

KP CM launches solarization project for Govt Colleges in KP’



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Inscribed with freedom messages, Digital advertising trucks move around Washington



P-5

S Africa beats Bangladesh by an innings and sweeps test series



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Pakistan, Qatar discuss ways to strengthen bilateral ties

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed hope that his visit to Qatar would further solidify the strong bonds of friendship, mutual respect, and cooperation between Pakistan and Qatar, bringing mutual benefit to both nations.

These views were expressed by him on Thursday during his meeting with his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al-Thani in Doha.

The two leaders discussed avenues to further strengthen bilateral relations, particularly focusing on enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, energy, and cultural exchange, during the meeting.

PM Shehbaz acknowledged Qatar’s contributions to Pakistan’s

economic growth and expressed his gratitude for Qatar’s continued support in various sectors.

He reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to deepening economic ties and emphasized the potential for expanded collaboration.

He also thanked his Qatari counterpart for hosting a large number of Pakistani diaspora who act as a human bridge between the two brotherly countries.

The two leaders discussed global and regional issues, underscoring the need for peaceful solutions and mutual cooperation to address challenges.

Premier Shehbaz Sharif also commended Qatar’s principled stance on the Gaza conflict and its persistent efforts to promote

peace and stability in the region.

He praised Qatar’s humanitarian initiatives and diplomatic engagements aimed at resolving the conflict and easing the suffering of the people of Gaza.

The Prime Minister appreciated Qatar’s role as a facilitator of dialogue and an advocate for a just resolution to regional conflicts, recognizing its efforts as vital to promoting lasting peace in the Middle East.

During the meeting, the Qatari Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan’s strategic importance in the region and expressed his enthusiasm for strengthening ties with Pakistan in line with Qatar’s vision for economic growth and regional stability.

Both leaders agreed on the im-

portance of continuing high-level exchanges to promote understanding, foster cooperation, and identify new areas for growth.

The Prime Minister of Qatar showed his resolve to work with Pakistan for peace in the region including Afghanistan.

Shehbaz Sharif extended an invitation to Qatari investors to explore Pakistan’s diverse economic sectors, including agriculture, Information Technology, and tourism.

He outlined the Pakistani government’s commitment to providing a conducive environment for foreign investors and discussed potential incentives to facilitate their entry into the Pakistani market.



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Amir of Qatar, Shiekh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani and his sister and Chairperson of Qatar Museums, Sheikha Al-Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani visit the gallery of Pakistani artworks titled “Manzar: Art and Architecture of Pakistan from 1940s to Today” in the National Museum of Qatar. APP

Naqvi hosts Sikh pilgrims from USA

ISLAMABAD, Oct 31: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi as a warm and welcome gesture hosted a 44-members delegation of Sikh pilgrims from the United States of America at the State Guest House on Thursday.

Naqvi greeted the delegation, led by prominent Sikh leaders Dr. Dalvir Singh Pannu, Surjeet Singh Hothi, Ranjit Singh Kahlon, and Laxman Singh, with the traditional Punjabi phrase “Ji Aayan Nu,” marking the start of a historic visit.

During the meeting, the minister highlighted Pakistan’s commitment to fostering easier access for Sikh pilgrims, recognizing that they have often faced visa challenges in the past.

Recalling his time as former chief minister of Punjab, he noted efforts to improve the conditions for Sikh visitors, adding, “During my tenure, I worked to address issues faced by the Sikh community.”

Naqvi announced that Pakistan has now introduced an online visa

application system specifically designed to facilitate Sikh travelers.

Holders of American, Canadian, and UK passports can apply online and receive their visas within 30 minutes, a process Naqvi confirmed is also free of charge.

He noted that this facility extends to Sikhs of Indian origin residing in these countries.

Providing a glimpse into Pakistan’s vision for fostering Sikh tourism, Naqvi stated, “Just as Saudi Arabia holds significance for Muslims, Pakistan holds the same for the Sikh community.”

He shared the government’s plans to open additional Sikh heritage sites, including those beyond Hasan Abdal, Kartarpur, Nankana Sahib, and Lahore, removing the need for special permits to visit these sacred places.

Naqvi expressed a vision of expanding Sikh tourism in Pakistan, hoping to raise the current annual visitor numbers from 50,000–100,000 to one million, with par-

ticular emphasis on attracting younger generations. He added that Pakistan now offers visa-free entry for citizens from 124 countries.

Inviting international tourists to experience Pakistani sports as well, Naqvi extended a special invitation to cricket fans. “Come for the Champions Trophy and Pakistan-India matches; we’re keeping a special quota for this purpose,” he said, confirming that the government is making specific arrangements for Indian visitors as well.

The Sikh delegation expressed gratitude to Naqvi for his hospitality and lauded the ease introduced by the free online visa system. “You have won our hearts,” they shared, while also voicing interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan. The event was attended by several prominent figures, including industrialist Kashif Ashfaq and other officials, who contributed to a memorable and culturally rich experience for the Sikh delegation. APP



LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi greeting Sikh Yaatris delegation from USA at State Guest House. APP

PIA privatization: lone bidder offers Rs10bn for stake

KARACHI: Just a single participant attended the final bidding process for the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) opened here on Thursday.

Saad Nazir, chairman of real-estate development company Blue World City confirmed to Reuters that his group placed a bid at a ceremony at a hotel in Islamabad.

Against the Privatisation Commission’s expectation of Rs85.03bn, the real estate group has placed a bid of Rs10 billion. The bid has apparently put the privatization of the national carrier in jeopardy.

The lone bidder has refused to increase the bid, stating that government may continue to run the entity on its own if it did not want to sell it.

As per the procession, the Commission would inform the federal cabinet about details of the bidding. If it is rejected, the bidding process will be initiated anew.

Cash-strapped Pakistan is looking to offload a 51-100% stake in debt-ridden PIA (PIAHa.PSX), opens new tab to raise funds and reform bleeding state-owned enterprises as envisaged under a \$7 billion International Monetary Fund programme.

The government had pre-qualified six groups in June, but only Blue World City met a Tuesday deadline to submit final documents to participate in the process.

Officials from three groups that chose not to bid told Reuters on condition of anonymity that there were concerns about the government’s ability to stand by agreements made for the flag carrier in the long term. NEWS DESK

Talks with TTP not under consideration, AIG must take action against militant groups: FO

ISLAMABAD: Ruling out any suggestion of holding talks with banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Pakistan has urged the Afghan Interim Government for taking action against the militant groups using Afghan soil for terrorist activities in Pakistan.

Speaking during her weekly press briefing on Thursday, the Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that Pakistan has rejected any offer or advice for talks with TTP as the country had done so on several occasions.

She while commenting on a statement by an Afghan diplomat in Islamabad, said that Afghan authorities had the responsibility to act against terror groups, primarily TTP as Pakistan had also provided the pieces of evidence to the Afghan authorities. She explained that this was not merely Pakistan’s demand but also the international community.

The FO spokesperson condemned the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley and Baalbek region resulting in the tragic loss of civilian lives, including women and children, and the displacement of over a million people.

“These airstrikes are a violation of Lebanon’s national sovereignty and territorial integrity; and constitute a serious violation of international humanitarian law and the UN Charter. Pakistan also unequivocally condemns continuing Israeli assault against the people of Northern Gaza and the indiscriminate airstrike on Beit Lahia

ya which has resulted in the tragic loss of over a 100 Palestinian lives, including women and children.”

Mumtaz Zahra viewed that targeting densely populated residential areas without warning, day after day, with absolute impunity, reflected Israeli disdain for international law and human suffering. The siege of Gaza and uninterrupted Israeli attacks are piling on heaps of misery, devastation and death upon the already battered people of Gaza, she added.

Calling Israel’s action of dismantling the operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) unacceptable she said such acts were a manifestation of Israel’s systematic campaign to dehumanize the Palestinian people.

The spokesperson called upon the international community for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Palestine and Lebanon; protection of civilians; and unrestricted humanitarian access, besides ending Israel’s genocidal campaign against the Palestinians in Gaza.

To another query, she said there was no request from the governments of Palestine and Lebanon to provide search and rescue teams’ support. However, Pakistan has been providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza and for Lebanon it was started recently, she said, adding, “We are providing humanitarian assistance as per the requirements of the Red Cross that includes tents, medicines, food items and shelter needs.” APP

The Green Post Magazine

The Public Purview
Islamabad/Karachi/Peshawar

160 Pakistani MPs challenge US Congressmen’s ‘skewed’ view in letter to PM

Parliamentarians term US Congressmen’s letter “external interference in Pakistan’s internal matters”

ISLAMABAD: In a tit-for-tat response, over 100 Pakistani lawmakers have written to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, expressing concerns over a letter from US Congress members to President Joe Biden that called for the release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan.

“We write to express our concerns over the unwarranted and inaccurate commentary on Pakistan’s domestic politics by 62 Members of the US House of Representatives,” the letter states, describing the US lawmakers’ stance as a “skewed view of realities.”

Signed by 160 Pakistani parliamentarians, including top leaders

of major political parties, the letter argues that the US lawmakers’ appeal to President Biden amounts to “external interference” and unfairly amplifies the political narrative of a single party at the expense of Pakistan’s state institutions and other political groups.

The response comes after US lawmakers urged President Biden to use “substantial leverage with Pakistan’s government to secure the release of political prisoners including former prime minister Khan”.

The letter also made an appeal for US embassy officials to visit Khan who is currently behind bars at Adiala Jail and has been impris-

oned at the said facility for more than a year now.

This isn’t the first time legislators in Islamabad and Washington have come face to face as previously US lawmakers, in June, had passed “House Resolution 901” by a massive majority — with 368 members in the House of Representatives voting in its favour — which called for urging an impartial probe into the claims of irregularities during the February 8 general elections in the country.

The resolution was swiftly responded to by Pakistani lawmakers who passed a motion condemning the US resolution

terming it “contrary to facts” and “interference” in its internal affairs.

Following the recent letter by Washington’s legislators — labelled “contrary to inter-state conduct and diplomatic norms” by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch — US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller on Wednesday said that Khan’s imprisonment was to be decided by Pakistani courts.

The Pakistani lawmakers’ response laments US Congressmen’s letter for being “influenced by blatant disinformation peddled by adherents of same political party” and goes on to

examine “political motives behind the campaign to discredit credible political process in Pakistan and undermine its democratic institutions”.

Noting that the country grapples with the challenges of the post-truth era which have been further complicated by politics of cult-followerism and polarisation, the legislators said: “Gross misuse of social media as a tool for Digital Terrorism remains a proclivity to rouse unrest and threaten the state, while the lead role in this negative campaign is being unfortunately undertaken by dissident elements residing in the US and the United Kingdom.” NEWS DESK

Five killed, including child, in multiple accidents

Syed Shahabuddin

SWAT: At least 5 people including a child were killed, while one person was injured during various incidents in Swat district.

According to SHO Khwazakhela Hayat Khan, two motorcycles collided at Babu area of Khwazakhela Tehsil on Shangla road due to high speed. As a result, three people, including Umar Syed, Bashir Ahmad and Najeebullah, were died while a motorcyclist was injured.

The dead bodies and the injured have been shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Khwazakhela.

The slaughtered body of a twenty-six-year-old youth was found on the banks of the Swat River in Fatehpur area of Khwazakhela Tehsil. According to the police, Hazrat Hussain son of Rahm Dil was killed by unknown persons and his body was dumped in the Swat River. The police reached the spot and shifted the body to Khwazakhela Hospital for post-mortem and started the investigation after filing a preliminary report.

A Seven-year-old boy was shot dead while playing with a pistol in the Sinpora area of Matta Tehsil. According to the SHO Matta police station Bakht Zada, Mustafa son of Nasib Gul was playing with his father's loaded pistol in the house when suddenly the shot went off and he died after being hit on the face. The police have registered a case against the child's father for negligence and started an investigation.

Experts sound alarm on rising ‘Dengue Shock Syndrome’ cases, stresses prevention

ISLAMABAD: As the number of Dengue fever cases continues to surge in various cities, child specialists Thursday sounded the alarm on the rising incidence of Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS), a potentially life-threatening complication of the disease and emphasizing the critical importance of early clinical prevention and community involvement.

Talking to a Private news channel child specialist Dr Khalid Iqbal urged the media to join forces in spreading awareness about the gravity of the situation and the simple yet effective measures that can be taken to prevent the spread of Dengue.

By highlighting the importance of maintaining a clean environment, eliminating breeding sites of mosquitoes and adopting preventive measures the media can help stem the tide of the outbreak, he added. He underscores that early clinical prevention is crucial in controlling the rising cases of Dengue Shock Syndrome. This includes prompt diagnosis, timely medical intervention and monitoring of patients.

He stressed the need for parents to remain vigilant, recognizing early warning signs of Dengue and seeking immediate medical attention if symptoms persist or worsen.

By working together, we can mitigate the impact of Dengue and protect our children from the deadly clutches of Dengue Shock Syndrome, he mentioned.

He described the symptoms that Dengue Shock Syndrome is a severe and potentially life-threatening complication of Dengue fever, adding that children are more susceptible to developing DSS due to their smaller body size and developing immune system. The symptoms of DSS in kids may include high temperature, and swelling of the face, arms, legs, and abdomen due to fluid accumulation.

Another specialist Dr Ashraf Memon added that prompt recognition of these symptoms and timely medical intervention are critical in managing DSS. If you suspect your child has Dengue fever or is developing DSS, seek immediate medical attention.

Remember, prevention and early detection are key to protecting children from the devastating consequences of Dengue Shock Syndrome, he concluded. **APP**

Over 3,000 police officers, personnel to perform security duty of Raiwind Ijtija

LAHORE: A comprehensive security plan has been devised by the Lahore Police for the Tablighi Ijtima to be held from Oct 31 to Nov 03 in Raiwind.

CCPO Bilal Siddique Kamyana will supervise over 3,000 police officers and personnel including three superintendents of police, 10 deputy superintendents, 41 station house officers and 262 upper subordinates deployed for the security purposes.

In a statement issued on Thursday, a spokesman of Lahore Police said that the security measures include 27 patrolling teams from the Dolphin Squad and 27 from the Police Response Unit, operating in various shifts throughout the event. To assist the participants, police camps were set up at 15 locations within the gathering area. There will be 6 designated entry points, 14 checkpoints and 40 walk-through gates to ensure safety and security. In addition, 175 CCTV cameras have also been installed around the venue, and a control room has been established at the office of the Assistant Commissioner in Raiwind to monitor security arrangements.

Meanwhile, CCPO Lahore emphasized the importance of thorough participants' checks, instructing volunteers to assist in the process. Every attendee will also undergo biometric verification. He advised supervisory officers to maintain constant communication with event organizers and urged all personnel to remain alert, particularly towards suspicious individuals or activities.

Participants are encouraged to report any unattended bags or suspicious items to the police on duty, he said. A specialized traffic police unit will manage parking and ensure the smooth flow of traffic to and from the gathering. Officers stationed at security points are instructed to interact politely with attendees, who are also urged to cooperate during checks. Furthermore, police teams have been directed to conduct search and combing operations in surrounding areas, utilizing the Safe City Authority's cameras for ongoing monitoring of the event, he concluded. **APP**

‘Market-Oriented’ Education vital to unlock country’s economic potential: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh emphasizing the importance of market oriented education to unlock the country's economic potential has called for a market-driven approach to equip young people with skills that are valued by the global market.

Talking to PTV news channel on Thursday, he stressed the need to equip Pakistan's youth with the skills needed to thrive in these areas, contributing to the country's economic growth and global relevance.

Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh said, "Developing expertise in maritime trade and logistics can unlock global career prospects, providing Pakistan's youth with a competitive edge in the international job market." He further explained that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are strengthening their "brotherly" ties, with a focus on economic cooperation and mutual benefit.

The relationship between the two countries is longstanding and time-tested, with Pakistan expressing its desire to elevate these ties into a long-term strategic and economic partnership, he added.

Qaiser highlighted that Saudi Arabia is seeking skilled labor, IT professionals, and technical advisers from Pakistan and we are committed to meeting these demands. This collaboration will not only benefit the two nations but also contribute to building a prosperous and peaceful future for the region and the Islamic world, he added. **APP**



LAHORE: A Women browses and selects handcrafted decorative items especially truck art at a handicrafts shop near Delhi Gate. APP

Ali Amin Gandapur launches solarization project for Government Colleges in KP

Junaïd Toru

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, inaugurated the solarization project for government colleges in the province. Initially under this project, installation of a 10 KVA solar system has been initiated in 80 government colleges, with already completed in 10 of them.

The Chief Minister formally launched this important project in a ceremony held here at Government College Peshawar on Thursday. Provincial cabinet members, members of the provincial and national assemblies, relevant government officials, college faculty members, and a large number of students attended the ceremony.

The project includes the installation of a 10 KVA solar system in each college, with a total cost of Rs 2.41 million per college. The solar system is expected to reduce electricity consumption by 1,100 to 1,200 units per month per college, saving around Rs 55,000 in monthly electricity bill for each college. The installation costs of the solar systems is also expected to be recouped within approximately three years. Similarly, each solar installation is expected to reduce the national grid load by 120 KW of electricity per month per college. If the system is installed in 290 colleges in the province, the national grid would save a total of up to 34.8 MW of electricity per month.



On this occasion, the Chief Minister also distributed awards among students who achieved top positions in the MDCAT and board exams.

Addressing the ceremony, the Chief Minister said that students are the future of the nation, and it is this young generation who will eventually lead the country in the near future. This is why, he said that the provincial government is taking every possible step to provide students with an ideal learning environment. The solarization project for colleges is also a part of these efforts, aimed at to ensure that students do not face issues like power outages during peak study hours in colleges.

He urged students to work hard and cultivate qualities that would help elevate the nation. "We aim to create a system where no one is left behind and everyone is provided with equal opportunities," he said. He further stated, "we can become great nation only when we think big". He encouraged students to move forward with sincerity and hard work, and do not

let failure to deter them. "If you encounter failure at any point in your career, it doesn't mean you should give up; instead, continue with even more dedication and perseverance," he added.

Ali Amin Khan Gandapur reiterated that, despite limited resources, his government would continue efforts for the welfare of students, adding that we are increasing the number of scholarships to provide more students with opportunities for quality education and research.

The Chief Minister maintained that Pakistan is our country, and it is our responsibility to set it on the path to progress and development. Referring to the words of the founding chairman, Imran Khan, he said, "Break the idols of 'ego' and 'fear' within you." He emphasized that God will bless us with His bounties when we trust in Him and dedicate ourselves to serving others.

The Chief Minister concluded by underlining the importance of true freedom, adding that when people demand their rights, they are often imprisoned and face injustice. "We want to establish a system where no one has the power to violate the constitution or commit injustice or oppression against anyone," he added.

1st working group meeting for project watchmaker in Pakistan, organized by INTERPOL

Ch Amjad Ali

ISLAMABAD: According to the details the meeting took place from October 29-31, 2024. This meeting brought together officers from Pakistan's provincial police forces, Counter-Terrorism Departments (CTD), the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), and the National Forensic Agency. The meeting was aimed to strengthen national coordination against the rising threat of chemical and explosive attacks.

The event commenced with welcoming remarks from Mr. Alan Grimmer, Unit Coordinator of INTERPOL's CBRNE/CMX. He emphasized the importance



of international collaboration in combating growing threats.

The meeting focused on strengthening the knowledge and application of INTERPOL's specialized databases, data manage-

ment, and search tools tailored for chemical and explosive cases, as well as INTERPOL's data exchange systems for bomb-makers chemicals, and explosives.

Key speakers included Mr. Alan

Grimmer, Lasha Giorgidze, Specialized Officer at INTERPOL, and Scott Watson, Criminal Intelligence Analyst at INTERPOL.

Director General FIA, Ahmad Ishaque Jehangir, also addressed the participants and outlined the critical role of collaboration and technology in countering non-state actors who exploit chemical and explosive vulnerabilities to create widespread harm. He stressed that terrorist groups and extremist actors are continuously advancing their methods to manufacture and deploy dangerous weapons, which makes the INTERPOL-led Project Watchmaker an essential tool in thwarting these threats.

30 brands of drinking bottle water declared unsafe

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has declared 30 brands of drinking bottled water as unsafe for human consumption due to microbiological or chemical contamination.

As many as 205 samples of mineral/bottled water brands were collected from 21 cities for the 3rd quarter of the year 2024 (July to September). Comparison of test results with the bottled water quality standards of Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA).

Some 12 brands including Natural Pure Life, Bro H2O, Puri-

fa Spring Water, Aqua Health, Meher Natural, Mountain Pure, Neo, Smart Pure, Fijji, More Plus, Qudrat, and Natural were found to be unsafe due to the presence of higher levels of sodium, two brands (Black Seed Water, Natural) were found unsafe due to presence of high level of Turbidity than the permissible limit, said a press release issued here Thursday.

Similarly, one brand (Black Seed Water) was found to be unsafe due to the presence of a lower level of pH. 19 brands (D Nova Pure Drinking Water, Afra, Aqua Slim, Rupal, Essantia, Jel Bottled Water, Water Plus, A2Z, Heavens Spring,

Dr. Sahil Healthy & Pure Premium Drinking Water, Mountain Pure, Neo, Black Seed Water, Best Natural, Deer, Lincoln, Clear, Gull, Aqua Hygienic) were found contaminated with bacteria and thus were unsafe for drinking purpose, it further said.

The general public is encouraged to look at the detailed report to know about the status of the water quality of bottled water brands they consume.

The government has directed PCRWR for quarterly monitoring of bottled/mineral water brands and publicize the results for awareness of public health. **APP**

HEC, University of Utah sign MoU

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the University of Utah signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) here on Thursday to promote capacity-building initiatives in public sector universities across Pakistan.

Supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA), the initiative aims to enhance faculty development, strategic planning, policy reforms and institutional governance. **APP**

Japanese Envoy bid farewell to Pakistani dignitaries, friends

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, WADA Mitsuhiro Thursday hosted a reception at his Official residence in Islamabad to bid farewell to Pakistani dignitaries and friends.

Ambassador WADA is going to leave Pakistan on 19th November and will take up his new assignment as Ambassador of Japan to Croatia. He assumed his office in October 2021, since when he has served as the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan for more than three years.

Looking back at his tenure, Ambassador WADA said, 'Pakistan is a

country that is very friendly to Japan. But I've tried not to take this for granted and have made various efforts in economic cooperation, cultural exchange and personal interaction to further deepen the historical ties between our two countries.'

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Japan's official development assistance (ODA) to Pakistan.

Ambassador WADA reiterated the importance of human aspects in Japan's ODA, saying, 'we always seek to work together with the local people and eventually encour-

age them to stand on their own. Rather than just providing money or goods, JICA tries to run alongside the Pakistanis and help them become the driving force of development. The key is the people, and Pakistan is blessed with such talents.'

He also mentioned the significance of cultural and people-to-people exchange and hoped that cultural organizations such as Pakistan Japan Cultural Association (PJCA), Lahore Arts Foundation Trust, Lahore Sogetsu Study Group and Lahore Bonsai Society, as well as those who had stud-

ied in Japan including the MEXT Scholarship alumni, will continue bridging the gap between Pakistan and Japan, he added.

Ambassador WADA further stressed that he had met a lot of wonderful people who worked passionately to strengthen Japan-Pakistan relations. He said, 'I am now convinced that without the support of these great people, the friendship between Japan and Pakistan would have been impossible. I am deeply grateful to all of you.'

Referring to the difficult political, economic and security situ-

ations in Pakistan today, Ambassador WADA firmly said, 'I know very well how patient and resilient the Pakistani people are and how big the potential of this country is.'

Once the elite – politicians, the judiciary, the establishment and others – and the common people come together on the same cause and work hard to solve the problems, I do not doubt that Pakistan will overcome these difficulties and firmly develop in the long term.'

He reiterated Japan's commitment to support such efforts of Pakistan in the coming years and de-

cades.

Ambassador AKAMATSU Shuichi, former Consul-General of Japan in Shanghai, will arrive in Pakistan in late November to succeed Ambassador WADA.

In addition, Minister TAKANO Shuichi, now Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan in Brazil, will also succeed Minister ITO Takeshi in late November.

Ambassador WADA hoped that his friends in Pakistan would extend their generous support to Ambassador and Mrs. AKAMATSU, Minister and Mrs. TAKANO as they have done for themselves. **APP**



PESHAWAR: A vendor displaying beautiful decoration pieces on his handcart to attract customers near Mohallah Jhangi. APP

Kazak ambassador praised Pakistan's successful hosting SCO Summit

Ch Amjad Ali

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, welcomed the Ambassador of Kazakhstan.

H.E Ambassador Kistafin praised Pakistan's successful hosting of the SCO summit, highlighting Kazakhstan's Prime Minister's visit as a remarkable occasion where he appreciated Islamabad's hospitality and beauty. He expressed Kazakhstan's commitment to deepening relations from cultural exchanges to economic and business ties.

In order to further deepen the ties, the ambassador shared the proposal of the sister-city status between Islamabad and Astana and also suggested renaming one of Islamabad's streets to honor the prominent figure from Kazakhstan.

Chairman Randhawa shared CDA's efforts regarding beauti-



fication and infrastructure development. He emphasized the need for exploring the areas of mutual interest and cooperation. He assured his full support for the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to formalize the sister-city relationship between Islamabad and Astana. He highlighted the importance of business

cooperation and cultural ties. He expressed CDA's readiness to explore partnerships on the city development projects, including a state-of-the-art slaughterhouse and other key projects.

Both sides expressed their resolve for promoting close ties and cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

Collective solution sought as Islamabad's as daily waste surpasses 600 tons

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was organized by the Institute of Urbanism (IoU) here on Thursday to tackle the city's 600-ton daily waste issue, bringing together community leaders and policymakers to promote sustainable, community-led waste management solutions.

Co-hosted by Heinrich Böll Stiftung (hbs), a town hall meeting titled "Empowered Communities: A Town Hall on Waste Management Responsibilities," brought together community representatives, policymakers, and CDA Sanitation Directorate staff to explore sustainable solutions for Islamabad's growing waste issues, especially in Farash Town and I-10.

Islamabad generates about 600 tons of waste daily, with approximately 60% either openly burned or dumped in unmanaged sites. This poses significant risks to both environmental and public health. Only 15% of the waste is recycled, underscoring the urgent need for enhanced resource recovery and sustainability measures. Dr. Ejaz Ahmad, Senior Program Fellow at IoU, outlined the national crisis, stating, "Around 48.5 million tons of solid waste is generated annually, with an annual growth rate of 2.4%.

Major cities contribute significantly, yet only 60-70% of urban waste is collected. The lack of sanitary landfill sites, inconsistent data, and absence of formal source segregation are major challenges." He emphasized the health impact, noting that waste contributes around 3% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and leads to approximately 5 million cases of waste-related illnesses and deaths each year.

Through initiatives like Community Councils in Farash Town and I-10, IoU has empowered residents to take an active role in managing waste. These councils aim to foster local leadership and community-driven solutions, encouraging shared responsibility and sustainable practices.

Sardar Khan Zimiri, from CDA, officer underscored the importance of collective action: "Effective waste management is not solely the responsibility of government institutions; it requires commitment from all of us. **APP**

Simulation session on climate change held at Governor's House

Junaid Toru

PESHAWAR: A simulation session on climate change, organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, was held at the Governor's House in Peshawar.

The event was attended by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam, Chairperson of the Human Rights Standing Committee Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, and Executive Director of Pak Mission Society Adedl Anwar, along with students from various schools.

During the COP session, students were educated about climate change, encouraged to share their suggestions, and actively participate in discussions on the topic.

The seminar emphasized the urgent need for reforms to secure a brighter future for the younger generation, while raising awareness about the impacts of climate change on their lives.

Romina Khurshid Alam said that youth are the future of the country. She stressed upon youth to get awareness about climate change.

She appreciated Governor Kundi for his efforts regarding climate change and environment.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi praised the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment for or-

ganizing the session at the Governor's House, calling it an excellent initiative.

He invited other ministries to hold seminars and conferences on public interest issues at the Governor's House.

"Climate change is affecting the global environment," Kundi stated. "The youth are our asset and the future of the country. We must all work together to protect the country from the impacts of climate change."

As a token of appreciation, the participating school children presented the Governor with a signed souvenir showcasing their constructive contributions related to climate change.

Later Crescent Art Gallery exhibition was held which was also attended by the mentioned leaders.

Speaking at this event Romina Khurshid Alam appreciated Governor Kundi for taking measures to present the soft image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi remarked that Governor House is open for all kinds of people. He said that holding of such events will promote the skills of our country.

Governor Kundi said that we are ready to provide good opportunities to our skillful people to highlight the name of our country.

He said that KP is full of technical and skillful people but unfortunately they were ignored



DC Mardan, WSSCM CEO discuss cleanliness drive and water supply improvements

Junaid Toru

MARDAN: Chief Executive Officer of Water And Sanitation Services Company Mardan Shahid Khan called on the newly appointed Deputy Commissioner Mardan Dr. Azmatullah Wazir in DC office here today.

They held a discussion on cleanliness and supply of clean water to the dwellers of Mardan city. On this occasion, the Chief Executive Officer of WSSCM congratulated Dr. Azmatullah Wazir on assuming the charge of the post of Deputy Commissioner.

Deputy Commissioner Mardan Dr. Azmatullah Wazir said on this occasion that a special campaign regarding cleanliness will be launched in the urban areas of Mardan to ensure the provision of clean environment to the citizens.

He said that the district administration along with WSSCM will make Mardan a city worthy of imitation for others in terms of cleanliness and beauty. He assured that the district administration will fully cooperate with the company to end the encroachment on the drains.

Two brothers die in road mishap

PESHAWAR: Two brothers died while another was seriously injured in a critical road accident here, police said on Thursday.

According to details, an over speeding tractor trolley knocked down a motorcycle carrying three brothers in Shah Swar Chowk of Khesghi Payan area of the Nowshera district.

The accident resulted in death of two teenage brothers including 16-year-old Muhammad Zohaib, and 13-year-old Muhammad Talha on the spot and leaving third brother Muhammad Owais seriously injured. The Rescue 1122 teams moved the bodies and injured to Nowshera Hospital for medico-legal formalities. **APP**

PMYP, Bosnia for exploring new avenues of collaboration in youth programmes

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has emphasized the importance of international partnerships in tackling youth challenges and promoting sustainable development.

Speaking during a meeting with the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Pakistan Emin Cohodarevic at his office on Thursday, he welcomed the ambassador's enthusiasm and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to sharing knowledge and experiences in youth development.

The Ambassador Cohodarevic expressed his heartfelt gratitude for Pakistan's continued support over the years, emphasizing the importance of fostering strong ties between the two nations.

He commended the initiatives implemented under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, which have significantly contributed to the development and empowerment of young people in Pakistan.

Ambassador Cohodarevic high-



lighted the positive impact of these initiatives and expressed a keen interest in replicating this successful model in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He noted that collaboration in youth programs could enhance skills, provide opportunities, and strengthen the bonds between the youth of both nations.

Rana Mashhood Khan was of the opinion that the meeting marks a significant step towards establishing a collaborative framework for

youth initiatives that can benefit both Pakistan and Bosnia.

"Together, we can create meaningful opportunities for our young people and pave the way for a brighter future," he added.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to explore concrete avenues for collaboration in youth programs, ensuring that the youth's voices and aspirations are at the forefront of this partnership. **APP**

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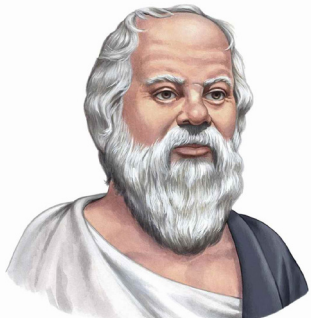
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Smart people learn from
everything and everyone,
average people from their
experiences, and stupid
people already have all
the answers.

—Socrates

Smog curbing politics

That is the old desire of PMLN, leader ship to unite both Indian and Pakistani Punjab for the socioeconomic betterment of masses which includes free trade and communications amongst the two nations. Especially ex-prime minister Main Nawaz sharif had taken practical steps in his early governments to melt the ice between the two countries. Although he was criticized by the opposition parties but the economists of both side had appreciate him as well, for the better future of the subcontinent.

Now his daughter Maryam Nawaz, the chief minister of Punjab is hope full that both sides can use that diplomacy for curbing the deadly smog on either sides. Yesterday she discussed her desire on social media platform X, actually she wants joint strategy with India to curb increasing smog in both Punjabs.

As people across the entire Punjab struggling to breathe amid worsening smog issues, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has reiterated the call for “climate diplomacy” with neighboring India to address the worsening phenomena affecting residents on both sides of the border.

Terming the issue a humanitarian crisis which requires joint action while speaking at an event in Lahore, the provincial chief executive said that she may write to her Indian counterpart, reiterating her commitment to “smog diplomacy”.

With the air quality deteriorating in the city, citizens continued to complain about burning eyes, irritation in the throat, cough, and other health-related issues.

If sideline the regional and internal politics of the both side actually it is very noble step because it’s harming thousands and millions of people of both nations. The top provincial official made similar remarks earlier this month, as Pakistan and its arch-rival India continue to grapple with dangerously high pollution levels from seasonal smog.

Smog, she further said, is a humanitarian issue, not a political one and called for collaborative efforts to tackle it effectively. “If both Punjabs do not join hands then we cannot battle smog.”

Relations between India and Pakistan have gone through periods of thaw but have been largely frozen since they downgraded diplomatic ties in tit-for-tat moves in 2019.

When cooler temperatures take hold, pollution spirals. Lahore and Delhi are among the most polluted cities in the world, according to media reports. Air quality deteriorates in cooler months, as temperature inversion traps pollution closer to the ground, packing hospital wards with patients with respiratory problems.

Rising air pollution can cut life expectancy by more than five years per person in South Asia, one of the world’s most polluted regions, according to a report published last year which flagged the growing burden of hazardous air on health.

Earlier this morning, Lahore held the first position, while it is currently ranked second with very unhealthy air quality after Delhi which holds a spot in the hazardous category.

However, despite their strained ties, the ice broke between the nations with Indian Foreign Minister Dr’s Jaishankar came to Pakistan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit earlier this month, as per an Indian journalist.

According to science direct web, Lahore, Faisalabad and Gujranwala, the most populous and polluted cities of Punjab, these are facing the worsening issue of smog which returns every winter with a greater intensity. Major contributing factors are immense traffic pollution, crop burning and industrialization. These have led to major health issues including lungs, eyes, and skin, heart problems while the Indian side is also facing such problems. Therefore according to the desire of the Maryam Nawaz if the leadership of both sides should agree on the mutual struggle against that harmful smog then it’s possible to beat that deadly air pollution, thus hoped that both governments would be agree on combine struggle.

Rizwan Ghani

As chief justice of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa has saved democracy in his landmark Party Symbol judgment ruling that there should be democracy in both country and political parties. The judgment thwarted populist sleaze strategy of replacing democracy with dictatorship in the country with one party rule for next hundred years after usurping democratic rights of party workers including women empowerment. The judgment protects democracy against “dictatorship on the national and local level”.

Under the Constitution, Pakistan has parliamentary democracy and the judiciary is under oath for staying independent to preserve balance of power by upholding democratic system of check and balance in legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government through various mechanisms including judicial review and legislative oversight so that no single branch becomes too powerful. It is the job of justices to preserve the balance or resign if they hold democracy hostage.

Justice Isa was vindicated when the Supreme Court ruled presidential reference against him as tainted with mala fide in law. He is the target of the January 6 like coup, which Pakistan needs to defeat. Western democracies are facing slow insurrection or coup with help of populist sleaze strategy in

which wannabe dictators are using 3C plan to target chiefs of judiciary, military and country to replace democracy with dictatorship with loyalty to self instead of constitution with a blueprint of Project 2025.

History is clear on Justice Mansoor’s reference to Sir Thomas More in The Treason of Sir Thomas More (National Archives Blog, UK Government 7 Mar 2023). Moor refused to accept parliament’s legislation thwarting separation of state and church that would have cost the UK its modern democracy. It explains why the church canonized more in 1935 and Pope John Paul II recognized him as the patron saint of statesmen and politicians in 2000 and the state hung him.

Like King’s Men in Pakistan, More’s fate was self-inflicted also. After failing to secure papal approval to annul Henry’s marriage to Katherine, the Parliament passed two Acts: The 1534 Act of Supremacy that declared Henry and his lawful heirs as the head of the Church in England and 1352 Treason Act. More was asked four times to swear the oath to King but each time he refused. Despite writing ‘Utopia’, more had to resign for abusing his powers by punishing heretics for their religious beliefs.

On the international front, Pakistan Foreign office has rejected US Congressmen’s letter seeking Biden’s intervention for release of May 9 beneficiary. State de-

partment has left the matter as an internal affair. Biden has already rejected pleas to pardon Trump for Jan 6. Under what is good for the goose is good for the gander, the West must stand with democracy not wannabe dictators of May 9 and Jan 6 attacking democracy and its democratic institutions.

Under Biden’s plan, Harris is fighting the 2024 Election to save America’s democracy. Harris 24 October tweets show Trump is seeking unchecked power with military loyal to him not [our] Constitution. Trump’s next coup has already begun (The Atlantic). King’s Men are saving Trump after Jan 6 (MSNBC). There was firing outside Justice Sotomayor’s house following her dissenting note of president ‘King above the law’. That is against our Constitution and system of government (the Guardian).

Imran’s State of Madinah exposes wannabe dictator running with democracy and hunting with right wing religious parties just like Trump and his Christian Nationalists in America. Trump is contesting elections with promise of dictatorship at the cost of democracy with King’s Men (‘All the king’s men’: SC ‘openly colluding’ with Trump on immunity, MSNBC). In fact, both are using religion to return to power with dismal records (Pakistan’s Transparency ranking worse off under PTI, Dawn).

Democracy is facing political coups globally. May 9 is copycat

of Jan 6 in America, Jan 8 in Brazil and September 10 in the UK. The Supreme Court ruled that Johnson’s suspension of UK parliament was unlawful but gave clean chit to the PM at the cost of democracy (the Guardian, 24 Sept 2019). The PTI government also scrapped Local Governments in Pakistan. Only, Brazil’s Supreme Court banned Bolsonaro for Jan 8 attacks (BBC, 30 Jun 2023).

To save democracy, the judiciary has to become independent. To cut outside influence, America is proceeding with the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act of 2023 requiring the Supreme Court to self adopt a code of conduct for justices including the circumstances under which a Justice or judge must be disqualified (S.359 5 Sept 2023). Senator Whitehouse said that Supreme Court Justices and their decisions should not be influenced by billionaires and political insiders.

Justice Isa Party Symbol ruling can go a long way in holding elections in political parties, ending dynastic politics and stopping abuse of party workers by empowering them to become Fatima Jinnah, Bhutto and Benazir than discarded after alleged sexual abuse. He also ensured general elections were held on 8 Feb 2024 (God willing, elections will be held on Feb 8’, CJP, Dawn). Ex-CJP Isa becomes first Pakistani to become bencher at UK’s Middle Temple.

Women’s Representation in Pakistan’s High Courts and Supreme Court: Current Trends and Challenges

Farhan Khalid

Access to justice is fundamental in a democratic society, yet Pakistan faces major challenges in ensuring gender equality within its judiciary. The 2024 Global Gender Gap Report ranks Pakistan 145th out of 146 countries, reflecting deep-rooted societal norms that limit women’s advancement in key legal positions. This analysis explores the historical development of women in Pakistan’s judiciary, current representation trends, areas of progress, and ongoing barriers to equality.

Historically, Pakistan’s judiciary has been male-dominated since the country’s founding in 1947. A significant turning point came in 1994 with the appointment of Justice Majida Rizvi as the first female judge in the Sindh High Court, marking the beginning of a gradual increase in women’s representation in the legal field. Yet, major milestones were sparse until 2018 when Justice Tahira Safdar became the first female Chief Justice of any High Court.

The appointment of Justice Ayesha Malik to the Supreme Court in 2022 marked a landmark achievement, celebrated as the “Day of Women’s Representation in the Supreme Court of

Pakistan.” Despite this progress, women’s representation in Pakistan’s superior courts remains minimal.

Female judges constitute just 5.5% of superior court judges, with only two women serving on the Supreme Court out of fourteen judges. In the Lahore and Islamabad High Courts, there is only one female judge each out of 40 and 8 judges, respectively.

The Sindh High Court fares slightly better with three female judges out of 30. However, both the Peshawar and Balochistan High Courts currently lack any female judges, underscoring a trend of exclusion that challenges the ideals of gender equality and justice.

These low representation numbers reflect broader systemic barriers. A report titled The State of Women’s Representation in Law 2020-21 found that while women hold 18% of judicial roles across Pakistan’s courts, this figure is primarily due to the relatively higher representation of female judges in lower courts.

Between 2020 and 2023, there was a notable increase of 11.5% in female judges within subordinate courts, yet the number of women in superior courts grew minimally, from eleven to twelve during this time. This stagnation is largely due to the nomination-based

appointment process in superior courts, which contrasts with the competitive examination system in lower courts and often disadvantages female candidates.

Comparing Pakistan’s judicial gender diversity with neighboring India highlights this disparity further. India appointed its first female Supreme Court justice in 1989 and has since made modest progress in increasing women’s representation.

Although challenges remain in India, its judiciary is relatively more gender-diverse than Pakistan’s. Women’s underrepresentation in Pakistan’s judiciary mirrors trends in other societal sectors, such as politics and academia.

Women account for approximately 21% of seats in Pakistan’s National Assembly, and the 2024 elections saw the election of the country’s first female Chief Minister. In academia, women make up around 40% of university faculty, with an even greater presence in primary, middle, and secondary education. These gains in politics and academia underscore the potential for similar progress in the judiciary, where women’s perspectives could enrich the justice system.

Increased female representation in the judiciary would have far-reaching effects beyond num-

bers. Women judges bring unique experiences and insights to their work, allowing for a more nuanced approach to cases, especially those involving gender-based issues.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) advocates for a gender-inclusive judicial approach, arguing that it not only makes women more visible in legal proceedings but also enhances the judiciary’s capacity to deliver equitable, empathetic decisions that align with the experiences of marginalized communities.

Achieving meaningful change requires strategic, long-term reforms to promote women’s advancement to senior judicial positions. Reforms could include mentorship programs, targeted recruitment, and adjustments to the nomination process in superior courts.

While dismantling entrenched patriarchal structures will take time, a commitment to these reforms would ensure that Pakistan’s High Courts and Supreme Court reflect the diversity of the population they serve, creating a more just and representative judiciary.

—The Author is an experienced development professional with a strong interest in gender issues and the justice system

GB Forests – Preserving an asset

At a time when Pakistan is under severe climate change threats, fresh afforestation and protecting existing forest covered area has become a challenge for the federal and provincial governments.

With forests in many areas under extreme pressure due to mounting power prices and activities of timber mafia, the responsibility on the government departments to preserve our precious forests has increased manifold.

Gilgit-Baltistan, a region of breathtaking beauty, is home to some of the most valuable forests being a treasure trove of biodiversity and source of livelihood for local communities. However, these precious resources are also under threats like deforestation, illegal logging and climate change.

Although the government has initiated numerous measures to protect these forests yet it needs to implement a strict mechanism of penalties and educate local communities to preserve these forests and valuable habitat in the region.

According to Forest and Wildlife Department, Gilgit-Baltistan region has total 249,205 hectare forest covered area with Diamer having the highest forest cover (71%) followed by Astore (12%) and Gilgit (10%). These three districts together contain 93% of the total forest area of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Therefore, the Gilgit-Baltistan government headed by Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan is making every possible effort to protect these forests. It has established Forest, Wildlife and Environment Department, to manage region’s forestry, wildlife and other resources through sustainable and integrated natural resource management.

The department is also a center for biodiversity and eco-tourism while Conservation Committees have been constituted to effectively protect wildlife and forests besides necessary legislation to educate local people about forest conservation.

Secretary Forests, Parks and

Wildlife, Zafar Waqar Taj has also mentioned to different measures for forests conservation especially to raising a regular force. “The region lacked a dedicated force to protect forests and wildlife. But, now we have started training cadets for this purpose.”

He informed that a batch of 50 graduate cadets of GB’s new Forest and Wildlife Force has recently passed out at Police Training College in Gilgit. “This marks a crucial step towards bolstering region’s forest and wildlife protection capabilities.”

According to Zafar Taj, the region lacked a dedicated force to protect forests and wildlife. “But, now we have initiated a program where the department aims to train 200 cadets annually to finally build a force of over 800 trained members within next four years.”

Besides other efforts and seasonal plantation, a special initiative was also launched under the banner of Ten Billion Tree Tsuna-

mi Program in 2019 to plant 170 million plants across Gilgit-Baltistan. Total PSDP allocations for forest component under this program was Rs 6,920 million with Rs 650 million for protected areas initiative and Rs. 359 million for wildlife protection.

Although the government claims to achieve the target of planting 10.765 million plants under this program, many local people are skeptical about the post plantation protection of these trees.

“Scores of plants planted under this initiative either uprooted or dried due to lack of proper care,” said Abdul Rehman, a Gilgit city resident. “There was perhaps lack of sustainable planting practices, proper maintenance and care for plants to ensure their survival and growth.”

He said program’s success depends on long-term viability of plants and address the issues faced by this sector to achieve the desired results. As the forests are

fragmented and scattered, their management and conservation always remains a challenge. Then, the illegal logging and deforestation also continue to pose significant threats to the region’s forests, with thousands of hectare forest cover area already lost during last 20 years.

“We have seen a significant decline in forest cover in recent years,” says Muhammad Iqbal, a local environmentalist. “If we don’t take action now, we risk to losing our forests forever.”

He appreciated national parks and wildlife sanctuaries established by the government including Deosai National Park, Central Karakoram National Park, Khunjerab National Park, Shandur National Park and several others, as a step in right direction. But, he emphasized more efforts to protect our forests and wildlife.

Forests, wildlife and ecosystems of Gilgit-Baltistan are a source of livelihood for local communities

in terms of tourism related seasonal earning and a treasure trove of biodiversity needed to be protected for future generations.

“We need to find a balance between conservation and livelihood,” says Ghulam Rasool, a local forest dweller. “By working together, we can safeguard the region’s ecological and economic sustainability and preserve natural beauty of our incredible region.”

Just to conclude, protection our forest covered area as a whole and Gilgit-Baltistan in particular is a daunting task in wake of rising population, increasing energy prices, threats of illegal logging, post plantation poor management and unsatisfactory survival rate of plants.

In view of failure in getting desired results despite repeated efforts by respective governments, there is dire need for re-visiting our policies and strategies to preserve our forests as their loss would be a national tragedy, bringing about more disasters and losses to our people and economy.

Inscribed with freedom messages, Digital advertising trucks move around Washington



WASHINGTON: Inscribed with the freedom messages demanding India to end to the illegal Indian occupation, the digital advertising moved around the Capital city of the United Kingdom as Kashmiris and their supporters staged protests marking Kashmir Black Day.

Mounted on the trucks, the electronic screens carried messages such as: "No Election, No Selection: UN Resolutions Only Solution" and "India: Stop Land Grabbing in Kashmir."

Rented by Washington-based, 'World Kashmir Awareness Forum,' a Washington-based advocacy group, the vehicles drove around some of the landmarks in Washington, DC, including Capitol Hill, the White House, State Department, the Washington Monument, embassies, various museums, and National Mall, among others.

Other messages beamed from the trucks were: "Stop: India's Demographic Change in Kashmir," "Indian Army Out of Kashmir,"

"Hold India Accountable for War Crimes in Kashmir," "Elections in Kashmir Just a Name: Indian Government Has No Shame."

Dr. Ghulam N. Mir, President of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum and Chairman of the Kashmir Diaspora Coalition, said that the sufferings inflicted by the Indian settler-colonialism on Kashmiris go hand-in-hand with the terror being perpetrated by Israel on the innocent men, women, and children in occupied Palestine.

"The only solution to the mass suffering, dehumanization, and dispossession is our dogged political resistance to the occupation and settler-colonization, just like it is for the people of Palestine," Dr. Mir said, adding that the Indians and Israelis were collaborators in annexing, occupying and settler-colonial projects.

"Palestinians and Kashmiris must resist to survive for their own sake and their posterity," he said.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman

of the World Forum for Peace & Justice said the people of Jammu & Kashmir were dismayed by the lack of action by the world powers to help stop the carnage in Kashmir and by their virtual indifference to the situation in their occupied land.

"The disparity between their inaction and their repeated assertion that the protection of human rights and encouragement for democratic solutions are their major foreign policy goals is hard for them to understand", he said. "Nevertheless, the people of Kashmir still have confidence that the world powers will realize that what is at stake in the dispute is not only the survival of the people of Kashmir but peace in the populous region of South Asia and the world."

Dr. Fai added, "We fail to understand who prevents the world leaders, including President Joe Biden of the United States, from using their moral authority to persuade the violators of the in-

ternational laws to abide by the democratic values and universal principles?"

Dr. Imtiaz Khan, the Kashmir-American scholar, warned that the international community's silence over this long-standing issue was heartbreaking. "It appears that India is being given a free hand to inflict atrocities on the people of Kashmir," he said.

Dr. Khan added that land grab push by occupation forces is continuing at breakneck speed and thousands of acres of land has been taken over by the occupation forces. Kashmiri people were being devoid of their property and armed Hindu militants are being settled on these properties.

In an appeal to international community, Dr. Khan said that the time for issuing empty statements has passed as India has refused to budge from her immoral stand. "It is high time India is made to understand the consequences of renegeing on her promise in terms of sanctions and censure by the world community."

Advisor to President Azad Kashmir, Sardar Zarif Khan said that the Indian-occupied Kashmir has been converted into a concentration camp. Any voice of dissent is met by long-term imprisonment or even death. Otherwise, what is the crime of Khurram Parvez, except that he documented atrocities committed by Indian army? And what is the crime of Yasin Malik, except that he does not want to compromise on Aazadi?

Sardar Shoaib Irshad, General Secretary, of the Kashmir American Welfare Association (KAWA), and Sardar Aftab Roshan Khan, leader of Washington metropolitan Kashmiri American community, were among those who spoke on the occasion. **APP**



Super Typhoon Kong-rey forces Taiwan to shut offices, schools

KEELUNG, Taiwan: The Super Typhoon Kong-rey has resulted in Taiwan closure, forcing thousands to flee from one of the most powerful storms to threaten the island in years.

Up to 10-metre waves pounded shores along the lightly populated, mountainous east coast where the fast-moving Kong-rey was expected to make landfall.

Kong-rey was packing wind gusts of nearly 250 kilometres per hour (155 miles per hour), according to the US Joint Typhoon Warning Center.

The storm is currently more powerful than Typhoon Gaemi, which was the strongest typhoon to hit Taiwan in eight years when it made landfall in July.

"With the typhoon approaching, we should beware of the strong winds near the centre," Chu Meilin from the state weather forecaster, Central Weather Administration, told a briefing.

"Its impact on the entire Taiwan will be quite severe."

Work and schools across Taiwan were suspended on Thursday as people hunkered down for the storm.

The streets of Taipei were largely deserted as bursts of heavy rain and fierce wind lashed the capital.

"This typhoon feels very strong," 52-year-old office worker Kevin Lin told AFP as he enjoyed a day off at home. "I'm used to the many typhoons in Taiwan and I don't feel scared." **APP**

Philippines all set for new legislation to tackle plastic scourge



MANILA: Philippines, long one of the world's top sources of ocean plastic is all set for new legislations requiring big companies to pay for waste solutions will help clean up its act.

First in Southeast Asia to impose penalties on companies over plastic waste, Philippines "Extended Producer Responsibility" statute came into force last year.

The experiment has shown both the promise and the pitfalls of the tool, which could be among the measures in a treaty to tackle plastic pollution that countries hope to agree this year.

The Philippines, with a population of 120 million, generates some 1.7 million metric tons of post-consumer plastic waste a year, according to the World Bank. Of that, a third goes to landfills and dumpsites, with 35 percent discarded on open land.

The EPR law is intended to achieve "plastic neutrality" by forcing large businesses to reduce plastic pollution through product design and removing waste from the environment.

They are obliged to cover an initial 20 percent of their plastic packaging footprint, calculated based on the weight of plastic packaging they put into the market.

The obligation will rise to a ceiling of 80 percent by 2028.

The law covers a broad range of plastics, including flexible types that are commercially unviable for recycling and thus often go uncollected.

It does not however ban any plastics, including the popular but difficult to recover and recycle single-use sachets common in the Philippines.

So far, around half the eligible companies under the law have launched EPR programmes.

Over a thousand more must do so by end-December or face fines of up to 20 million pesos (\$343,000) and even revocation of their operating licences. The law removed 486,000 tonnes of plastic waste from the environment last year, informed Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones.

That topped the 2023 target and is "part of a broader strategy to reduce the environmental impact of plastic pollution, particularly given the Philippines' status as one of the largest contributors to marine plastic waste globally".

The law allows companies to outsource their obligations to "producer responsibility organizations", many of which use a mechanism called plastic credits. **APP**

Meta witnesses strong growth with boost in AI spending

SAN FRANCISCO: A remarkable increase in net income and revenues of Facebook owner Meta was witnessed after the company announced to enhance investments into artificial intelligence.

The social media behemoth, which is also the parent company of Instagram and WhatsApp, said net profit in the third quarter was \$15.7 billion -- up 35 percent on the same period last year.

Revenues rose 19 percent to \$40.6 billion, slightly higher than analyst estimates.

But investors sent Meta shares lower in after-hours trading over the outlook for AI spending in the months ahead and another big loss at its virtual and augmented reality arm, Reality Labs.

"We had a good quarter driven by AI progress across our apps and business," Meta's founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said in a statement.

Like its Big Tech peers, Meta is rushing into artificial intelligence as it tries to build revenue streams away from its social media core business.

In recent months Zuckerberg has put most of his attention and spending on the company's AI innovations that have been rolled out as chatbots across its platforms or used to upgrade its ad tech.

On Wednesday, Meta once again raised its capital investment outlook: for 2024 alone, it is fore-



casting a range of \$38-40 billion, compared with \$37-40 billion previously, much of it for AI.

In the first quarter of this year, the spending had already caused concern among investors, despite a doubling of earnings.

But a quarter later, Meta's results impressed investors with a further surge in profits, showing that its core ad business could support the investments.

"Meta's solid revenue growth in the quarter will help stave off investor concern about its AI investments," said Debra Aho Williamson of Sonata Insights, who added that these investments were making it easier to post ads on the platforms.

However, she warned, "the full impact of these features won't be felt until 2025 or beyond."

Reactions were positive last

month when the company unveiled its Orion augmented reality glasses, which remain experimental but bolstered confidence that Meta will be a leader in the AI wearable space.

Meta also hopes to ride on the excitement of its Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses, which it developed with EssilorLuxottica, the European eyewear giant.

Analysts believe that the glasses could be a hot item during the end-of-year holiday season.

But the recurring losses at Reality Labs, the VR division, continued to weigh on investors' minds. The division posted \$270 million in revenues in the third quarter -- and \$4.4 billion in operating losses.

Meta's share price slipped more than two percent after its earnings results were published, as traders digested the news. **APP**

Russian Envoy to UN terms reports on N. Korean troops unfound

UNITED NATIONS: Ambassador of Russia to the United Nations has declared the reports that North Korean troops were present at its front lines in the war against Ukraine as unfound and baseless.

Accusing Washington and London of "disinformation", Vassily Nebenzia insisted that Moscow's interaction with North Korea has followed international law.

He informed the Security Council that these statements about the North Korean soldiers in our front should not surprise no one, because they're all barefaced lies.

Nebenzia spoke after the United States alleged that up to 10,000 North Korean soldiers had been deployed to Russia, which invaded Ukraine in February 2022, for possible action against Ukrainian forces.

Pentagon, the other day said it had indications that a "small number" of North Korean troops had been deployed to Russia's Kursk region, on the border with Ukraine.

Russia and North Korea have deepened their political and military alliance as the Ukraine war has dragged on, but sending Pyongyang's troops into combat against Kyiv's forces would mark a significant escalation that has sparked widespread international concern. **APP**

World's biggest nature protection summit faces funding hurdle



CALI, Colombia: Just two days after closure of UN talks in Colombia on ways to halt and reverse nature loss, the delegates were divided over the issue of how best to finance the endeavor.

Started in Cali on October 21, the talks are meant to assess, and ramp up, progress on national plans and funding to achieve 23 UN targets agreed in 2022 to stop species destruction.

With some 23,000 registered delegates, the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) to the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the biggest meeting of its kind ever.

It is a followup to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed in Canada two years ago, where it

was agreed that \$200 billion per year be made available for biodiversity by 2030.

This must include \$20 billion per year going from rich to poor nations to reach the targets, which include placing 30 percent of land and sea areas under protection by 2030.

UN chief Antonio Guterres, in Cali seeking to add impetus to the talks, reminded delegates Wednesday that humanity has already altered three-quarters of Earth's land surface, and two-thirds of its waters.

Urging negotiators to "accelerate" progress, he warned: "The clock is ticking. The survival of our planet's biodiversity -- and our own survival -- are on the line."

To achieve the framework's goals, Gu-

terres said, "we need much more" funding from governments and the private sector.

Yet, behind closed doors, negotiations on finance remain stuck.

"So far, since COP15, we have not seen a significant increase" in funding, Nigerian Environment Minister Izaiah Kunle Salako said in Cali.

He issued a call on behalf of 20 developing countries for rich nations "to urgently increase their international finance commitments" and ensure "that the \$20 billion commitment... is delivered on time."

By 2022, the level of annual biodiversity funding from rich to poor nations amounted to just over \$15 billion, according to the OECD. **APP**



Iraqi Ambassador urges for strengthening Pak-Iraq bilateral trade

RAWALPINDI: The Ambassador of Iraq in Islamabad, Hamid Abbas Lafta on Thursday reiterated his country's resolve to enhance its bilateral trade with Pakistani in a range of business and investment areas.

He underlined the need to increase the exchange of trade delegations between the two countries.

The ambassador remarked this in his meeting with the top brass of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) which was held during his visit here at the chamber on Thursday.

Ambassador Hamid Abbas while underscoring the shared historical, religious, and diplomatic ties between the two nations, noted that approximately two hundred and fifty thousand Pakistani pilgrims travel to Iraq annually, especially to Najaf and Karbala (Arbaein), demonstrating the significant movement of people between the two countries.

While pointing to the low trade volume between Pakistan and Iraq, he highlighted the opportunity for increased commerce.

He also commended the quality of Pakistani products and en-

couraged the business community to enhance product marketing efforts.

Appreciating the role of RCCI in strengthening bilateral trade ties, the ambassador assured the RCCI of Iraq's support in facilitating the participation of Pakistani businesses in Iraqi exhibitions and trade delegations to expand trade and economic collaboration.

Earlier, in his welcome address, President Usman Shaukat highlighted that the current bilateral trade volume was approximately \$240 million. Usman emphasised untapped potential in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, food, and energy.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to deepen commercial ties and foster a stronger economic partnership between Iraq and Pakistan.

Ambassador Lafta was accompanied by Ayad Ayub Saadi and Shahbaz Ahmed whereas the RCCI team including Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, and Executive Committee members attended the meeting. Later, RCCI President Usman Shaukat presented the chamber memento to the Iraqi envoy. **APP**

PSX continues with bearish trend, loses 1,319 points



ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Thursday, losing 1,319.80 points, a negative change of 1.46 percent, closing at 88,966.77 points as compared to 90,286.57 points on last trading day.

A total of 546,274,609 shares were traded during the day as compared to 614,564,066 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 24.117 billion against Rs. 27.341 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 437 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 137 of them recorded gains and 240 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 60 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 73,617,949 shares at Rs 4.44 per share, Bank of Punjab with 42,667,349 shares at Rs 5.82 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 25,898,091 shares at Rs1.22 per share.

Hoechst Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.140.46 per share price, closing at Rs 2,257.58, whereas the runner-up was Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited with Rs 112.49 rise in its per share price to Rs 19,100.00.

PIA Holding Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 91.28 per share closing at Rs 831.24 followed by Nestle Pakistan Limited with Rs 75.73 decline to close at Rs 6,552.02. **NEWS DESK**

Wafi Energy becomes the majority shareholder of Shell Pakistan Limited

ISLAMABAD: Wafi Energy Holding Limited (Wafi Energy) becomes the majority shareholder of Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) after The Shell Petroleum Company Limited, a subsidiary of Shell plc (Shell), completes the sale of its 77.42% interest in SPL.

Wafi Energy, an established Saudi company and affiliate of the Asyad Group, now holds approximately 87.78% of the total issued share capital of SPL. The Shell brand will remain in Pakistan through retail and brand licensing agreements, with SPL as the exclusive brand licensee.

"Wafi Energy is excited to announce its entry into Pakistan by

acquiring majority ownership of Shell Pakistan Limited. This marks a significant milestone in the Asyad Group's commitment to expanding its presence in Pakistan and the region," Ghassan Amoudi, CEO of Asyad Holding Group and incoming Chairperson of SPL, said. "As the exclusive Shell Licensee, we are delighted that the Shell brand remains in Pakistan. This continuation builds on a strong legacy, supported by a team of highly skilled professionals who ensure customers have access to Shell's premium fuel and lubricant offerings, all delivered with the highest safety and security standards."

New consular halls opened at Pak embassy in Abu Dhabi for improved services to community

ABU DHABI: Newly constructed and renovated Consular Halls at Pakistan Embassy Abu Dhabi were inaugurated on 30 October 2024. This was a joint effort of the Government of Pakistan and Al-Ansari Exchange, a leading exchange company in the UAE providing financial services to the UAE residents including expatriate community.

Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi and CEO of Al-Ansari Exchange, Mr. Rashed Al Ansari unveiled the inaugural plaque and visited the passport and attestation sections of the consular halls. The event was attended by Pakistan community members and Emirati nationals.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Tirmizi reaffirmed commitment of the Government of Pakistan for provision of consular services to Pakistani diaspora efficiently and in a conducive



and peaceful environment. He indicated that these halls were also equipped with Queue Management System (QMS) and the seating capacity has been doubled. He expressed his pleasure and satisfaction over the completion of the project and thanked Al Ansari Ex-

change for their contribution.

The CEO of Al Ansari Exchange Mr. Rashed Al Ansari appreciated the joint effort and hard work of the people involved in the Projects. He praised the Pakistani community for its role in strengthening the bilateral ties between Paki-

stan and the United Arab Emirates as well as their contribution in establishment of UAE's multiple institutions. He assured Al Ansari Exchange's commitment to work jointly with the Embassy for the welfare of the Pakistani community. **NEWS DESK**

Estatex.com launches a series of Partner's Connect Events in its pre-launch phase for Urban Enclave

Abid Saeed

LAHORE: Estatex.com proudly launches a series of Partner Connect Events, kicking off the pre-launch phase for Urban Enclave—a sustainable, forward-thinking living community in Lahore. This initiative invites partners to engage directly with the project, showcasing its eco-friendly vision, innovative amenities, and smart living solutions. The first event of this series took place at the Urban Enclave Project Site on October 29, 2024, in Lahore.

Mr. Muhammad Moin Safdar, CEO of Apex Group, shared his inspiring vision for developing happy places, stating at the event: "Urban Enclave was born from the idea of creating more than just a residential space. Our goal is to build a community that champions green living, blending nature and modern amenities in harmony. We envisioned a lifestyle where residents could enjoy beautiful green spaces, maintain a healthier way of life, and live in an environmentally responsible setting."

He continued, "Family living is



at the core of Urban Enclave. Our design promotes a secure and nurturing environment, ideal for raising children. We've included features such as dedicated cycling paths for safe riding and pedestrian-friendly zones where families can walk freely, unimpeded by traffic. Our 24/7 security and surveillance systems ensure that every resident feels safe and protected."

Mr. Muhammad Moin Safdar also shared insights into the housing options available: "Urban Enclave has been designed to cater

to a diverse range of lifestyles and preferences. We offer 2-bedroom townhouses, perfect for smaller families or individuals seeking a cozy, modern living space. For those needing more room, we have 3-bedroom and 4-bedroom villas, ideal for larger families or those seeking a more spacious, luxurious home. Each unit has been meticulously crafted to balance comfort and functionality, featuring open layouts and premium finishes."

He also highlighted the buy-

er-friendly payment plans: "Our 3-year payment plan enables buyers to manage their property investment in instalments. Excitingly, possession will be available in just one year, allowing buyers to move into their new homes while continuing to pay off the remaining balance over the next two years. This flexible approach makes homeownership accessible and achievable."

Stay tuned as we work towards a greener, smarter future with Urban Enclave!

Mobile phone imports decreases over 18%

ISLAMABAD: The import of mobile phones into the country has witnessed a decrease of 18.93 percent during the first three months of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the corresponding months of last year. Pakistan imported mobile phones worth US \$ 246.472 million during July-September (2024-25) as compared to the imports of US \$ 304.029 million during July-September (2023-24), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Meanwhile, on a year-to-year basis, the import of mobile phones also dipped by 17.62 percent during the month of September 2024 when compared to the same month of last year. The import of mobiles into the country during September 2024 was recorded at \$ 102.629 million against the exports of \$124.576 million in September 2023. **APP**



APO workshop on Enhancing Workplace Management in Surgical Instruments Industry

Dissemination Workshop on Development of APO Demonstration companies for Workplace Environment Management in the Surgical Instruments Industry

ISLAMABAD: NPO Pakistan in collaboration with Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Tokyo, Japan is pleased to announce the successful completion of a project focused on the development of APO's demonstration units aimed at enhancing workplace environment management through lean manufacturing practices in Pakistan's surgical instruments industry.

The workshop, held on 31st October 2024 at Sialkot, brought together industry stakeholders, experts, and practitioners to share insights and strategies for implementing lean manufacturing techniques that prioritize workplace environment management. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the latest methodologies, best practices, and tools to improve efficiency and sustainability within their operations.

Mr Zeeshan Tariq, Chairman SIMAP while speaking on the occasion said enhancing workplace environment management through lean manufacturing is crucial for the growth and sustainability of the surgical instruments industry in Pakistan" he said "This workshop has equipped participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to drive positive change within their organizations."

APO Experts from Japan and 5 surgical demo companies under SIMAP while sharing experiences and case studies demonstrating the successful implementation of lean practices in workplace environment management expressed their satisfaction to report that they have made significant strides. Over the course of this project these companies successfully demonstrated enhanced work-

place efficiency by applying lean methodologies, streamlining their processes, resulting in increased productivity across various operations. Implementing practices that have led to a remarkable decrease in both material and time wastage, significantly lowering operational costs, fostering a safer and more engaging workplace, contributing to employee morale and satisfaction.

These achievements are not merely numbers; they represent the dedication and hard work of everyone involved workers, management, and esteemed partners.

The initiative aligns with ongoing efforts to boost productivity and competitiveness in the surgical instruments sector, ensuring that businesses can meet both domestic and international demands effectively. **NEWS DESK**



Rizwan and team arrive in Melbourne for series against Australia

MELBOURNE: Mohammad Rizwan, the new captain of Pakistan's white-ball cricket team, and his squad have landed in Melbourne, as confirmed by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The team arrived on Wednesday ready to prepare for their upcoming series against Australia.

Rizwan was joined by vice-captain Salman Ali Agha and players Abdullah Shafiq, Aamer Jamal, Saim Ayub, Kamran Ghulam, Haseebullah, and Arafat Minhas.

Speaking about the team composition, Rizwan said, "We have created a combination of young and senior players. We've included some players from the Champions Cup,

while Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq are excellent players; we will miss their contributions."

Earlier, key players such as Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, and Naseem Shah also arrived in Melbourne on Tuesday. Babar, who attracted a lot of fans at the airport eager for selfies, was among the standout figures of the group. It's important to note that Babar, Shaheen, and Naseem were rested during the second and third Tests against England earlier this month due to disappointing performances in the first Test. However, they are expected to return for the ODI series starting on November 4. **NEWS DESK**



Fakhar to be reinstated in PCB central contracts

Zaman likely to return to central contracts and national squad after apology for breach of conduct

LAHORE: Pakistani opener Fakhar Zaman is poised to be reinstated into the central contracts and the national white-ball squad after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) opted for a reprimand rather than severe punishment for his breach of conduct.

A PCB source informed PTI that a committee will soon evaluate Fakhar's response to a show-cause notice issued due to a controversial tweet regarding former captain Babar Azam.

Previously, Fakhar was excluded from the 2024-25 central contracts and left out of the recent white-ball series against Australia and Zimbabwe.

However, the source revealed that his reply was apologetic, showing remorse, which has

prompted favorable discussions among PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, selectors, and new captain Mohammad Rizwan.

While selectors have advised Fakhar to prioritize his recovery from a knee injury ahead of the white-ball series in South Africa in December, he is expected to be named in the squad for those matches before being added back to the central contracts list.

With the ICC Champions Trophy set to take place in Pakistan early next year, Rizwan and the selectors believe Fakhar remains a valuable asset for the team.

It is anticipated that the committee will accept his reply and clear him for selection, pending a fitness test before the South Africa tour. **NEWS DESK**

Ben Stokes's home burgled while he was on Pakistan tour



LONDON: England Test captain Ben Stokes has fallen victim to a burglary at his home while he was in Pakistan for the Test series.

The incident occurred at Stokes's residence in County Durham. Following the burglary, Stokes made a public appeal through social media.

In his message, Stokes revealed that a group of masked individuals

broke into his home on the evening of October 17, stealing valuable jewelry and personal belongings. He emphasized that some of the stolen items held significant emotional value for him and his family. Stokes stated, "This appeal is to help locate these individuals." He also mentioned that the crime took place while his wife was home with their two young children. Fortunately, no one was physically harmed, but the incident has had a mental impact on his family.

The England cricket captain announced that he would be releasing descriptions of some of the stolen items in an effort to assist the police in capturing the culprits. He urged anyone with information to contact Durham Constabulary.

Stokes expressed gratitude to the police for their exceptional support during the incident, noting that he was in Pakistan at the time. He confirmed that the police are continuing their extensive efforts to locate the suspects. **WEB DESK**

South Africa beats Bangladesh by an innings and sweeps test series 2-0

CHATTOGRAM, Bangladesh: South Africa beat Bangladesh by an innings and 273 runs inside three days and swept the two-test series on Thursday.

Bangladesh lost 16 wickets on day three and fell to its second worst defeat, behind the innings and 310 runs loss to West Indies in 2002.

In reply to South Africa's 575-6 declared, Bangladesh was all out for 159 just after lunch, forced to follow on, and bowled out again for 143 in 44 overs.

Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada took 5-37 in the first innings and left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj 5-59 in the second innings.

South Africa won the first test by seven wickets for its first victory on the subcontinent since 2014.

Resuming the day at 38-4, Bangladesh was reduced to 48-8 with Rabada grabbing his 15th five-for in tests.

A 103-run ninth-wicket partnership between Mominul Haque and Taijul Islam delayed the inevitable.



Mominul made a team-best 82 and Taijul 30.

Leading by 416 runs on the first innings, South Africa enforced the decision by wrapping up Bangladesh in less than two sessions.

Left-arm spinner Senuran Muthusamy registered a career-best 4-45 in his fourth test to play a perfect foil to Maharaj.

No. 10 batter Hasan Mahmud was 38 not out and captain Najmul Hossain Shanto scored 36.

But the Bangladesh batters' injudicious shots led to their downfall.

After negotiating Rabada (7-1-17-0) with some luck in the second innings, Bangladesh crumbled against spin.

Rabada's new ball partner, Dane Paterson, struck first. Shadman Islam chased a delivery outside off to edge behind on 6. He was similarly dismissed in the first innings for a duck.

Muthusamy got the outside edge of the other opener Mahmudul

Hasan Joy for 11.

Mominul Haque fought in the first innings for 82, but coming to bat for the second time in less than 30 minutes, he was removed for a duck while trying to dominate Maharaj.

Muthusamy extended Mushfiquur Rahim's lean patch by trapping him leg before on 2. After an epic 191 against Pakistan in August, Mushfiquur Rahim has gone 10 innings without a half-century.

Shanto counterattacked but Muthusamy and Maharaj continued chipping away with wickets to leave Bangladesh in danger of being all out for less than 100.

Muthusamy baffled Shanto with a delivery that spun sharply to take the inside edge.

Debutant Mahidul Islam scored 29 and Hasan Mahmud played some big shots to help Bangladesh go past 100.

But Maharaj dismissed Mahidul and Nahid Rana in quick succession to complete his 10th test five-for and wrap up Bangladesh. **WEB DESK**

Man Utd hit five to start life after Ten Hag, Man City out of League Cup

MANCHESTER: Ruud van Nistelrooy enjoyed a winning start as interim Manchester United manager by beating Leicester 5-2 to reach the League Cup quarter-finals as Manchester City crashed out 2-1 to Tottenham.

Arsenal and Liverpool were among the other sides to book their place in the last eight, but Chelsea were beaten 2-0 at Newcastle.

A United legend as a player, Van Nistelrooy was thrust into the role of caretaker boss after the Red Devils sacked Erik ten Hag on Monday following a dreadful start to the season.

Sporting Lisbon coach Ruben Amorim is the man the English giants have targeted to take over but are still in negotiations with the Portuguese champions to agree compensation for the 39-year-old.

According to reports in Portugal, Amorim will remain at Sporting for the next three matches before completing his move during the November international break.

"I came here as an assistant to help the club. I'm helping as long as I'm needed and in the future, in any capacity, I'm here to help the club build towards the future," said Van Nistelrooy.

"The reaction of the players was excellent. They deserve the credit for a good win and I'm happy the crowd goes home with a nice night of football."

The Dutchman said before the game that United "can be unstoppable" when "players, staff and supporters pull together" and they



cut loose by scoring four times in a thrilling first 45 minutes.

Casemiro's stunning effort into the top corner opened the scoring before Alejandro Garnacho swept home Diogo Dalot's cross to please a jubilant Van Nistelrooy on the touchline. Bilal El Khannouss quickly pulled a goal back for the much-changed Foxes.

Bruno Fernandes' deflected free-kick restored United's two-goal cushion before Casemiro slammed home his third goal in two games.

Conor Coady grabbed another consolation for Leicester but United were not to be denied just a second win in nine games.

Fernandes rounded off the scoring when he pounced on a short back-pass to round Danny Ward and fire home.

United's reward is a trip to Tottenham in the last eight after they eliminated a City side without Erling Haaland.

Timo Werner slotted home his first goal since March from Dejan Kulusevski's inviting cross to open the scoring.

Musiala hits hat-trick as Bayern cruise into German Cup last 16



BERLIN: Jamal Musiala hit a first-half hat-trick as Bayern Munich won 4-0 at Mainz to move into the last 16 of the German Cup.

Harry Kane set up Musiala's first just two minutes in, finding him 10 metres out from goal for the 21-year-old to hammer home.

Musiala tapped in a rebound from a Kane header to score his second, the England-raised German forward was offside, but there is no VAR in the German Cup until the next round.

Former Manchester City winger Leroy Sane made it three just ahead of half-time and Musiala

then pounced on a loose ball in the box to score his third, and Bayern's fourth, just before the break to claim his first hat-trick.

"Even without his goals, he can make the difference," Joshua Kimmich said of Musiala.

The most successful team in German Cup history -- Bayern have 20 titles compared to next best Werder Bremen's six -- the German giants have struggled in recent years.

Bayern were eliminated at this stage in four of the past five seasons, including by third division Saarbrücken last season.

Third division Arminia Biele-

feld beat Union Berlin 2-0 at home to become the only third division side in the hat for the last 16.

A brace from Jakob Lemmer was not enough for the other remaining third division side, Dynamo Dresden, who lost 3-2 to Darmstadt in extra time, with Aleksandar Vukotic, Tobias Kempe and Isac Lidberg getting the goals.

Earlier, Eintracht Frankfurt forward Omar Marmoush kept up his stellar recent form, scoring the winner in a 2-1 defeat of Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Frankfurt were reduced to 10 men when Arthur Theate was sent off for a handball outside the box just 15 minutes in.

French forward Hugo Ekitike put the five-time winners in front in first-half stoppage time but Gladbach's Ko Itakura levelled things up at the start of the second.

With 20 minutes remaining, Marmoush put the undermanned Eagles back in front, his 11th goal in 13 matches in all competitions this season.

"It was a lot of fun -- even with 10 men on the pitch we worked hard." **WEB DESK**

PTI plans nationwide protests, rallies with other political parties

PTI leaders denied access to Imran Khan in Adiala Jail

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser has stated that efforts will be made to unite all parties at the national and provincial levels as they plan protests across the country, reported a private TV channel.

Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail on Thursday, Qaiser expressed his concerns regarding the current government's approach, describing it as "fascist" while claiming they falsely present themselves as proponents of democracy.

He said that elected representatives have other important discussions to conduct beyond just political dialogue with their leader. He further accused Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz of governing the province through "fascist methods," asserting that citizens are being deprived of their democratic rights.

"These tactics will not intimidate us; that is your misconception," he stated, reaffirming the PTI's commitment to fight constitutional and legal battles. Qaiser added that such governments do



not last long.

Meanwhile, National Assembly opposition leader and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader, Omar Ayub, expressed concerns regarding their inability to meet PTI founder Imran Khan, despite a court ruling allowing the visit.

Along with PTI leaders Shibli Faraz, Asad Qaiser, and Zartaj Gul outside Adiala Jail, Ayub said that jail authorities kept them waiting for three hours and sought assurances that no political discussions would take place.

"This insistence on an undertaking barring political dialogue is

troubling. The institutions should give us similar assurances that they won't meddle in political affairs," Ayub remarked. He stressed the importance of supporting democratic principles, noting that PTI stands in solidarity with political prisoners across the country.

Ayub further alleged that the prison authorities were imposing undue hardships on the PTI founder, claiming Khan was facing undue electricity load-shedding.

Allegations of substandard food being served to both Khan and Bushra Bibi were also raised.

Shibli Faraz, expressed frustra-

tion, stating, "We have been waiting since 2 pm to meet Khan; six people were designated, yet we were told to refrain from political talk." Faraz warned that such tactics by the government would not foster political stability, which he argued was essential to national progress.

PTI leader Zartaj Gul criticised the government's actions as a violation of human rights. "Human rights organizations should take note of Imran Khan's conditions in Adiala Jail. He stands resolute—unlike others who left the country citing health issues," she added, implicitly referencing Nawaz Sharif.

Former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser condemned the treatment of PTI's founder, asserting that "elected representatives have a right to discuss political matters with their leader." He labeled the current government as "fascist" and highlighted that PTI would muster nationwide support to uphold the constitution and law. He also promised solidarity across all provinces. **NEWS DESK**

IHC overturns physical remand of Imaan Mazari and husband

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) suspended the Anti-Terrorism Court's (ATC) order granting a three-day physical remand to human rights activist Imaan Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali.

The decision was made by a division bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz during a hearing on a petition filed by their lawyer, Qaiser Imam, Express News reported. The prosecutor had requested an extended remand of 30 days for further investigation, citing safety concerns related to international guests. However, the defence questioned the necessity of such a lengthy remand, especially given the circumstances of the incident.

After considering arguments from both sides, the IHC overturned the ATC's decision, instructed authorities to submit a report, and adjourned the case until Thursday.

Earlier, ATC in Islamabad placed lawyer Imaan Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali Chatha, in police custody on physical remand for three days.

The couple was arrested by the capital police on terrorism charges after a confrontation with traffic police, who had barricaded the area to secure the movement of the English cricket team.

They were accused of interfering with government protocol, leading to their detention under various sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Pakistan Penal Code.

Imaan Mazari was represented by advocates Zainab Janjua and Ahsan Pirzada, who opposed the extended detention.

The charges against the couple fall under terrorism-related laws, following claims from the Islamabad police that their actions posed a security risk during the recent visit of an international cricket team.

Specifically, the Aabpara police detained them for interfering with official duties, which led to concerns about public safety.

Reports indicate that Imaan Mazari has been transferred to the women's police station as the investigation continues. **NEWS DESK**



New NFC Award demanded for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Junaid Toru

PESHAWAR: A provincial seminar on the upcoming National Finance Commission (NFC) Award took place on October 31, 2024, at the SSAQ Seminar Hall, University of Peshawar. Organized by the Development Insights Lab (DIL) and the Center for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA), the seminar aimed to address Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's rights and considerations in the NFC award process.

Dr. Fahim Nawaz, Deputy Coordinator of DIL, and Dr. Syed Husain Shaheed Suherwardi moderated the session, with participants from political circles, academia, media, and student bodies. Muhammad Anwar, Executive Director of CGPA, and Dr. Sajjad Ahmad Jan, Coordinator of DIL, briefed attendees on CGPA and DIL's initiatives.

The event featured insightful presentations, including "The Evolution of the NFC Award in Pakistan and International Best Practices of Resource Distribution" by Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Associate Professor at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). Dr. Muhammad Saleem, CEO of Juniper Policy Consulting, presented

"The 7th NFC Award and its Implications for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the Backdrop of the 25th Constitutional Amendment." Both sessions highlighted the importance of addressing regional needs and were followed by an engaging Q&A session with participants.

The seminar's Chief Guest, the Honorable Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Chancellor of the University of Peshawar, emphasized the critical role of collaboration between academia and civil society in advocating for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's equitable share in the NFC Award, particularly after the integration of the Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) into the province. He encouraged political representatives to stand united, suggesting that a cohesive approach would strengthen KP's position in the NFC.

Panel discussions included calls to incorporate the ex-FATA's 6.6% share into KP's existing 14.6% allocation and to raise the security share from 1% to 3% to address law and order challenges affecting the province. Political representatives—Mr. Ahmad Karim Kundi (PPP), Mr. Taimur Saleem Jhagra (PTI), Mr. Inayatullah Khan

(JI), Ms. Naeema Kishwar (JUI), Mr. Khushdil Khan (ANP), and Mr. Sikandar Hayat Sherpao (QWP)—advocated for a fairer distribution to meet KP's changing demands.

Governor Kundi highlighted the severe economic impact of terrorism on KP's economy and tourism, urging an increased resource focus to bolster the province's security and development. He underscored the importance of political unity, stating, "If Pashtun leaders can come together for PTM, they can unite for their own rights as well."

University of Peshawar Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Naem Qazi commended the creation of the Development Insights Lab, expressing hope that it would aid in evidence-based policy-making and thanked political representatives for their support of this new initiative. He noted the pressing need to finalize the NFC Award to ensure national and provincial development.

The seminar concluded with a strong call for an NFC Award revision that aligns with the needs and contributions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, fostering a collaborative effort to secure KP's rightful share in national resources.

President suffers foot fracture on arrival in Dubai



DUBAI: President Asif Ali Zardari, suffered a foot fracture last night upon disembarking a plane at Dubai Airport, a President House Spokesperson said on Thursday.

He was immediately taken to the hospital for initial medical assistance. After examination, doctors applied a plaster to his foot, the spokesperson said adding that the plaster will remain for four weeks. President Zardari has been advised to rest completely at home. **APP**

(1) President, PM pays tribute to Pak Army personnel martyred in Bannu operation

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the personnel of the Pakistan Army who were martyred in an anti-terrorist operation in Bannu.

The president saluted martyred Major Atif Khalil, Naik Azad Ullah, and Lance Naik Ghazanfar Abbas on behalf of the entire nation and said that the soldiers of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while fighting bravely against terrorists, according to a President House press release.

"The entire nation stands united in support of its forces against terrorists. Pakistan's security forces are on the all-time alert to safeguard the country," the president said and prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyrs' rank in paradise and for strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

According to ISPR, the security forces carried out an intelligence-based operation in the Bakka Khel area of Bannu. During the intense exchange of fire, Major Atif Khalil, a resident of Sudhanuti district, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, embraced martyrdom along with Naik Azad Ullah and Lance Naik Ghazanfar Abbas.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the personnel of the Pakistan Army who embraced martyrdom in an anti-terrorist operation in Bannu.

The prime minister, who is currently on a two-day official visit to Qatar, conveyed condolences to the bereaved families of martyred Major Atif Khalil, Naik Azad Ullah, and Lance Naik Ghazanfar Abbas, and prayed for the elevation of martyrs' rank in paradise.

"The entire nation salutes its martyrs. We are resolved to wipe out terrorism in all of its forms and manifestation from the country," the prime minister remarked.

According to a press release from Inter-Services Public Relations, the security forces carried out an intelligence-based operation in the Bakka Khel area of Bannu. During the intense exchange of fire, Major Atif Khalil, a resident of Sudhanuti district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, embraced martyrdom along with Naik Azad Ullah and Lance Naik Ghazanfar Abbas. **APP**

CM Gandapur announces restoration of student unions

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has announced reviving student unions in the province, highlighting empowerment of youth as essential for the national progress.

Speaking at the ceremony of the government colleges' solarization project at the Govt College Peshawar, he emphasised that the youth are Pakistan's valuable assets, committed to reviving student unions to align with PTI's founder's vision. The CM also addressed issues of autonomy and justice, asserting that Pakistan's real freedom lied in self-dependence and decision-making.

The solarization initiative will see 10 KVA solar system installation in 80 government colleges, significantly reducing monthly electricity bills and paying for itself in under three years, he explained.

He said this project aimed to increase substantially and financial saving for educational institutions. **APP**

Karsaz suspect, Natasha set free by Karachi court



KARACHI: Key suspect in murder case in Karsaz Road accident, Natasha Baig was acquitted by a Karachi court on Thursday.

Additional District and Sessions Court in Karachi East conducted the hearing of the Karsaz traffic accident case during which the accused was acquitted following a settlement with the deceased's family.

It should be mentioned here that a speeding car driven by Natasha on August 19 collided with three motorcycles and a car on Karsaz Road, resulting in the deaths of 60-year-old Imran Arif and his 22-year-old daughter Amna.

Natasha obtained bail in the manslaughter case from a sessions court on Sept 6.

In a separate drug case, after her bail pleas were twice rejected by lower courts, she appealed to the Sindh High Court, which granted bail against surety bonds of Rs1 million. **APP**

IHC allows Ali Amin Gandapur to meet Imran Khan without request

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has disposed of the request from the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, to meet the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, as reported by Express News.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir of the Islamabad High Court heard the petition regarding Gandapur's request. The court dismissed the request, noting that there were no restrictions on his meeting.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir remarked, "You can check on this; no further requests should come here." The Deputy Superintendent of Adiala Jail mentioned that coordinators had been appointed, and there are no restrictions on Ali Amin Gandapur meeting Imran Khan. He added, "The coordinator, Intazar Panjotha, has unfortunately been kidnapped." **APP**

CM Maryam sees robust parliament after 26th constitutional amendment

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said on Thursday that the parliament has strengthened after the 26th constitutional amendment. Addressing an event in Kala Shah Kaku, CM Maryam took a swipe at the opponents, saying, "Even when we come to power, they [opponents] are embracing foul language and hurl allegations."

"Their [opponents] job is merely to spread unrest and orchestrate conspiracy. Now they will never come into the power again," CM Maryam added. She maintained: "The efforts are also underway to create a sense of misunderstanding between the government and farmers." **APP**

The Public Purview/epaper
Islamabad/Karachi/Peshawar

