



Diljit, Hania Aamir combining for project?

Tuesday 25 February 2025

PM lauds Azerbaijan's principled stance on Jammu & Kashmir

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday lauded Azerbaijan's continued principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir issue and the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people, as enshrined in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

On the invitation of Prime Minister Ilham Aliyev, the PM is to visit Azerbaijan, from 24-25 February 2025.

PM Shehbaz was received at the Zugulba Palace by President Ilham

Aliyev on 24 February 2025. During their detailed interaction, the two sides discussed areas of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation and expressed the desire to further foster collaboration across multiple sectors.

Azerbaijan's President accepted the Prime Minister's invitation to visit Pakistan in April 2025 to sign various important agreements. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the strategic partnership between the two countries and expressed satisfaction on the steady growth and consolidation



of the strong friendship. They also emphasised the importance of further enhancing bilateral trade and investment and to explore joint investment

projects in the areas of energy, infrastructure, investment and connectivity. The Prime Minister attended a Business Forum organized in collaboration with the Export and Investment Promotion Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AZPROMO). The Prime Minister highlighted the implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and the Transit Trade Agreement (TTA) and also noted that Azerbaijan-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been inaugurated on February 12, 2025 in Pakistan.

Ji plans protest drive against govt after Ramadan: Hafiz Naeem

SEHRISH NAZ

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem Rehman said on Monday the party would launch a protest movement against the government after Ramadan.

Speaking to media after Ji's Majlis-e-Shoora (consultative committee) meeting, he said the party has reviewed facilities available to the masses. He said the participants decided to launch a movement against the government after the holy month as there was no belief for the public despite renewed agree-

ments with IPPS. The government should provide substantial relief to the masses in prices of fuel and electricity, he demanded. As part of the strategy, he said, the Ji would stage protests on national highways and besiege chief minister and governor houses. He said the farmers should join protest everywhere to force the government to reduce prices. There should be a government on the basis on Form 45, he added. The Ji chief said the people of Palestine would not compromise on its dignity.

Rubina Khalid urges unified action to strengthen Pakistan's social protection system

SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid on Monday urged development partners, policymakers and stakeholders to collaborate in fortifying Pakistan's social protection framework. Pakistani cuisine recipes

She made this call during the Second National Social Protection Conference, which commenced in Karachi, said a news release.

The three-day conference, running from February 24 to 26th, is organized by GIZ Pakistan

on behalf of the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The event aims to enhance cooperation, promote digital innovation, and ensure financial sustainability in Pakistan's social protection systems.

Speaking at the conference's opening session, Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized BISP's role as the largest social safety net in Asia.

She recalled the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who once said, "No nation can truly progress if its most vul-



nerable communities are left behind." This vision laid the foundation for BISP's establishment in 2008, ensuring social protection as a fundamental right rather than a privilege.

Highlighting BISP's achievements, Senator Khalid noted that the Benazir Kafalat program has been a lifeline for 9.8 million families, providing them with quarterly financial support.

She also pointed out that the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif initiative has enrolled over 10.7 million children 5- of whom are girls by linking financial assistance to school attendance. Additionally, the Benazir Nashonum program addresses maternal and child health, offering nutritional support to pregnant and lactating mothers across the country. Senator Khalid further underscored the significance of the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER), describing it as the backbone of Pakistan's social protection database.

The NSER, a pioneering dynamic registry, facilitates over 95 social

sector programs at both federal and provincial levels, ensuring targeted assistance for the most vulnerable populations.

The BISP chairperson also announced the launch of new skill development initiatives aimed at economic empowerment for beneficiaries. She stressed the need for enhanced federal-provincial coordination to establish an integrated social protection ecosystem. "The challenges of poverty, climate change, and economic instability demand stronger social protection mechanisms based on global best practices," she stated.

IMF delegation lauds Pakistan's efforts on green budgeting

AVESHA REHAN

ISLAMABAD: A four-member International Monetary Fund (IMF) technical delegation met Pakistani officials here on Monday for talks on climate financing. According to sources, negotiations would be held between the IMF delegation and federal and provincial officials on green budgeting, climate spending tagging, tracking, and reporting.

IMF sources stated that a proposal to impose a carbon levy in the budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 is

under consideration. A preliminary draft was discussed during negotiations and the IMF gave suggestions on the levy, they added. There was also discussion on electric vehicles and subsidies, the sources said, and added that the IMF delegation would also provide suggestions for expanding green budgeting in the upcoming budget. The sources indicated that today's discussions focused on measures to counter climate change, with briefings on the federal and provincial initiatives on climate.

Article 245 does not grant judicial powers to military, argues Imran Khan's counsel

KOMAL BUTT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan resumed hearing on the intra-court appeal against the military trials of civilians on Monday.

A seven-member constitutional bench, led by Justice Aminuddin Khan, is presiding over the case. The bench includes Justice Jamal Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Nazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan.

Currently, former prime minister Imran Khan's lawyer Uzair Bhandari is presenting

arguments. Previously, Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan's lawyer Latif Khosa had completed his arguments in the last hearing.

During the hearing, the Supreme Court questioned the relevance of Article 245 in the case. The court remarked that if the argument based on Article 245 is accepted, how will the army defend its institutions? Uzair Bhandari argued that even if the Army Act is struck down, the Anti-Terrorism Act remains applicable. He stated that in cases where multiple forums exist, the priority should be to ensure the protection of fundamental rights. He emphasised that Article



245 does not grant judicial powers to the military. Justice Jamal Mandokhail inquired whether a court-martial is considered a judicial proceeding. Bhandari responded that while a court-martial has

judicial authority, it applies only to military personnel, not civilians. Justice Aminuddin Khan remarked that some categories of civilians do fall under the Army Act, questioning how the distinction between those who qualify under the Army Act and those who do not will be made. Meanwhile, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan questioned where the trial would be conducted if both military personnel and civilians violate the Official Secrets Act together. Bhandari replied that such cases should be heard in an anti-terrorism court, not a military tribunal. Justice Mandokhail stated that understanding the true purpose of the Army Act would resolve what is the half of the issue, as the constitution explicitly stated that this act is reserved only to the armed

forces. Additionally, arguments from Salman Akram Raja, representing military court convict Arzam Junaid, and Ministry of Defence's counsel Khawaja Harris have also been concluded. The petitioner's lawyer, Khawaja Ahmad Hussain, has already finished his arguments. It is noteworthy that the federal government, Punjab, Balochistan, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Law, and the Martyrs' Foundation have aligned themselves with the arguments presented by Ministry of Defence's counsel Khawaja Harris.

KP Governor writes PM to rename Islamabad Airport as BBA

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, has formally proposed to federal government to rename the New Islamabad International Airport as Benazir Bhutto International Airport, honoring the late former prime minister.

In a letter addressed to the prime minister on Monday, Governor Kundi emphasized that the old Islamabad airport was originally named Benazir Bhutto International Airport on June 21, 2008 following her assassination in December 2007.

However, in April 2018, the Aviation Division

renamed the newly constructed airport as New Islamabad International Airport, removing Bhutto's name.

Kundi said that naming major airports after national leaders is a global tradition, citing examples such as Jinnah International Airport Karachi, Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore, and Indira Gandhi International Airport Delhi. Sheikh Zayed International Airport Rahim Yar Khan, Begum Nusrat Bhutto International Airport Sukker and others. He further stated that recognizing Bhutto's contributions and sacrifice for Pakistan's democracy.

Pak-China cooperation in education, media to be expanded: Chinese Ambassador

HUMA REHAN

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong Monday said that it is a high time to take profound and substantial steps to further strengthen China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

"We are ready to expand cooperation with Pakistan in education, media, think tanks, video exchanges, and the film and television industries, to foster mutual learning between civilizations and strengthen cultural and people-to-people ties," the ambassador said talking to media after addressing a ceremony.

The ambassador said, "We will help Pakistan in developing human resources, increasing

training opportunities, and implement the bilateral exchange of sending 1,000 Pakistanis to China for modern agricultural training."

He said that at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, the President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari paid a successful state visit to China earlier this month. "We are pleased to see that since the establishment of the new Pakistani government last year, China and Pakistan have maintained close high-level exchange."

He said, "We are ready to work with Pakistani side for the implementation, and ensure these important consensus into tangible practices and fruitful outcomes of our bilateral



cooperation." The ambassador said, "We must aim high to deepen high-level strategic cooperation." He added the development of China-Pakistan relations over the past year further indicates that high-level strategic guidance is the fundamental guarantee for the steady and long-term development of our bilateral relations.

He said that China is ready to work with Pakistan to fully understand and appreciate the profound significance and valuable insights from President Xi's historic visit and consistently view and develop China-Pakistan relations from a strategic level.

The ambassador said, "By combining a long-term vision with pragmatic actions, we aim to continuously advance the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our bilateral relations with the vivid practice of high-quality CPEC development and other cooper-

ation."

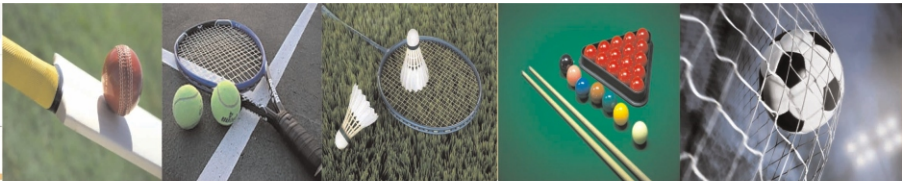
He said that China is ready to deepen practical cooperation with Pakistan in various fields, work together to upgrade CPEC cooperation, and help Pakistan consolidate its development foundations and unleash its development potential. "We are prepared to work with Pakistan to ensure effective implementation, focusing on key projects. We'll continue to advance the Karakoram Highway Phase II and the upgrade of the Khunjerab railway project, actively promote the comprehensive development and operation of Gwadar Port, and ensure the stable operation of the Khunjerab Pass besides expanding cooperation in agricultur-

al." He said that last year, China-Pakistan agricultural trade exceeded \$1 billion, with Pakistan enjoying a valuable surplus of \$237 million.

On February 14 this year, the second batch of 26.5 tons of high-value-added buffalo dairy products arrived in China, which is great significance, showcasing the resilience and prospects of our bilateral agricultural cooperation. He said that while advancing existing agricultural projects, we should promptly identify a second batch of CPEC agricultural projects, so that grains, cotton, oil, meat and dairy products can all be covered. Jiang Zaidong said, "We aim to promote modern and efficient agricultural cooperation. We'll

expand new models like contract farming to enhance the sense of fulfillment for enterprises and farmers in both countries."

He said that while focusing on cultivating growth points, we'll accelerate the construction of model Special Economic Zones (SEZs), attract more export-oriented enterprises, and encourage participation in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), develop cross-border E-commerce collaborations, and welcome third-party participation in CPEC cooperation, to better harness the potential of B2B collaborations. He said that China will continue to carry forward more small but beautiful projects to benefit people of Pakistan's livelihoods.



Ravindra stars as NZ thump Bangladesh to reach Champions Trophy semis

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN
RAWALPINDI: New Zealand have secured their second consecutive win in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, leading them to the tournament's semi-finals after the Black Caps achieved victory over Bangladesh in the sixth group match of the tournament played at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Monday.

Chasing a modest 237-run target, the Blackcaps knocked the winning runs for the loss of five wickets and 23 balls to spare, courtesy of an anchoring fourth-wicket partnership between centurion Ravindra and in-form Tom Latham.

New Zealand, however, had a contrasting start to the pursuit as they lost in-form Will Young (5) and veteran Kane

Williamson (five) inside four overs with just 15 runs on the board.

Following the early stumble, returning Ravindra joined Conway in the middle and launched recovery.

The duo shared an important 57-run partnership for the third wicket until Mustafizur Rahman struck in the 16th over to get rid of the opening batter, who scored 30 off 45 deliveries, hitting six fours.

Ravindra then joined forces with Latham and put New Zealand in a commanding position with a 129-run partnership.

He eventually fell victim to Rishad Hossain in the 39th over after top-scoring for New Zealand with 112 off 105 deliveries, studded with 12 fours and a six.



Latham, on the other hand, walked back in the 42nd over after contributing 55 from 76 deliveries, laced with three fours.

Glenn Phillips and Michael Bracewell then ensured there were no further hiccups in the modest run chase and

steered New Zealand to a rewarding triumph.

Phillips remained unbeaten with 28-ball 21, while Bracewell made 11 off 13 deliveries.

For Bangladesh, Taskin Ahmed, Nahid Rana, Rahman and Hossain picked up one

wicket apiece.

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner's decision to bowl first paid dividends as an all-round bowling effort gave them a modest total to chase.

Bangladesh got off to a relatively decent start to their innings as openers Najmul Hossain Shanto and Tanzid Hasan laid a solid foundation with a 45-run stand, culminating with the latter's dismissal in the ninth over.

Bangladesh then began to lose wickets at regular intervals and were eventually reduced to 118/5 in 26.1 overs with Shanto still hanging on.

The skipper finally received ample support from the other end in the form of middle-order batter Jaker Ali, who scored a valiant century in Bangladesh's campaign opener against India in Dubai.

The duo added an important 45 runs for the sixth wicket until Shante fell victim to Will O'Rourke in the 38th over.

The Bangladesh retained the top-scorer for his side with a gutsy 77 off 110 deliveries, laced with nine fours.

Jaker oversaw Bangladesh's batting expedition until the penultimate over and walked back after scoring an important 45 off 55 balls with the help of three fours and a six.

He was also involved in a handy 33-run partnership with Rishad Hossain, who made a 25-ball 26.

Bangladesh's number nine Taskin Ahmed added further valuable runs at the backend with a 10-run cameo, coming off 20 deliveries.

Pakistan crash out of Champions Trophy 2025

RIZWAN HAIDER
RAWALPINDI: Pakistan crashed out of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 on Monday after New Zealand thrashed Bangladesh in the group-stage clash of the prestigious tournament, under-way until March 9.

New Zealand and India have booked their spots for the semi-finals after winning the first two of their respective Champions Trophy 2025 matches.

The defending champions and hosts kicked off their defence against New Zealand, who beat them twice in the recently held tri-nation ODI series which also featured South Africa.

Battling first in the curtain-raiser, the Blackcaps racked up a massive total of 320/5, courtesy of anchoring centuries from opener Will Young and wicketkeeper batter Tom Latham.

Pakistan's bowling unit struggled against a disciplined New Zealand batting unit, with



Naseem Shah being their stand-out performer for his two wickets for 63 runs in his 10 overs, while his fellow pacer Haris Rauf was even more expensive, leaking away 83 runs in as many overs.

In response, the home side's batting unit could muster 260 runs before being bundled out in

47.2 overs. Returning all-rounder Khushdil Shah remained the top-scorer with a 49-ball 69, followed by Babar Azam, who made a scratchy 64 from 90 deliveries.

The holders then faced arch-rivals India on Sunday in Dubai, aiming to stay alive in the tournament.

But, their batting unit failed to deliver in the must-win high-stakes clash and scored a paltry 241 before getting bowled out in the final over.

Middle-order batter Saud Shafeel was the top-scorer with a cautious 62 off 76 deliveries, with the aid of five boundaries.

Left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav was the pick of the bowlers for India, taking three wickets for just 40 runs in his nine overs.

In response, India comfortably chased down the 242-run target for the loss of four wickets and 45 balls to spare, thanks to Virat Kohli's masterful century.

With two defeats in as many matches, Pakistan's chances to qualify for the semi-finals of the Champions Trophy 2025 had become bleak and dependent on the outcomes of the remaining Group A matches. But New Zealand's victory over Bangladesh denied them any chance of progressing further in the eight-team tournament.

Favourite Sardar lifts Pakistan Derby 2025 trophy

SEHRISH NAZ
LAHORE: The Pakistan Derby 2025 lived up to its prestigious reputation as Favourite Sardar delivered a commanding performance to clinch the coveted title at the Lahore Race Club.

The thrilling race saw Sardar, trained by Touqeer and owned by Ch Ashfaq, outclassing the competition to claim victory. The celebrations were amplified as President Asif Ali Zardari presented the grand Rs 10 million winner's purse and trophy to the jubilant trainer and owner. The event was graced by LRC Chairman Ahmed Makhdoom, Secretary Shahzad Akhtar, and representatives from sponsors Lake City,



adding further prestige to Pakistan's premier horse racing spectacle in the day's marquee event, Pakistan Derby 2025, Favourite Sardar asserted his dominance, finishing the prestigious race in 2:24 seconds to claim the top prize. Golden Market emerged as a surprise second-place finisher,

Wasim Akram slams PCB and selectors after Pakistan's defeat to India in Champions Trophy 2025

MUHAMMAD USMAN
ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan pace legend Wasim Akram has strongly criticized the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), and the selectors following the team's six-wicket loss to India in the Champions Trophy 2025 clash in Dubai on Sunday.

During a recent television appearance, Akram called for sweeping changes in the squad, dropping underperforming senior players and invest in young, fearless cricketers.

The former captain expressed frustration over the team's inability to meet expectations, stating that Pakistan's history of struggles have persisted for years.

"Enough is enough.



We are losing in white-ball cricket with these players for a couple of years now. It's time to take a bold step," Akram remarked, backing fellow former pacer Waqar Younis' suggestion to introduce fresh talent even if it means short-term losses.

Akram also highlighted Pakistan's poor bowling performances, revealing that the team's bowlers

have taken only 24 wickets in their last five games at an average of 60. Shockingly, among 14 teams that have played ODI cricket this year, including Oman and the USA, Pakistan has the second-worst bowling average. "We have tried everything. In the last five games, all Pakistani bowlers combined have taken just 24 wickets at an average of 60," he noted.

The 58-year-old also revealed that PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi had advised selectors to redress the squad before the tournament, but they chose to persist with the same underperforming players. "Even the chairman told them to make changes if needed, but after a one-hour meeting, they stuck with the same squad," Akram said, questioning the decision-making process. He also held Pakistan's captain, Muhammad Sheikb and Mian Abbas Mukhtar contributed one goal each. For Diamond Paints, Mir Huzaifa Ahmed scored three goals, Raja Talmur Nadeem netted two, and Malik Ali Kull Khan added one goal. Diamond Paints asserted their dominance in the first chukker, netting three brilliant goals against one from Din Polo, securing an early 3-1 lead. However, Din Polo roared back in the second chukker, firing four spectacular goals, while Diamond Paints managed just one, bringing the match to an intense 5-5 deadlock.

Rizwan says pressure got to Pakistan's batsmen in loss to India

JAVED KHAN
ISLAMABAD: Captain Mohammad Rizwan said Pakistan's middle order succumbed to the pressure as the Champions Trophy defeat by fierce rivals India on Sunday that left the tournament hosts' chances of progressing to the knockout stage hanging by a thread.

The defending champions were restricted to 241 all out in 49.4 overs and India comfortably chased down the total with six wickets and 45 balls remaining thanks to Virat Kohli's unbeaten 100 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Rizwan, who scored 46 in a 104-run stand with Saud Shafeel (62), said his team had paid a heavy price for failing to build on the momentum.



"The middle order wasn't good enough," Rizwan told reporters. "The players performed well before this. In our meeting we had discussed that on this pitch around 270-280 would be enough (but) because the outfield was slow, the pitch was slow, the ball wasn't going into the gaps.

"Saud and I tried to build a partnership and share a lot of time, but after that the shot selection was poor. That's where they got a chance to take our wickets. Our middle order maybe couldn't take the pressure."

Pakistan will be knocked out if New Zealand beat Bangladesh in Rawalpindi later on Monday.

"For now, we can say that it's over. This is the truth. We'll see what Bangladesh do with New Zealand, what New Zealand do with India, and what we do," Rizwan said.

Din Polo clinch Diamond Paints Polo Cup trophy

PEAK POINT
LAHORE: Din Polo clinched the coveted trophy of the Diamond Paints Polo Cup, co-sponsored by Pro Health, after securing a thrilling 10-6 victory over Diamond Paints in the final at the Lahore Garrison Polo Ground. A large number of spectators and families gathered to witness the final of the six-goal event, part of the Pakistan Polo Association's calendar. Prominent attendees included Diamond Paints Director Sabina Saman, CEO Mir Shoab Ahmed, Mrs. Shoab Ahmed, Director Mir Huzaifa Ahmed, Pro Health Director Chulam Muhammad Laghari, Sardar Isa Laghari, and



Club Secretary Major (Retd) Babar Mahboob Awan, along with a significant crowd of polo enthusiasts. The final match between Din

Polo and Diamond Paints proved highly competitive. Din Polo emerged victorious with a 10-6 triumph. Raja Jalal Arsalan and

Tessori heartbroken over national team's defeat in crucial match

PEAK POINT
KARACHI: Like other cricket fans, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori is also heartbroken over the defeat of Pakistan in critical match of Champions 2025 against India in Dubai.

It is easy to take installment from IMF, but it is now difficult for Pakistan to enter second round of Champion Trophy 2025.

"The national team's batting line crumbled, bowlers trembled, fielders dropped catches and



missed run out - all the fun was ruined by seeing this," the governor said.

Kamran Tessori said batsmen need best skills and fighting spirit. If a team is built with highest standards, fans will never be disappointed.

The governor Kamran said if the team had won the match, he would have given a prize of Rs 10 million.

Aurangzeb reiterates commitment to structural reforms for resilient economy, sustainable growth

PEAK POINT
KARACHI: Federal Finance Minister, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, reiterating the government's determination to structural reforms for paving a foundation of resilient economy and sustainable growth, on Monday argued that every sector has to contribute in efforts for export-led growth. He expressed these views while addressing the inaugural session of 2-day Pakistan Banking Summit 2025 and later talking to the media. The maiden banking summit is being organized by Pakistan Association to promote collaboration among the industry leaders and foster integration into the global banking spectrum. Senator Muhammad

Aurangzeb said that the incumbent government had taken arduous decisions which resulted in a significant progress in macroeconomic stability depicted by improvements in key economic indicators like current account balance, inflation and stock market.

The government is implementing a range of fundamental reforms for sustainable economic stability in various sectors, he said while referring to reforms in FBR, fiscal prudence, restructuring and rightising of public sector entities and governance structure as well as energy and other important sectors of the economy. Further elaborating the government's reform agenda, he said that the ministry of finance

is being engaged in tax policy formulation, as tax policy should not be limited only to mathematical calculations but it should also take the economic value in consideration. The government is introducing appropriate reforms and we will not give in, he categorically stated and vowed to take forward the reform agenda with the same spirit. "Pakistan needs to transform the DNA of its economy and move towards sustainable and inclusive growth," he argued. We are heading in the right direction and all these factors are boosting the confidence of investors in the national economy as well, he said and emphasized, but we need sustainability and resilience to face the emerging challenges.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, being presented with memento at Pakistan Summit 2025.

Maritime security exercise Sea Guard-25 commences in Karachi

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Opening Brief of Exercise SEA GUARD-25 was conducted under the auspices of the Pakistan Navy, with Commander Coast, Rear Admiral Faisal Amin, in attendance. The second in its series, Exercise SEA GUARD is a Pakistan Navy initiative aimed at bringing together representatives from Pakistan's diverse maritime sectors, including shipping, fisheries, law enforcement agencies, private entities, and NGOs under one platform to collectively address multifaceted challenges in the maritime domain, said a news release of Directorate General Public Relations (Pakistan Navy).



During the opening brief, participants were apprised of the aims and objectives of Exercise SEA GUARD and the critical role of the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC) in ensuring maritime safety and security along Pakistan's coastline. The exercise seeks to enhance coordination among national stakeholders while operating within their respective legal frameworks, using JMICC as a common platform to strengthen the security of Pakistan's maritime zones.

It includes a series of practical scenario-based exercises at sea, along with tabletop discussions, to refine and improve existing security mechanisms. Commander Coast, Rear Admiral Faisal Amin, expressed his gratitude to all national stakeholders for their participation and commended their contributions towards fostering a safer maritime environment.

JCP member Advocate Akhtar Hussain resigns

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Advocate Akhtar Hussain, a member of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan, has resigned from his position citing controversial decisions regarding appointment of new judges. Akhtar Hussain had sent his resignation to the commission Chairman Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi, according to reports quoting sources here on Monday.

The sources further said that Akhtar Hussain, who was the representative of the Pakistan Bar Council in the commission, called it a day because he was unhappy with the recent appointments of judges to the Supreme Court (SC).

In his resignation letter, he wrote that he could not get on with his job because he did not agree with appointments.

In his resignation letter, Akhtar Hussain stated: "The Pakistan Bar Council unanimously

nominated me thrice as a member Judicial Commission of Pakistan and I continued to discharge my responsibilities to the best of my abilities... however, on present controversies with regard to judicial appointments, I am unable to continue and, hereby, resign as being member of JCP and sending a copy of this resignation to the Pakistan Bar Council for making new nomination as provided under the Constitution."

Akhtar Hussain also expressed gratitude to the JCP members and assured them of his continued support for judicial and democratic institutions.

"I pay regards to all the Hon'ble members of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan and assure you and all the members that I will continue to make all efforts for development and independence of judicial and democratic institutions."

CAPS Ambassadors' Forum proposes enhancing P2P and B2B linkages among Pakistan, Australia and South Korea

ARSHIAD MALIK
ISLAMABAD: The Consortium for Asia-Pacific Studies (CAPS) on Monday hosted its flagship event, the "CAPS Ambassadors' Forum," here at the National Library of Pakistan, bringing together diplomats, industry leaders, and academic experts. Pakistan cuisine



Moderated by Dr. Gulshan Rafiq, Chief Organizer of CAPS, the discussions centered on expanding Pakistan's engagement with the Asia-Pacific, particularly in education, tourism, and economic partnerships. Dr. Khurram Iqbal, President of CAPS, emphasized the CAPS's

role in promoting understanding in "low politics" areas. The forum's discussions on Australia-Pakistan relations, led by Ambassador (R) Naeela Chohan, highlighted the long-standing tie between the two nations, dating back to the late 19th century.

Govt terminates contracts with 6 Power Plants, reduces electricity cost 4 rupees per unit; Senate body told

MOHSIN ALI
ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Power, led by Senator Mohiuddin Sziz, convened on Monday to discuss the SAPM Muhammad Ali's report on Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Power, Muhammad Ali, briefed that the government has terminated contracts with 6 Power Plants and more importantly, implemented rupee base tariff for Bagasse Power Plants and plants operated between 1999 and 2002, said a press release. The government has fixed the return of 17 pc for Power Plants against the unprecedented



While discussing the circular debt of Power Sector, SAPM underscored that the government is negotiating to relinquish the interest on the circular debt and formulate a structure for the payment of stock circular debt in the coming five to seven years.

Federal Minister for Power Awasil Ahmad Khan Leghari stated that the government has reduced electricity cost around 04 rupees per unit for domestic consumers and 11.5 to 12 rupees for industrial sectors.

Assistant Commissioner charbagh launches Spring Tree Plantation drive 2025

HAROON SIRAJ

SWAT: Assistant Commissioner Charbagh Muhammad Yar Khan launched the Spring Tree Plantation Drive 2025 at the University of Swat, where hundreds of students, faculty members, and local community members participated, planting 500 Chirpine saplings. Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Charbagh Muhammad Yar Khan emphasized Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change and highlighted the crucial role of tree plantation in mitigating its effects. He praised the University of Swat for leading the initiative, which aligns with the country's efforts to combat climate change. Sub Divisional Forest Officer Kamran stressed the



importance of not only planting trees but also ensuring their care until maturity. The event was carried out under the instructions of Assistant Commissioner Malakand Abid Khan Wazir and Deputy Commissioner Swat Shabbaz Mehbob. This initiative is part of the university's ongoing efforts to promote environmental conservation and sustainability. Last year, the university successfully planted 2000 trees along its campus, demonstrating its commitment to making a positive impact on the environment.

Experts urge collective efforts for sustainable water management in OIC member states

JAVED KHAN
ISLAMABAD: Experts at a two-day meeting for the Networking of Water Centers of Excellence in OIC Member States commenced here Monday and emphasized collective efforts for sustainable water management in OIC member states.

The meeting is being jointly organized by OIC-COMSTECH and the OIC General Secretariat in collaboration with the Hissar Foundation, SESRIC (Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries and

INWADARM (COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management).

The meeting is a significant step toward strengthening research, knowledge sharing, and coordinated action on water security. The initiative follows Resolution No. 1/4-ICWM/2018, adopted at the 4th Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2018, and the recommendations of the 2nd OIC Water Council meeting in 2019. In the inaugural

session, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, emphasized the urgency of addressing water challenges, particularly in the face of climate change.

She highlighted the central role of COMSTECH and stronger policy frameworks, regional cooperation, and investment in research and development to ensure sustainable water management. She also commended COMSTECH for its leadership in spearheading this crucial ini-

tiative. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokar, Assistant Secretary-General of OIC for Science and Technology, underscored the OIC's commitment to tackling water-related challenges through collaborative research and policy initiatives.

He stated, "The OIC is dedicated to strengthening regional cooperation in water security and management. This initiative will serve as a platform to harness scientific expertise and innovative solutions for the benefit of all member states."

ANF recovers over 169 kg drugs in 11 operations

PEAK POINT
RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover over 169 kg drugs worth over Rs 90 million and arrested 15 suspects including a Nigerian, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 1000 grams hashish was recovered from a vehicle during an operation in Jattal, Gilgit, and two suspects were arrested during the operation. The arrested suspects confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. In another operation, 12 kg hashish was recovered from the bag of an accused arrested near Gangal East, Islamabad. 950 grams ice was recovered from a parcel sent to the Netherlands at a courier office near Chandni Chowk Rawalpindi and 19 kg ice was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Sialkot on GT Road from the possession of a suspect arrested, 30 kg hashish, 14.4 kg opium and 10 kg ice were recovered from a vehicle checked near Samundri Motorway Interchange and three suspects were arrested, 33.6 kg hashish, 12 kg opium and 10 kg ice were recovered from a vehicle intercepted in Marhail Rajana area of Faisalabad and three suspects were arrested. 605 grams cocaine was recovered from a Nigerian resident netted at Lahore International Airport.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing an opening ceremony of an International Seminar on "Networking of Water Centers of Excellence in Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Member States at COMSTECH Secretariat.