatubosun Oluwede, Chief of Army Staff, Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla, Chief of Naval Staff and Air Marshal Hasan Bala Abubakar, Chief of Air Staff of Nigeria.

During the separately-held meetings, both sides engaged in discussions on challenges faced by both

countries especially in the domain of Counter Terrorism (CT) and areas of mutual interest, including security, defence cooperation, and the evolving international / regional landscape, said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here Saturday.

Both sides reaffirmed the resolve to further enhance defence and military collaboration between both militaries.

The Nigerian civil and military leadership lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in fight against terrorism, it further said.

CSS 2024 results to be announced by April end

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: There is good news for students who appeared in the CSS (Central Superior Services 2024 exams as Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) has completed preparations to announce the results in the last week of April.

Normally, the CSS exams are held in February, and the results are announced in October. However,

this year, the results were delayed due to extra workload.

The FPSC had to manage CSS Special exams and their results along with the regular schedule, causing a delay. CSS is a competitive examination conducted annually by FPSC. Successful candidates are appointed as Grade 17 officers in federal government departments and join the Civil Services of Pakistan.

PCCR hosts Provincial Consultative Session on OOSC in Punjab

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights of the National Assembly, under the leadership of its Convenor Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, hosted a Consultative Session on National Education Emergency to address the issue of Out-of-School Children in Punjab. The meeting focused on identifying the reasons behind the OOSC issue in Punjab province and to devise a tailor-made strategy as per the unique ground realities of Punjab.

Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan extended a warm welcome to the participants, including MNAs Syed Ali Qasim Gillani, Dr. Shazia Sobia

Aslam Soomro, Ms. Asia Naz Tanoli along with Convenor of the Provincial Caucus for Child Rights in the Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Ms. Sarah Ahmed, Chief Planning Officer Education Department Multan, Officials of the Education Department Multan, representatives from the Civil Society and Officers of the National Assembly Secretariat.

During her opening remarks, she stressed on alleviation of the OOSC problem in Pakistan by addressing the root causes of OOSC, including financial constraints, accessibility of students, poverty, child labour, migration & displacement, societal norms that discourage girl student enrollment, and early child marriages.