



Sara Ali Khan reflects on site where she shot her debut movie

Thursday 21 November 2024

DPM reaffirms govt's resolve to eradicate polio

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reiterated the resolve of the government to make Pakistan a polio-free country and said that the federation along with all the provinces were taking steps at polio eradication. He said all the provinces had been taken into account for the polio eradication measure and together they would efface the disease. A delegation of Polio Oversight Board comprising Christopher Elias,

Representative of Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation, Dr Hanan Bakhshy, Regional Director World Health Organization, UNICEF Regional Director Sanjay Wijesekera, Deputy Director Center for Disease Control and Prevention Andrea Fristedt, Rotary Foundation Trustee and National Chair Dr Aziz Memon, Dr Ziyad bin Ahmed Memon, Dr King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Health and Relief Center and Health Environmental Advisor KSRelief Dr. Abdullah bin Saleh called on the prime



PM reaffirms govt's resolve to eradicate polio

for their visit and support to government's efforts to end polio. He also expressed his gratitude to King Salman Foundation, Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation, Rotary Foundation, UNICEF and CDC that are partners to government in its anti-polio measures. The prime minister observed that the part played by these organizations showed global efforts in the polio eradication drive expressed the confidence that they would overcome the challenge of polio and would not rest till it was banished forever.

SEHRISH NAZ

LAHORE: Senior Punjab Minister Murrimum Aurangzeb has said that all this Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is doing is to get a prisoner freed. Talking to media in Lahore on Wednesday, the minister asked PTI leadership "do you want the government to release you?" Murrimum Aurangzeb said they are calling the "fight of sisters-in-law" at home a jihad. However, she maintained, the real fight is between Zaman Park and Banigala. "If you want to stage a protest, do it in your province and hold sit-ins," Murrimum Aurangzeb advised PTI leadership.

ister. She said the party leadership needed to understand the difference between a revolution and rebellion. Talking about the smog situation, Murrimum said by the grace of Allah the change in wind direction and the weather is good for the elimination of smog in Punjab. For the last four to five days, the meteorological department and other organizations are watching the situation and now Lahore's current air quality index is 236, she said. It's a natural disaster and everyone has to come together to fight with this situation of smog, the minister said. Thank God that the forecast will remain like this for the next four to five days, Murrimum added.

12 soldiers martyred as terrorists ram car-bomb into Bannu checkpoint

KOMAL BUTT

RAWALPINDI: As many as 12 security men were martyred when Khwarij terrorists rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into a joint checkpoint in Bannu while six terrorists were killed in the retaliatory fire of the troops. According to an ISPR statement issued on Wednesday, security forces personnel killed six Khwarij terrorists by effectively thwarting their attempt to enter the joint checkpoint in general area Malikhel in Bannu District. The ISPR statement said "In the ensuing fire exchange, six Khwarij terrorists were killed. The attempt to enter the post was effectively thwarted by own troops, which

forced the Khwarij to ram an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the post. The suicide blast led to collapse of portion of perimeter wall and damaged the adjoining infrastructure, resulting in Shahaadat of 12 brave sons of soil that included 10 soldiers of the security forces and two soldiers of Frontier Constabulary," the ISPR news release said. Sanitization operation was being conducted in the area and the perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice, the ISPR statement said, adding "Security forces in the area are being supported by agencies of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism



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Minister Shehbaz Sharif have expressed grief over the martyrdom of 12 personnel of the security forces in a terrorist attack that took place in Bannu. In their separately issued statements, both the president and prime minister paid tribute to the armed forces personnel for sacrificing their lives and killing six terrorists while safeguarding the country. The whole nation salutes the soldiers for sacrificing their lives for the security of their motherland," the president said and reiterated the nation's resolve to wipe out terrorism from the country. He also prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in paradise and for strength for the bereaved families to bear the loss. "The sacrifices of the nation's soldiers will never be squandered. The Fitna Al Khwarij (terrorist) posing threats to the lives and properties of the people will have to pay a heavy price for it," Prime Minister Shehbaz said and reiterated that the fight against terrorism will continue till the complete elimination of this scourge. Interior Minister Murrimum Aurangzeb strongly condemned the terrorist attack on Bannu checkpoint. While paying tribute to the martyred personnel, Murrimum expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of the martyred soldiers.

DPM/EM chairs SDGs Achievement Programme Committee meeting

SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Murrimum Ishraq on Wednesday chaired the 4th Meeting of the Steering Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Achievement Programme (SAP). The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political and

Public Affairs Rana Sanaulah, Minister for Energy (Power Division) Awaiz Leghari, DPM Office said in a press release. Members of National Assembly and federal secretaries also attended. The meeting discussed initiatives and government programmes for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with special focus on basic infrastructure and needs of the underprivileged communities in Pakistan.

1.5 mn employment opportunities to be provided to youth: Rana Mashhood

HUMA REHAN

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan on Wednesday said that Youth is the future of Pakistan and as many as 1.5 million employment opportunities would be provided to the youth in Pakistan and abroad this year under PMYP. Pakistan's cuisine conference here at Islamabad Sports Board Complex along with Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, he said that around 3,000

athletes were participating in the Prime Minister's University Sports (PMUS) Olympiad across the country starting on November 21. Rana Mashhood said that the young generation can play a major role in the prosperity and stability of the country and Pakistan has a talented youth and a pivotal role in advancing the country towards fast-paced development. "We are dedicated to preparing our youth to excel in diverse fields, from sports to technical education, information technology-driven industries to traditional crafts.



Chairman PMYP said that the PMUS Olympiad will not only foster a spirit of healthy competition but will also serve as a platform for the youth to engage, excel, and represent their universities

with pride. He said that the country's economy was moving towards the right direction under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and was taking various initiatives to highlight the potential and provide more employment opportunities to the youth. Mashhood said that the successful holding of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit reflected the best policies of the govt, adding Pakistan's position had been strengthened at the global level and the trust of international financial

institutions and big powers showed the best economic policies of the government. The Chairman PMYP added that youth were misled in the recent past from the right path but "We are now preparing our youth to face the challenges of the modern world as dreamed by the founders of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal. On the occasion, he distributed motorbikes to two polio survivors turned national athletes, Muhammad Mustafa Ali and Nasir Butt, for their best performance in sports.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia agree to implement prisoners' swap accord

MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have agreed on implementation of the agreement regarding exchange of prisoners between the two countries and also held talks on wiping out the mafia sending beggars to the Kingdom. Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia Dr Nasir bin Abdul Aziz called on Interior Minister Murrimum Naqvi in Islamabad on Wednesday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and promotion of Pakistan-Saudi relations

were discussed. Mutual exchanges of paramilitary forces and police and joint training were also mulled in detail during the meeting. Murrimum Naqvi proposed the Saudi minister to declare Islamabad and Riyadh as twin cities. Both countries agreed to implement the prisoners exchange agreement. Legal work for the repatriation of 419 Pakistani prisoners from Saudi Arabia will be completed soon. Discussions were also held on the crackdown against the mafia that sends beggars to the Kingdom.

IHC grants bail to Imran Khan, orders release in Toshakhana 2.0 case

AYESHA REHAN

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday granted bail to former prime minister Imran Khan in the Toshakhana 2.0 case. IHC's Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb approved PTI founder's bail plea, ordering the latter to submit surety bonds of Rs1 million each for securing the bail. The court also directed the incarcerated former premier to appear before trial court following the bail. During the proceedings today, PTI's legal counsel, Barrister Salman Safdar, argued that the charges against the PTI

founder were based on the use of influence for personal gain. He contended that the charge sheet did not clearly specify who the central accused was and that the case was filed more than three years after the alleged incident. Barrister Salman further claimed that no crime had been committed under the Toshakhana policy, as the gifts were acquired in accordance with the established procedure. Justice Aurangzeb also made significant remarks on the previous government's policy of keeping Toshakhana details confidential, adding that such information was being withheld when sought by the court.



The FIA prosecutor countered, stating that the Bulgari set of gifts was not registered with Toshakhana, and alleged that the PTI founder and his wife had caused financial loss to the state by undervaluing the gifts. The court adjourned the hearing after a break, during which the FIA prosecutor raised issues regarding the delay in the indictment of Bushra Bibi, the PTI founder's wife, in the case. After approving the bail, the court also warned that the bail could be revoked if misused in the future. Bushra Bibi received the Bulgari jewelry set during a visit to Saudi Arabia from May 7 to 10,

2021. The jewelry set included a ring, a bracelet, necklace, and a pair of earrings. During the investigation for the reference, it was found that Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi illegally retained the Bulgari jewelry set. On May 18, 2021, the Deputy Military Secretary informed the Section Officer of Toshakhana to assess and declare the value of the jewelry set, but it was not deposited. According to the records, Bulgari had sold the necklace to the Saudi Arabian franchise Solgent Trading on May 25, 2018, for 300,000 euros and the earrings for 80,000 euros. However, the prices of

the bracelet and ring were not available. On May 28, 2018, the total value of the Bulgari jewelry set was approximately Rs75,661,600. The necklace was valued at \$6,496,000 Rupees, and the earrings at Rs15,065,600. According to Toshakhana rules, the jewelry set's value, after paying 50 percent, should be Rs35,765,800. However, the NAB reference added that by undervaluing the jewelry set, a loss of Rs31,851,300 was incurred to the national treasury. The PTI founder, along with Bushra Bibi, has violated Section 9 and Subsections 1, 4, 6, and 12 of the NAB Ordinance 1999.

Bilawal strongly condemns terrorist attack in Bannu

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a security checkpoint in Bannu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which has claimed the lives of 11 security personnel. He expressed heartfelt sorrow over the tragic loss and extended his condolences to the bereaved families. In a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, he paid tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives while combating terrorists in the Mali Khel area of Bannu district. "These brave soldiers are the pride of the nation, and their sacrifices will always be remembered," he said. He also stressed that each act of terrorism requires support from the armed forces in their fight against terrorism and extremism. He prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in Jannah and expressed solidarity with their families during this time of immense grief.

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Youth shine as University Sports Olympiad kicks off in Islamabad

HUMA REHAN
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad turned into a vibrant hub of activity on Wednesday as the University Sports Olympiad kicked off, providing opportunity to over 3,000 student athletes from across the country to showcase their potential and skills in different sport disciplines. The four-day extravaganza has been organized by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The men and women athletes from both public and private sector universities are competing for top honours in different disciplines including badminton, table tennis, hockey, volleyball, athletics, judo, swimming, basketball, weightlifting and wrestling.

"This event is more than just a showcase of athleticism. It is a powerful statement of Pakistan's commitment to nurture its youth and foster a culture of sportsmanship, inclusivity and excellence.

"The Olympiad is aimed at engaging students in healthy activities while scouting for raw talent that can be molded to represent Pakistan at national and international platforms," Chairman PMYP Rana Mashhood Ahmad said talking to media here.

For many, this is not just a sporting event but the first step towards a future in professional sports. "Our youth are

Prime Minister's Youth Programme

PRIME MINISTER'S UNIVERSITY SPORTS OLYMPIAD
 #SportsForYouth

November 20-25, 2024

Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Board, Islamabad

the backbone of this country. Through this initiative, we aim to instill discipline, teamwork, and a winning spirit in them. We are also identifying talent that can shine at the global level," former hockey great Olympian Khawaja Junaid, who is also the focal person for sports for PMYP told the media persons. An official accompanying the University of Sargodha athletes said: "This Olympiad is exactly what we need to revive our sporting legacy. Events like these are breeding grounds for future champions."

Participants from universities of every province, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan have brought a sense of unity and diversity to the event. The dif-

ferent venues at Pakistan Sports Complex have been adorned with banners and flags, buzzing with excitement as students from across the country have gathered to compete and connect.

Zainab, a participant in the badminton competition, shared her excitement: "This is a dream come true for us. We get to compete, learn and build friendships with students from other universities. The facilities here are outstanding!"

Along with sport competitions, the cultural programmes have also been arranged, creating a festive atmosphere and drawing attention to Pakistan's rich heritage. Visitors to the event expressed their admiration for these cultural segments.

All-round performance leads Pakistan U19 to thrilling win

JAVED KHAN
ISLAMABAD: Half-centuries by Shahzaib Khan and Usman Khan and four-fer from Ali Raza led Pakistan U19 to a thrilling 13-run win over Afghanistan in the U19 tri-series match at the ICC Academy in Dubai on Wednesday. This was Pakistan's first win over Afghanistan in the ongoing tournament after the latter defeated the former by 100 runs at the same venue on Friday.

Chasing 245 to win, Afghanistan after losing their opening batter Mahboob Khan (4, 4b) in the first over got their act together as Uzairullah Niazi (70, 72b, 8x4s, 1x6) and Faisal Shinodaza (47, 48b, 5x4s, 1x6) knitted a 100-run partnership for the second wicket. After the departure of Faisal, Uzairullah soon followed him back to the pavilion as Afghanistan were 142 for three in 46.5 overs. That the Pakistan were able to stage a comeback in the match was due

to right-arm fast Ali's two wickets in the 38th over.

Afghanistan were bundled out for 231 in 46.4 overs. Ali was backed up by Faham-ul-Haq (3-18) and Abdul Subhan (2-46).

Earlier, after opting to bat first, the in-form opening pair Shahezaib and Usman provided a solid 129-run stand to Pakistan.

Left-handed Usman, who scored century against Afghanistan in the previous match, scored an 88-ball 77, which included eight fours. Centurion from the UAE game, Shahezaib top-scored for the side with 78 off 101 balls, hitting seven boundaries.

After the departure of both batters, only Mohammad Taseeb Arif (19, 24b, 1x4), captain Saad Baig (15, 13b, 1x4, 1x6) and Mohammad Ahmed (13, 20b) managed to enter double figures as Pakistan were dismissed for 244 in 49.4 overs.

For Afghanistan, Abdul Aziz Khan and Khair Khan Stanikzai bagged three wickets apiece, while Naseer Khan Maroofkhal snapped two wickets.

Pakistan will now take on the hosts UAE in their last group match on Friday, November 22. Scores in brief: Pakistan U19 244 all out, 49.4 overs (Shahzaib Khan 78, Usman Khan 77; Abdul Aziz Khan 3-24, Khair Khan Stanikzai 3-48, Naseer Khan Maroofkhal 2-9).

Afghanistan U19 231 all out, 46.4 overs (Uzairullah Niazi 70, Faisal Shinodaza 47, Naseer Khan Maroofkhal 47; Ali Raza 4-57, Faham-ul-Haq 3-18, Abdul Subhan 2-46).



Babar, Rizwan drop in latest ICC T20I rankings

PEAK POINT
DUBAI: Pakistan skipper Mohammad Rizwan and batsman Babar Azam dropped in latest Men's T20I batting rankings issued on Wednesday.

The development comes after the duo displayed unimpressive performance in recent three-match T20I series against Australia. The Aussies whitewashed Pakistan to clinch the series 3-0.

Australia's Travis Head continued to hold the top spot in the rankings followed by England's Phil Salt and Tilak Varma from India a second and third position respectively.

Meanwhile, Haris Rauf jumped four place in batters' rankings to secure 20th place on the back of his magical spells

dynamo Dipendra Singh Airee at the top of the T20I all-rounder charts on the back of some strong form during India's recent series in South Africa, with the 31-year-old producing some eye-catching efforts with both bat and ball. It is the second time Pandya has held the No.1 ranking for T20I all-rounders.



CAS Serena Hotels International Squash Championship 2024 continues

AYESHA REHAN
ISLAMABAD: The excitement continues! Here are the results from today's quarterfinals:- Ibrahim Elkabbani (EGY) bt Darren Pragasam (MAS) 17-15, 11-6, 11-29 (min); Nasir Iqbal (PAK) bt Self El Shenawy (EGY) 10-12, 11-4, 11-4, 11-5

(35 min)- M Ashab Irfan (PAK) bt Rowan Damming (NED) 10-12, 11-2, 11-9, 11-5 (48 min)- Noor Zaman (PAK) bt Perry Malik (ENG) 14-12, 5-11, 11-7, 10-12, 11-7 (54 min)Semi Finals Schedule (21 November, 2024)Don't miss the thrilling semifinals! Match no 1: 1400 Hrs

Ibrahim Elkabbani (EGY) Vs Nasir Iqbal (PAK) Match no 2: 1500 Hrs Noor Zaman (PAK) Vs M Ashab Irfan (PAK).



World Rugby Hall of Fame to Induct Five Legends

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: World Rugby has announced the induction of five legendary players into its Hall of Fame during the World Rugby Awards in Monaco on 24 November. The 2024 inductees include two sevens stars, Emilee Cherry (Australia) and DJ Forbes (New Zealand), alongside 15 legends Donna Kennedy (Scotland), Chris Laidlaw (New Zealand), and Sergio Parisse (Italy). Parisse, Italy's most-capped player with 142 tests, makes history as the nation's first-ever Hall of Fame inductee. Cherry, a Rio 2016 Olympic gold medalist, and Forbes, a former New Zealand captain and

ments and lasting legacy, calling them ambassadors of rugby's values of integrity, respect, and passion. Since its inception in 2006, the Hall of Fame has honored 171 individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the game. This year's class reflects the sport's diversity and evolution, inspiring future generations worldwide.



Four Pakistani players move in boys' singles quarterfinals of World Jr Tennis Championship

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN
ISLAMABAD: Four Pakistani players Ahmad Naeel, Bilal Asim, Muhammad Talha Khan and Abubakar Talha have qualified for the boys' singles quarterfinals of the

ITF Pakistan PPL-Syed Dilwar Abbas World Junior Tennis Championship Leg-2 here at the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) Tennis Complex on Wednesday. This event has brought together 80 junior players from around the globe, including 50 boys and 30 girls representing countries such as Pakistan, Japan, China, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Canada, Korea, Germany, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Singapore, USA, Belarus, and Russia.

In Boys Singles quarterfinals, Ahmad Naeel Qureshi (PAK) beat Asad Zaman (PAK) 6-1, 6-2; Sion J (KOR) beat Aahil Kaleel (SR) 6-2, 6-2; Xiuyuan Guo (CHN) beat Muhammad Salar Khan

(PAK) 6-1, 4-6, 6-2; Muhammad Talha Khan (PAK) beat Patham Laosakulporn (THA) 7-5, 6-2; Bilal Asim (PAK) beat Yeonmu Jung (KOR) 6-4, 6-2; Minwoo KIM (KOR) beat Muhammad Haider All Rizwan (PAK) 6-1, 7-5;

Abubakar Talha (PAK) beat Ho Jun Park (KOR) 6-4, 3-6, 7-5. In Girls Singles pre-quarterfinals, Hinata Wada (JPN) beat hayoon Kim (KOR) 6-4, 6-7(4) 6-3; Karolina Lugal (KAZ) beat Haruhi Katsube (JPN) 6-2, 6-2; Youngchae Oh

(KOR) beat Pudith Elizabethirukul (THA) 6-4, 6-6; Elizaveta Privalova beat Gehansa Methnadi Lamapullage Don (SR) 6-6, 6-2; Yeon Jo Cha (KOR) beat Paweenon Nuasiri (THA) 7-5 6-3. In Boys Doubles quarterfinals, A Hyun (KOR) beat Tanisha Kantam (SGP).





RDA Cracks Down on Illegal Housing Schemes

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has intensified its campaign against illegal and unauthorised housing schemes in the city. Director General Kinza Murtaza announced that notices have been issued to 149 fake and unauthorised housing projects as part of efforts to protect the public from financial exploitation. Speaking to the media, the DG highlighted the growing issue of illegal schemes misleading citizens with false promises of homeownership. These schemes, often based on misleading maps and advertisements, have caused significant financial losses to unsuspecting investors. Murtaza emphasized the RDA's

commitment to safeguarding the public from such schemes and called for caution when investing. She advised citizens to verify the legality of any housing project with the RDA to ensure their investments are secure. The RDA has categorized the problematic schemes into three groups. These include illegal projects where land subdivisions have been canceled, completely fake schemes with no legal standing, and non-existent schemes that lack land, staff, or offices. Examples of illegal schemes include Bin Alan, City, CBR Residency, and Town 21, while fake projects such as Khyber Model Town Chakri Road and City Model Town were also named. Non-existent projects, such as Regent Farm House and Greenstone, were exposed for having no operational status. Murtaza revealed that the RDA has stopped approving new housing schemes and conducted extensive surveys to address the issue. She assured that only legally approved housing schemes will be allowed to operate in the future, with stringent monitoring in place to protect public investments. The RDA urged the public to consult its offices for verification of housing projects to avoid falling victim to fraudulent practices. This crackdown aims to restore trust in the real estate sector and prevent further financial harm to citizens.

CDA to auction prime luxury hotel plots for overseas investors by Dec 17

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) was informed on Wednesday that two luxury hotel plots have already been offered for international auction by 17th December, 2024 targeting overseas Pakistanis and companies.

It was disclosed in a meeting chaired by CDA chairman which discussed best possible options for auctioning hotel plots in Islamabad. The meeting focused projects specifically designed for overseas Pakistanis, offering lucrative investment opportunities in Islamabad's thriving real estate sector.

These projects aim to attract investments and foster economic



growth while providing a platform for overseas Pakistanis to contribute to their homeland's development. During the meeting, Chairman CDA received a detailed briefing on integrated solid waste management for the capital city. It was highlighted that the study on solid waste management has been thoroughly reviewed, and bidding documents for outsourcing the services are finalized and undergoing review. The incorporation of a specialized solid waste management company with the Securities and Exchange

Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is actively being pursued.

The meeting was also briefed about the way forward for unsolicited proposals received by CDA. The preliminary assessments of unsolicited proposals for waste management were also discussed. The chairman directed further evaluation of these proposals to ensure viability and efficiency of the projects received so far. Randhawa was also briefed on IT initiatives to digitize and modernize the city's infrastructure. The recently introduced digital parking system is one of many measures aimed at enhancing service delivery for Islamabad's residents through advanced technological solutions.

CUI confers degrees upon 925 students

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: As many as 925 graduating students were awarded with degrees at the convocation of COMSATS university Islamabad (CUI), Wala Campus held on Wednesday.

The degrees were awarded in the discipline of Management Sciences, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics. Around 33 graduates were awarded with gold, silver, and bronze medals at the Institute and Campus

level on account of their excellent academic performance. While 13 graduates were awarded with the PhD degrees in the disciplines of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and Management Sciences.

Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad graced the event as the chief guest. On this occasion, Director Campus, CUI, Wala Campus, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, T.I., presented a comprehensive campus report. He highlighted the Campus achievements

establishment of Department of Humanities, launch of Master's Program, future plans including ongoing developmental projects such as the installation of a solar energy system, the construction of sheds for the transport parking area, and the completion of the mega project Academic Block-I.

He shared that Academic Block-I is in the final stages of completion and will be fully operational for academic activities starting from the Spring 2025 semester, commencing in February 2025.

Opinion & Editorial

The Silence of the Mahrang Baloch Amidst Terrorism in Balochistan

Abdul Basit Alvi

Balochistan has long been a center of instability and violence, driven by a complex web of political, ethnic, and ideological factors. The terrorism issue in the province is multifaceted, involving local separatist movements, militant groups, cross-border insurgency, and broader regional geopolitical dynamics. Over the years, the province has seen an increase in violence, posing a persistent threat to national security and hindering economic development. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) is one of the most prominent and terrorist groups active in Balochistan. Founded in the late 1990s, the BLA has been responsible for numerous attacks on security forces, government infrastructure, and civilians. The group's main objective is the independence of Balochistan, which they falsely claim has been exploited and marginalized by the Pakistani state. Over the years, the BLA has carried out several high-profile acts of terrorism, contributing significantly to the region's instability. The BLA's attacks are typically characterized by guerrilla warfare tactics, such as roadside bombings, ambushes, assassinations, and targeted explosions. The group has concentrated its efforts on Pakistani military and law enforcement personnel, as well as Chinese nationals involved in CPEC projects. By targeting these entities, the BLA seeks to weaken the Pakistani state's control over Balochistan and chal-



Abdul Basit Alvi

llege the economic initiatives they consider exploitative. The BLA's terrorist activities have had a devastating impact on the people of Balochistan. Civilian casualties have been high, and the ongoing instability has hindered the province's economic and social development. The group's attacks on critical infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and roads, have further stymied progress and deepened the sense of frustration among the local population. Recently, at least 26 people were killed in a bomb explosion at a railway station in Quetta, with dozens more injured. The blast occurred as a morning train was preparing to depart for Peshawar. The BLA claimed responsibility for the attack, which police are investigating as a suicide bombing. These incidents highlight the BLA's role as a major security threat to the province and the state. There has been increasing activity in Balochistan by groups claiming to be the Baloch people and using violence to instill fear. The BLA, having failed to disrupt security and infrastructure on a large scale, has returned to its original tactics. In a particularly cowardly act, several months ago, they intercepted the Makka coach traveling from Quetta to Taftan on National Highway N-40 at Nushki, killing nine innocent laborers. These terrorists are not engaged in

a legitimate struggle for rights; rather, they are criminals, thieves, and anti-national elements causing harm in various ways. They are believed to receive substantial support from enemy intelligence agencies for carrying out such terrorist acts. Not only do these individuals rob laborers seeking employment, but they also resort to violence against them. Their aim is to sow fear and panic within society while waging terrorist activities against the state and its institutions. Dr. Mahrang Baloch, the so-called leader of the Baloch Solidarity Committee, along with her fellow journalists who claim to be human rights advocates, are often accused of using the issue of missing persons as a cover to defame the state and its institutions. However, they fail to justify the killing of innocent civilians and show no solidarity or condolences to the families of the victims of such violence. They lack the moral courage to denounce terrorist acts or terrorism in Balochistan or the state of Pakistan. When the government and law enforcement agencies take decisive action against terrorist elements, these so-called human rights advocates often remain silent when other countries implement even harsher measures against similar elements within their own borders. Our judicial system,

while widely acknowledged for its shortcomings and delays, frequently results in cases dragging on for years, leading to wrongful convictions of innocent individuals, while the true perpetrators evade justice. In such an environment, when our agencies detain individuals for investigation and evidence-gathering, accusations of coercive and illegal arrests often arise. However, I firmly believe that our agencies do not apprehend innocent people without reason—there is always a basis for these arrests. If someone is innocent and has not acted against the state or its armed forces, there is no justification for their detention. Behind every missing person case, there is usually a deeper story, and our religion teaches us to value our country, which has given us our identity and freedom. Therefore, it is our duty to recognize the significance of our independence, our nation, and our patriotic armed forces. While it may be easy to immediately blame the agencies for allegedly detaining innocents, we must also acknowledge that many of these arrests have led to the identification of terrorists, anti-state elements, and foreign agents. Terrorists rarely confess to their crimes willingly, and thorough investigations are often necessary to extract vital information. National security is a fundamental priority, and no country compromises on this matter. I have come across many columnists and journalists who reluctantly criticize our agencies, often focusing on playing a key role in spreading

misinformation, fueling misconceptions, and causing the issue of missing persons to become a global phenomenon and Pakistan is no exception, with a variety of factors contributing to its increase. While human rights organizations often focus their attention on security forces, they frequently fail to consider the underlying causes or individual realities. Voluntary disappearances, which are sometimes mistaken for enforced disappearances, are not uncommon, with some individuals choosing to vanish without informing their families. Investigations have also revealed that some people intentionally go into hiding to avoid arrest by law enforcement agencies. Moreover, identifying abandoned deceased individuals presents a significant challenge. According to detailed records from Edhi and Chhipra, over 35,000 bodies have been buried by these two NGOs across Pakistan since 2005. It's important to make a distinction between cases of missing persons and enforced disappearances, as many individuals reported as missing are later found to be casualties of security operations during counterterrorism efforts. For example, in one instance, a terrorist named Karim Jan, initially listed as missing, was later discovered during an attack on the Gwadar Port Authority complex. His sister later formally requested his body. Similarly, the sister of terrorist Abdul Wadud Satazkai had been searching for her brother since August 12, 2021, only to discover his death

in the Mach attack. When compared internationally, the issue of missing persons is a significant global concern, affecting both developed and developing nations. For instance, the United States' National Crime Information Center (NCIC) reported 321,705 missing persons cases in its 2021 publication. In the UK, the Missing Persons Unit (MPU) documented 241,064 cases in 2020/21. Germany reported 11,000 missing persons in 2018, and India recorded 347,523 cases in 2018. In IOJK, the Asian Federation against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) recorded 8,900 missing persons in 2019. Nepal also reported 10,418 missing persons cases in 2020/21. These figures highlight the widespread nature of missing persons cases and the ongoing difficulties countries face in addressing this issue. In Pakistan, the Enforcement of Missing Persons Act (EMPA) is actively working to locate missing persons, with the Commission of Inquiry (COI) continuing the efforts initiated by the Commission on Missing Persons, which was established in 2011 under the Ministry of Interior. As of March 2024, the Commission has recorded a total of 10,203 cases, of which 9,016 have been resolved. However, 2,302 cases remain unresolved. Despite the relatively low number of missing persons cases in Pakistan, both domestic and international actors have made concerted efforts to portray Pakistan as a country with a high inci-

dence of missing persons. There is concrete evidence that banned separatist groups are recruiting Pakistani nationals for terrorist activities, offering substantial financial rewards to destabilize the country. In this context, figures like Dr. Mahrang Baloch and others are used to propagate false narratives and incite hatred against Pakistan. Dr. Mahrang and her associates are attempting to manipulate public sentiment by presenting a distorted and misleading portrayal of the situation, further fueling propaganda against the state. Whenever the state and law enforcement agencies take action against terrorists, Mahrang Baloch and her few supporters quickly spread malicious narratives, accusing the government of human rights violations. It is striking how she raises her voice over missing persons but remains conspicuously silent when it comes to the victims of terrorist attacks. It is clear that the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and its leaders are exploiting the issue of missing persons as a political tool, with little genuine concern for the real problems faced by the people of Balochistan. Mahrang Baloch's silence in the face of innocent lives being lost is deeply shameful. The people of Pakistan, including those in Balochistan, see through the true intentions of these anti-state elements and fully support the decisive steps being taken by the government and the Pakistani military to combat terrorism.

Minister directs sites' identification, concept paper preparation for M- SEZs

ARSHAD MALIK
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday directed the officials concerned to identify suitable sites for the establishment of Model Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and prepare a comprehensive concept paper for the purpose.

He passed these directives while chairing a meeting on Model-SEZs and the policy framework for the relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan, following a detailed brief-

ing by officials from the Board of Investment (BOI). Pakistan's cuisine He also mentioned that no negotiation would be tolerated in the construction of the zones or the provision of facilities there.

The planning minister further said there would be regular meetings with Chinese companies every month to address their problems promptly, if any arose.

He termed the security of Chinese citizens as the 'top priority' of the government and vowed that the enemies of Pakistan and development would not be allowed to cause any dent to Pakistan-China relations.

COAS Gen Asim Munir visits IDEAS-2024 at Karachi Expo Centre

PEAK POINT
RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on Wednesday visited the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS-2024) at the Karachi Expo Centre.

During the visit, the COAS commended the active participation of defense manufacturers from friendly nations and displayed an impressive display of arms and equipment by both domestic and international exhibitors, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

A total of 57 exhibitors are participating in the exhibition of which 333 are international exhibitors while 224 are



domestic exhibitors. 36 countries established exhibitors' stalls of which 17 countries are participating for the first time.

Over 300 foreign delegates from 53 countries attended the event and showed full confidence in the exhibition and the defence industry of Pakistan.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) developed by Global Industrial Defence Solutions (GIDS) Pakistan.

The Shahpar-III boasts advanced capabilities, including an operational ceiling of 35,000 feet and an endurance of over 24 hours. It is equipped to carry a wide range of munitions, including bombs, missiles, and torpedoes.

The 13th Edition of IDEAS 2024 commenced on 19th November and will culminate on 22nd November 2024.

Earlier, upon his arrival at Karachi, the COAS was warmly received by Lieutenant General Bar Iftikhar, Corps Commander Karachi.

Commerce Minister meets Turkish business leader to strengthen bilateral economic ties

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday met with the Turkish industry leader to strengthen bilateral economic trade relations and the future plan of action for increasing business to business ties.

Ismail Demir, Chairman of the Board of KARDEMIR (Karabuk Iron and Steel Works), Turkey, during a sideline meeting of IDEAS 2024, said a press release issued on Wednesday. The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, investment on enhancing trade, financing, and collaboration in the steel and manufacturing sectors.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan

highlighted the exemplary historical, political, and cultural ties between Pakistan and Turkey. He praised Turkey's significant advancements in defense, aerospace, and manufacturing, noting their contribution to Pakistan's industrial and defense sectors. "Our partnership with Turkey has fostered self-reliance in key industries, and there is

vast potential to expand trade and investment", he said. The discussion also emphasized sustainable practices in steel production and fostering innovation to meet global environmental demands. Professor Dr. Ismail Demir expressed Turkey's commitment to strengthening economic ties and thanked the Minister for the warm hospitality.

Pakistan, China discuss advancing geoscientific collaboration

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the China Geological Survey (Xian Center), led by Dr. Ma Zhong Ping, Secretary of the SCO Geosciences Cooperation Research Center called on Secretary Petroleum to discuss advancing geoscientific collaboration between Pakistan and China.

During the visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister to China in June 2024, where both leaders expressed a strong desire to deepen cooperation in various sectors including mining and geosciences, said a news release issued here on Wednesday.

Following this, a team of Chinese experts visited Pakistan in August and provided strategic recommendations for uplifiting the key areas of the economy. One key suggestion was to conduct detailed integrated geoscientific surveys of selected metallogenic blocks, supported by the Chinese government. The longstanding partnership between the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) and the China Geological Survey (CCS) began with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2008, subsequently renewed in 2013 and 2018. In 2023, this cooperation

was further strengthened through a formal agreement to advance follow-up surveys of geochemical anomalies identified during earlier collaborative work. The partnership between GSP and CCS has already achieved significant milestones, including the systematic geochemical sampling of stream sediments across Pakistan, resulting in geochemical anomaly maps for 69 elements.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation from China Geological Survey (CCS) calls on Secretary Petroleum to Bolster Geoscientific Collaboration.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chaired a high-level meeting to review the identification of locations for Model Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and the policy framework for relocating Chinese industries to Pakistan.

LHC judge warns schools without buses for children will be sealed

PEAK POINT
LAHORE: Lahore High Court's Justice Shahid Karim has directed Punjab government to ensure all public and private schools will be sealed if they do not arrange buses for children, otherwise will be sealed.

Justice Shahid Karim gave these remarks while hearing case on anti-smog measures being taken by the government on Wednesday. During the hearing, Advocate General Punjab presented a detailed report in the Court and elaborated the short terms as well as long term steps being taken by the concerned departments. During the hearing, Justice Shahid Karim remarked, "Do something for school buses, schools will be sealed if they do not arrange buses for children". LHC judge told the government to ensure that all commercial area, markets should be closed by eight o'clock throughout the year. Justice Shahid Karim also remarked that entire credit was being given to air, but still they court all the officers present here which steps they have taken for controlling of the smog. During the hearing, LHC judge remarked that "Islam advises us to working up early in the morning and go to bed early at night, but we are working against it". LHC added that, "We should have a cultural change."

Shaza urges TikTok to use its platform for educational purposes

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday urged TikTok to use its platform for educational purposes.

"Various skills and basic education can be imparted through TikTok, and the Ministry of IT will fully support TikTok in achieving this objective," she said during a meeting with a TikTok delegation briefed by her Director of Public Policy, Mr. Emir Gelen.

According to a news release, the meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, including the availability of quality and productive content on social media platforms. Secretary IT, Zarrar Hasham Khan, was also present during the discussion. The TikTok delegation briefed the Minister on the platform's initiatives in Pakistan and emphasized the importance of ensuring that quality content is



accessible, noting that TikTok has a vast user base in Pakistan. The delegation assured the Minister that TikTok would prioritize meaningful and educational content. They also expressed the platform's willingness to collaborate with the Ministry of IT & Telecomm and its associated departments to achieve these goals.

Azam Nazeer reaffirms unwavering commitment to protect rights of children

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: During his address at the World Children's Day event hosted by the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission on the Rights of the Child at the Pakistan National Council of Arts, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of children.

He highlighted the importance of listening to children's voices, reflecting this year's theme, "Listen to the Future." He emphasized that children are not only the future of the nation but also an integral part of shaping its present. The Minister underscored Pakistan's



effectively. Highlighting education as a top priority, he spoke about efforts to bridge gaps in access to education, particularly for girls, and reiterated the government's commitment to creating an inclusive and empowering environment for all children. The Minister concluded by calling for a unified approach involving families, communities, civil society, and private sector stakeholders to build a society where children's voices are heard, their rights are protected, and their dreams are nurtured. He expressed hope that through collective efforts, Pakistan can create a future where every child thrives without fear or discrimination.

KP CM condemns suicide attack on check post in Bannu

PEAK POINT
PESHAWAR: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, All Amin Khan Gandapur on Wednesday strongly condemned a terrorist attack on a check post in district Bannu in which 12 security personnel embraced martyrdom.

PTI's "Final Call" for protest deemed failure: Minister Engr Amir Muqam

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON and President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engr Amir Muqam, dismissed PTI's November 24 protest call as a 'flop show,' claiming it would yield no significant results. Engr Amir Muqam, the PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President, has described Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) "Final Call" for protests at D-Chowk on November 24 as nothing more than a 'miscall.' He accused the party of attempting to provoke unrest and violence. Muqam stated that Pakistan remains committed to combating terrorism in politics, warning that those who bring terrorism



into politics will face the same consequences as terrorists. He emphasized this stance as a reflection of Pakistan's dedication to eradicating extremism and promoting peace.

Engr Amir Muqam also pointed out that Imran Khan has instigated a revolution by handing over the party to his wife and sister. He urged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister All Amin to focus on addressing the rising terrorism in his province rather than expending energy on federal conflicts.