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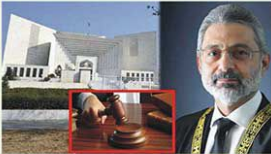
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Judicial Commission meeting on judges' appointment adjourned



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

The Judicial Commission meeting, convened to discuss modifications in the procedure for appointing judges, was adjourned indefinitely. Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa presided over the session. Others were senior Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Aminuddin Khan, and Justice Yahya Afridi. Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar, Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan, and retired Justice Manzoor Malik were also present. Chief Justices of high courts also attended the sitting. According to sources, despite deliberations, a decision on amending the Judicial Commission Rules was deferred to the next meeting. It's noteworthy that the draft amendments were completed by a committee established on December 4, 2023, led by Supreme Court Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, with former judge Manzoor Malik serving as co-chairman.

NAB should investigate wheat crisis in Punjab: Asad Qaiser



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser says farmers are in miserable condition in Punjab and it is utter failure of the provincial government. Talking to media in Lahore, senior PTI leader said that NAB should hold an inquiry of the prevailing wheat crisis in Punjab. "Punjab has become a police state. PTI won the Feb 8 elections across the country including Lahore but those who counted the ballots were more important than those who cast the votes," Qaiser said. The senior politician demanded that the detained PTI workers and leaders must be released immediately.

Constitution is not just a piece of paper; it is a social contract: Achakzai



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

The chairman of Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) and chief of opposition alliance Mahmood Khan Achakzai said that the extension shouldn't be given to a person who reaches the age of 60. "The extension is the way of destruction," Achakzai said while speaking to media in Lahore on Friday. The veteran politician said that all other alliances were earlier formed to make or break the government but this is the only alliance made for the supremacy of the constitution. "The constitution is not just a piece of paper; it is a social contract," Achakzai said. Also Read: Achakzai stresses collective wisdom to address country's crises. The senior politician said that the gas was extracted at the site of Sui in 1960s and spread across Pakistan but still the people of our area use the firewood to cook their food.

To the moon: Pakistan's first orbiter lifts off

Initial launch successful, first and second stage ignition achieved



Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad Pakistan's space programme achieved a historic milestone on Friday as the country's first-ever lunar orbiter lifted off from China's Hengan Space Launch Site. The launch of satellite ICUBE-Qamar was telecast live from the Institute of Space Technology's (IST) website. The quest to send a lunar orbiter started in 2022 when the China National Space Agency (CNSA), through the Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), offered member

states an opportunity to send a student-built payload to Earth's closest celestial neighbour onboard the Chang'e-6 mission. ICUBE-Qamar The 'ICUBE-Qamar' (ICUBE-Q) was submitted as a proposal for a lunar CubeSat by the IST. The proposal was selected after an evaluation process. The development of the payload is a collaborative effort between IST's students and faculty, SUPARCO and China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). The payload consists of three parts, the CubeSat, the separation mechanism, and the

Bilawal nominates Sardar Salim Haider as Punjab governor



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday nominated Sardar Salim Haider Khan for the coveted office of Punjab governor. Sardar Salim originally hails from Attock and served as a federal minister in the PPP's government in the past. He is currently serving as the divisional president of PPP from Rawalpindi division. Speaking to Dunya News, he said that the PPP

chairman officially conveyed him that he would be the Punjab governor and notification in this regard would be issued by tonight. Meanwhile, another PPP loyalist Faisal Karim Kundi is likely to be made Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) governor. The party sources said that Amjad Afridi and Asma Alamgir are also in run for the race to hold the coveted office in KP. However, the final decision in this regard will be made by the central leadership. **Brief profile** Sardar Salim hailed from Fateh Jhang tehsil of Attock district. In the 2002 general elections, Salim ran for the provincial assembly constituency PP-18 (Attock-IV) as a PPP candidate but did not win. He secured 37,140 votes but lost to Malik Muhammad Anwar of Pakistan Muslim League (Q). In the 2008 general elections, Salim was elected to the National Assembly from NA-59 (Attock-III) as a PPP candidate. He received 71,400 votes, defeating PML-Q's Waseem Gulzar.

Sargodha: New Dc Assumes Charge, Talks About His Priorities

Soon Times Correspondent SARGODHA

The newly appointed Deputy Commissioner of Sargodha Captain Reid Aurangzeb Haider Khan has started his work after assuming the charge. Aurangzeb Ahmed Khan is a grade 19 officer, earlier serving as Additional Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office. He also served as Deputy Commissioner in Abbottabad, Mansehra and Khushab. He held an introductory meeting with Additional Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners on Friday, saying that the construction and development of the district and the welfare of the people were among his top priorities. He said, "all officers are part of my team, will work together and will see improvement in administrative matters. Among other issues, special attention will be given to health, education and cleanliness. The problems of the people of the district will be solved on priority



basis and all resources will be utilized for this." The DC directed the Assistant Commissioners to ensure visits to government schools and hospitals and identify the deficiencies so that they could be rectified immediately and provide relief to the public. He said that apart from cleanliness of cities and villages, special focus should be given on the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's clean villages programme, e-bikes and cheap bread. He clarified that corruption in revenue record and alteration would not be tolerated in any case. "The revenue officer and official who does not work properly will not stay in the district."

CM Maryam meets WHO regional director, pledges cooperation in healthcare

The Punjab CM praised Dr. Hanan's contributions to the health sector and her efforts in public infection control.



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz held a meeting with the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, Dr. Hanan Balkhy. During the meeting, Dr. Hanan congratulated Maryam Nawaz on her historic achievement as the first female CM of Punjab. Maryam Nawaz also extended her congratulations to Dr. Hanan

Balkhy for assuming the role of WHO Regional Director. The Punjab CM praised Dr. Hanan's contributions to the health sector and her efforts in public infection control. Maryam Nawaz emphasized the importance of cooperation and collaboration with the WHO for disease control and treatment initiatives. Highlighting the significance of the health sector, Maryam Nawaz

announced the activation of 32 field hospitals to cater to rural residents. She also pledged to establish state-of-the-art hospitals in every district within five years. Dr. Hanan Balkhy stressed the necessity of timely prevention and treatment of epidemics, especially for residents in remote areas. She pledged that the WHO would provide timely health facilities during natural disasters.

Crime-friendly SHO PS Satellite Town fails to curb crime

Soon Times Correspondent SARGODHA

Consisting of the posh areas of Sargodha and adjoining communities, PS Satellite Town has become a haven for criminals. Day and night robberies and thefts at gunpoint have become common here. After several criminals are caught red-handed, the crime-friendly SHO Umair Abdullah leaves

them after intriguing. Police patrols in the area are completely closed, giving criminals a free pass. Every visiting SHO allows drug dealers to sell drugs by charging extortion. The new DPO should hold an open court in the Satellite Town area of the Police Station to listen to the problems of the residents of the suburb so that the exploits of the incompetent SHO can be brought to light.



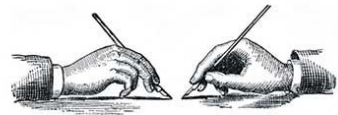
Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Aviation and Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif inspecting the immigration counters during their visit to Atama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore.

As a **CORRESPONDENT**

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Anti Encroachment Drive

Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Federal Minister for Housing and Works, issued directives to take stock of illegal occupations and encroachments of federal government owned residential accommodations namely in various sectors of Islamabad. Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash, Secretary Housing and Works, chaired a meeting in this regard. Muhammad Ashfaq Ghuman, Additional Secretary Housing, Malik Saeed, Joint Secretary Estate, Obaid ud Din, Director General, Estate Office, and other senior officers of the ministry

attended the meeting. During the course of meeting, Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash, directed Obaid ud Din, Director General, Estate Office to issue notices to all those allottees who have made additional construction in their government allotted houses and subletting of federal government owned residential accommodations. Secretary Housing also directed to issue notices to the allottees that are using federal government accommodations for commercial activities. It was also decided during the meeting that stern action shall be taken

against all property dealers facilitating the subletting of government accommodations. DG Estate Office assured the Secretary that notices will be issued immediately in accordance with Rule 16 and 19 of the AAR. He further apprised that a similar action was taken in 2018 on the directions of August Supreme Court of Pakistan, whereby 2200 houses were vacated from the possession of illegal occupants. Secretary Housing emphasized that according to the directions of the Housing Minister strict action shall be taken against those who

have added extra construction illegally inside the courtyard/rooftops by disturbing the original plan of the building and directed the concerned to start anti-encroachment drive immediately. Furthermore, he highlighted that after the issuance of notices, all illegal occupants will be evicted from the government accommodations with the assistance of the District Administration and Capital Development Authority, in accordance with the law.

Echoes of Freedom: Navigating Press Challenges in Pakistan



Adnan Hameed

neglect their rights. While prominent media figures enjoy preferential treatment and hefty compensations, the vast majority toil in obscurity, their contributions sidelined and undervalued. It is imperative that we break free from this dichotomy. The time has come for media institutions to recognize the equal worth of all journalists and afford them the rights and respect they deserve. There must be an end to the discrimination that perpetuates disparities within the industry. Moreover, the establishment of robust platforms for the protection of journalists and their families is paramount. Existing media unions and organizations, dispersed across Pakistan, must unify their efforts and speak with one voice to amplify their demands. Only through collective action can they effectively advocate for their rights and confront the challenges they face. In Pakistan, governmental and non-

governmental stakeholders alike must adhere to both international and national press freedom laws. Concrete steps must be taken to address the identified issues plaguing the journalistic community, ensuring their safety, security, and well-being. On a global scale, the plight of journalists in conflict zones, such as Palestine, serves as a stark reminder of the dangers inherent in their profession. The staggering number of journalists killed and detained underscores the urgent need for enhanced protections. Journalists are not mere targets but invaluable conduits of truth, combating disinformation and documenting reality amidst adversity. As we commemorate World Press Freedom Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to defending the rights of journalists everywhere. Their freedom is intertwined with the very fabric of democracy, and their protection is non-negotiable.

World Press Freedom Day, observed on May 3rd globally, serves as a poignant reminder of the indispensable role a free press plays in upholding democracy and safeguarding fundamental rights. In Pakistan, however, the landscape of press freedom presents a complex narrative marred by financial struggles, unequal treatment, and grave risks faced by journalists. The backbone of journalism, comprising beat reporters, camerapersons, and supporting staff, often grapple with dire financial crises as media houses withhold salaries and

"Towards Meaningful and Enlightening English"



Mushtaque Ahmed Rahu

"Towards Meaningful and Enlightening English" Mastering English Through Grammar, vocabulary and Composition by the legendary English teacher is a literary gem that stands as a beacon for aspiring candidates preparing for recruitment tests, teachers' appointment exams, and various competitive examinations, including CSS & CCE. This comprehensive book offers a holistic approach to enhancing language skills, focusing on grammar, composition, error detection, vocabulary, precise writing, writing skills, and essay writing.

One of the standout features of this book is its meticulous attention to fundamental grammar rules. The author, with a masterful command of the English language, delves into the intricacies of grammar, providing clear explanations and practical examples. The book serves as an invaluable resource for those seeking to refine their grammatical proficiency, offering a systematic breakdown of grammar concepts essential for competitive exams.

The section on composition is a true highlight, showcasing the author's expertise in guiding readers through the art of effective writing. The book not only imparts essential techniques for crafting coherent and compelling compositions but also nurtures creativity and originality in expression. Aspiring candidates will find this section particularly beneficial, as it equips them with the tools to communicate ideas persuasively and eloquently.

The Error detection segment is a crucial skill in any competitive examination, and "Towards Meaningful and Enlightening English" excels in providing a structured approach to identifying and rectifying errors. The book presents a wide array of exercises that challenge readers to sharpen their error-spotting abilities, ensuring they are well-prepared for the rigorous demands of recruitment tests. So the error detection segment is a gem for test-takers, as it meticulously dissects common mistakes. By elucidating the rationale behind errors, the book equips readers with a discerning eye for identifying and rectifying grammatical slip-ups. This section serves as a vital tool for honing precision in language usage, a crucial skill in competitive examinations. Vocabulary enrichment is another forte of this book. The author introduced a diverse range of

words, idioms, and phrases, fostering a nuanced and sophisticated command of the English language. The inclusion of contextual examples ensures that readers not only expand their vocabulary but also comprehend how to use these words effectively in different scenarios.

The speaking English tips component adds a creative dimension to the book. Leveraging the narrative form, the author skillfully demonstrates the art of effective communication. This not only enhances language proficiency but also instills the ability to convey ideas in a captivating manner an asset for any teacher or professional communicator.

The author's emphasis on honing writing skills extends to the section on essay writing. With insightful tips and model essays, the book equips candidates with the tools to tackle essay prompts effectively. The inclusion of essays on a variety of topics ensures that readers are well-prepared for the diverse themes that may appear in recruitment and competitive exams.

"Paragraph Writing Unleashed" is a practical guide that demystifies the process of crafting cohesive and compelling paragraphs. Through clear and concise instructions, the book covers essential aspects such as topic sentences, supporting details, and transitions, empowering readers to express their ideas with clarity and coherence. What sets this book apart is its emphasis on creativity and individual expression, encouraging writers to develop their unique voices while adhering to established conventions. The inclusion of diverse prompts and exercises stimulates creativity and facilitates practice, making it suitable for learners of all levels. Whether a student, professional, or aspiring writer, "Paragraph Writing Unleashed" provides the tools and guidance needed to unleash the full potential of written expression.

Precis writing, an often overlooked skill, is given due importance in this comprehensive guide. The book demystifies the art of precis writing, offering step-by-step guidance on summarizing passages while retaining their core meaning. This section is a valuable resource for candidates aiming to ace the precis writing component of competitive exams.

"Terms of Language" is a must-have resource for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of English language concepts. This book offers a comprehensive exploration of various linguistic terms, ranging from phonetics to syntax, and semantics to pragmatics. Each term is elucidated with clarity and precision, making it accessible to both beginners and advanced learners. The inclusion of examples and exercises enhances

comprehension and reinforces learning.

Whether any student, educator, or language enthusiast, "Terms of Language" serves as an invaluable reference tool that enriches understanding of the intricate workings of the English language.

"Cloze Test Mastery" is an indispensable resource for honing language proficiency skills, particularly in the context of competitive examinations and assessments. The book presents a wide array of cloze test exercises, each strategically designed to challenge and improve comprehension, vocabulary, and grammar. What sets this book apart is its progressive difficulty level, allowing learners to start from the basics and gradually advance to more complex exercises. The detailed explanations provided for each exercise aid in identifying areas of weakness and offer insights for improvement. Whether anyone preparing for standardized tests or simply aiming to enhance language skills, "Cloze Test Mastery" is a valuable tool that equips you with the strategies and techniques needed to excel.

In conclusion, "Towards Meaningful and Enlightening English" is a must-have for anyone aspiring to excel in recruitment tests, teachers' appointment exams, and CSS/CCE. The book is the gift of the author's 50 years of rich experience of teaching English Grammar and Composition at college and university levels. The legendary English teacher's expertise shines through, providing a holistic and enlightening approach to mastering the nuances of the English language. This book not only serves as a guide for exam preparation but also as a companion for a lifelong journey towards meaningful and eloquent expression in English. The book has received an overwhelming response, and feedback from users has been overwhelmingly positive, with many lauding the book's user-friendly approach and its practical applicability. Some have highlighted the efficacy of the provided exercises in reinforcing concepts, while others have praised the book for demystifying complex grammar rules. I recommend this book to every student, Every English subject Teacher, and the libraries of Govt colleges and schools must put for students study.

Note: The first edition of the book was published in August 2023, the second edition (Revised & Updated) in December 2023, and now the third edition is due in March 2024.



At OIC CFM, Pakistan calls for immediate Gaza ceasefire, humanitarian corridor, Israel's accountability

BANJUL (Gambia) Web Desk. As the foreign ministers of the OIC countries gathered ahead of the Islamic Summit here, Pakistan called for the declaration of an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, lifting of the inhuman siege and opening of a humanitarian corridor, besides urging the international community to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes in Gaza. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, in his address at the Preparatory Meeting of Foreign Ministers for the 15th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held here on Thursday, also called for an end to indiscriminate use of force and return of the displaced people. Ishaq Dar, who arrived in the Gambian capital city of Banjul on Wednesday for the OIC Islamic Summit, also emphasised the UN Security Council's role in implementing its resolution 2728 for cessation of hostilities, asking Israel to halt all settlements in the

occupied Palestinian territories and relinquish all usurped Palestinian properties. The theme of this year's Summit is "Enhancing Unity and Solidarity through Dialogue for Sustainable Development". During the meeting, Pakistan was unanimously elected as the Vice-Chair of the Bureau of Foreign Ministers' Preparatory Meeting for 15th Islamic Summit of the OIC. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister congratulated the Gambian Foreign Minister Mamadou Tangara, on assuming the Chairmanship of the Session and 15th Islamic Summit and appreciated the role of the outgoing chair, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Dar expressed Pakistan's deep concern about the ongoing genocide and starvation of Gaza people and called for the reactivation of OIC's Ministerial Committee on Israeli aggression against the Palestinians, offering Pakistan's assistance to the body.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and stated that the only permanent solution to the current crisis lies in the creation of a secure, viable, contiguous, and sovereign state of Palestine based on the pre-June 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. He strongly condemned the oppressive actions in Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) including extrajudicial killings and media blackouts. He pledged Pakistan's unwavering diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination as mandated by relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. Ishaq Dar stressed the imperative of joint action by the OIC to confront rising Islamophobia, which was manifested by an increasing number of incidents of discrimination, violence,



Shakir Bashir Awan inaugurates OPD building at THQ Hospital Nowshera

Soon Times Correspondent
Nowshera Soon Sakser:
PML-N's Leader and MNA Shakir Bashir Awan, Former MPA Malik Javed Awan, ADGC Qazi Sohaib Ahmed, CEO Health Rana Akbar, Assistant Commissioner Nowshera Irfan Martin and MS THQ Hospital Dr. Sobia Javed Malik inaugurated the OPD

building at Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Nowshera. MNA Malik Shakir Bashir Awan said that with the establishment of OPD, an emergency department equipped with modern technology and facilities for accidents will be launched for the population of Soon Valley. In accidents and other emergencies, prompt medical attention can

save precious lives. In PML-N's government, free medicines are being provided to patients in hospitals. Punjab government is committed to provide quality health services to the people. Doctors in THQ Hospital Nowshera will be appointed soon on vacant posts. Later he inspected the under-construction building of Trauma Centre.

DSP Patrolling reviews the performance of Patrolling Police for April

Soon Times Correspondent

Nowshera Soon Sakser:

Under the chairmanship of DSP Patrolling Rana Ghulam Mujtaba, the performance of Patrolling Police District Khushab for the month of April 2024 was reviewed. In the month of April, Patrolling Police Khushab registered 01 drug case, 02 cases of illegal weapons, 41 cases against vehicles using faulty gas cylinders, 07 cases against drivers driving vehicles at high speed and with carelessness. Apart from this, 05 criminals and 03 court fugitives were arrested, 2665 challans were issued against overloaded vehicles, underage and helmetless drivers, vehicles and drivers violating other traffic rules and Rs. 11 lakh 13 thousand 850 fine against them was deposited in the national treasury. DSP Patrolling Rana Ghulam Mujtaba expressed his satisfaction with the performance of patrolling police in the month of April and directed to improve it further.



Imran accuses CJP of being 'biased' against PTI

Ex-PM alleges Justice Qazi Faez Isa behaving like govt's 'B-team'



Soon Times Correspondent

Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Friday urged the courts to expedite hearings of his cases, accusing Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa of being "biased" against his party.

"I urge all judges presiding over my cases to expedite the hearings and refrain from unjustified delays," he said in a message from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

against PTI."

"You snatched electoral symbol from PTI, denied a level playing field, and violated our fundamental human rights in the guise of the May 9 incidents, on which our petition has been pending since May 25, 2023, without a hearing till today."

He said that PTI's petitions against rigging during the general elections have not been heard yet, adding that PTI's women's reserved seats issue is also pending.

Saying that delaying the decisions was unjust, he said that all cases against him were false, baseless, and concocted. Khan referred to CJP Isa's statement, saying, "He stated that there is no pressure on him, but pressure comes to those who refuse to indulge in wrongdoing. You are behaving like [government's] B-team

"The Supreme Court's decisions have revived the doctrine of necessity once again. This is a historic opportunity for great nations to capitalise on historic moments," Khan emphasised.

He criticised that decisions were being coerced through threats, which was dismantling the country's judicial system. "The remarks of high court judges have proved that jungle law prevails in the country. It's time for Supreme Court judges to stand up like high court judges and reject wrong decisions."

Khan stated, "I am always ready for dialogue, but dialogue will only happen when our stolen mandate is returned, and our innocent workers imprisoned in jails are released."

He asserted that dialogue occurs with adversaries, and PTI's most formidable adversaries are the ones with whom dialogue will be initiated.

The former prime minister said that he had written a letter to The Telegraph, in which he explained that not only his life was in danger but also his wife's.

Deputy Drugs Controller conducts surgical grand operation

Soon Times Correspondent

Sargodha:

Deputy Drugs Controller Faheem Zia conducted a surgical grand operation against drug mafia on the instructions of Chief Drug Controller Punjab. Indian smuggled unregistered drugs from Masood's Medical Service, Shah Pur Sadar limits, stolen drugs from PAF Force hospital, drugs without bill warranty and huge quantity of expired drugs were seized and sealed under the Drug Act. He sent letter to District Quality Control Board Sargodha for registration of FIR. Apart from this, a large quantity of narcotic drugs was exported from Anif Pharmacy in Shah Pur city limits and sent a letter to the District Quality Control Board for the prosecution. Deputy Drugs Controller, Faheem Zia, in the third major operation in a single day, caught Abu Bakr red-handed for issuing illegal advertisements in the limits of Shah Pur Sadar for treating childless patients through illegal advertisement. He sent a letter to the



District Quality Control Board to take action against him.

ADB, donors agree \$5b ADF replenishment; grants also available for Pakistan

Grants more important than ever as most vulnerable members seek to reverse recent development setbacks, says president

Tbilisi:

Donors and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have agreed to a replenishment of \$5 billion for ADB's Asian Development Fund (ADF) 14 and Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF) 8, with Pakistan emerging as a recipient of the grants.

The commitment was made during ADB's 57th annual meeting held in Tbilisi, Georgia, said a press release on Friday.

The ADF is ADB's largest source of grants for operations in its poorest and most vulnerable developing member countries and is replenished every four years.

ADF 14—marking the 13th replenishment since the fund's establishment—will support grant operations during the 2025–2028 cycle.

The statement said that the ADF 14 replenishment is about 22% higher than the \$4.1 billion available in ADF 13, and will provide eligible ADB members with



the largest-ever volume of ADF grants. TASF 8 will provide grants that help prepare projects, build capacity, and provide technical or policy advice.

"Grants are more important than ever as our poorest and most vulnerable members seek to reverse recent development setbacks and take urgent action to combat the climate crisis," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa.

"This remarkable replenishment demonstrates ADF donors' continued partnership with ADB to address the pressing development challenges of

those most in need." ADF 14 prioritises dedicated assistance to small island developing states that are particularly vulnerable—especially to climate change—and to countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations.

ADF 14 will continue to play a critical role in supporting climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. It will enable expanded assistance for regional cooperation and regional public goods, and for transformative gender action. It will also provide agile assistance in the event of emergencies through its crisis response window.

The press release said that more than \$2.5 billion, or 51%, of the replenishment will be funded by contributions from donors including two new countries: Armenia and Georgia.

ADB will significantly increase its net income transfers to ADF, from just under \$1.2 billion in ADF 13 to almost \$1.6 billion in ADF 14, an increase of 35%.

ANF recovered 2 tons & 133 kg of ice, arrested 7 in 10 operations

Soon Times Correspondent

Rawalpindi:

ANF operations against drug trafficking are continuing. ANF recovered 2 tons and 133 kg of drugs in 10 operations and arrested 7 suspects. ANF recovered 580 grams of heroin from a parcel destined for UK at DHL office at Lahore Airport. 460 grams of ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Karachi Airport. 1.4 kg of ice was recovered from 3 parcels at the courier office in Quetta. The ANF recovered 14 grams of weed from a parcel sent from the UK at a courier office in Rawalpindi. 2080 metric tons of hashish was replenished from Qila Abdullahi. 19 kg hashish was recovered from 3 suspects at Port Qasim Karachi. ANF recovered 14 kg hashish from near Sukran Road Hub. 8.8 kg hashish and 2.4 kg opium were recovered from the accused near MI Islamabad. 5.6 kg diazepam was recovered from an Afghan national at Zero Line Torkham. 460 grams of hashish was recovered from the accused near GT Road, Attock. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against all the arrested accused and investigation has been started.



Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan discussing Pak-Australia historical relations with the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mr. Neil Hawkins on the occasion of Australia Day in Spring 2024.

Celebration of Australia Day in Spring 2024

Soon Times Correspondent

Islamabad:

Australia's High Commissioner in Pakistan Neil Hawkins celebrated Australia Day in Spring with a vibrant reception, to mark the enduring ties between Australia and Pakistan. In his address, High Commissioner Hawkins emphasised the historical ties of over 100 years and the shared ambition to capitalise on the dynamism in the two countries. "Australia and Pakistan are both relatively young nations but old civilisations. We share a federal system of governance, together with a rich cultural diversity, delicate ecosystems, and unique biodiversity," Mr. Hawkins remarked. Australia remains a steadfast supporter of a Pakistan that is democratic, inclusive, prosperous and stable, consistent with its Constitution. Highlighting the importance of

gender equality, the High Commissioner affirmed: "We're particularly excited to be working with our Pakistani colleagues to support their efforts to empower women and girls and unleash their full potential." Mr. Hawkins elaborated: "This year we celebrate 40 years of cooperation between the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and Pakistan. We also celebrate 40 years of cooperation between our police agencies." Looking ahead Mr. Hawkins concluded, "I'm confident that the more than 100,000 Australian-Pakistanis and many thousands of Pakistani Australian alumni will bring our countries closer together." The celebration witnessed the participation of many friends of Australia, including politicians, officials, diplomats, media, businesses, development partners and colleagues.



Judge says gag order won't prevent Trump from testifying in criminal case



NEW YORK
The judge overseeing Donald Trump's hush money criminal trial said on Friday that a gag order preventing him from commenting about witnesses and jurors does not bar him from testifying in court on his own behalf.

"I want to stress to Mr. Trump, you have an absolute right to testify at trial," Justice Juan Merchan said to start the 11th day in Trump's hush money trial.

Trump asserted after Thursday's session that the gag order would prevent him from testifying. He said on Friday that was not actually the case. "It won't stop me from testifying," he told reporters before entering the courtroom.

Trump said his legal team would try to overturn the gag order, which bars him from making public comments about jurors, witnesses, and families of the judge and prosecutors if those statements are meant to interfere with the case.



NATO members 'deeply concerned' by activities such as sabotage on alliance soil

NATO allies condemned Russia's behavior and called on the country "to uphold its international obligations."

BRUSSELS
NATO countries say they are deeply concerned by a campaign of hybrid activities on the military alliance's soil they attribute to Russia, and which they say constitute a threat to their security.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Thursday in a message posted on the social media platform X that actions including disinformation, sabotage, acts of violence and cyber and electronic interference "will not deter us from supporting Ukraine."

There was no immediate response to a request for comment from the Russian Foreign Ministry on Stoltenberg's statement. Earlier this year, a U.K.-based think tank said Russia was rebuilding its capacity to destabilize European countries, posing a strategic threat to NATO as its members focus on the war in Ukraine.

"NATO Allies are deeply concerned about recent malign activities on Allied territory, including those resulting in the investigation and charging of multiple individuals in connection with hostile state activity affecting Czechia, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and the United Kingdom," the North Atlantic Council, the principal political decision-making body within NATO, said.

Israel's planned invasion of Rafah risks killing hundreds of thousands, UN says

NEW YORK

The United Nations humanitarian aid agency says hundreds of thousands of people would be "at imminent risk of death" if Israel carries out a military assault in the southern Gaza city of Rafah. The border city is a critical entry point for humanitarian aid and is filled with displaced Palestinians, many in densely packed tent camps.

An Israeli airstrike in Rafah overnight Friday killed seven people — mostly children. The Biden administration, which provides Israel crucial military and diplomatic support, says it opposes a Rafah invasion unless Israel provides a "credible" plan for protecting civilians there.

Turkey, an important Israeli trading partner, has suspended all imports and exports to Israel. The country's trade minister says the move was in response to "the deterioration and aggravation of the situation in Rafah."

International mediators are trying to broker a cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas, and a leaked truce proposal hints at compromises by



both sides after months of stalemated negotiations.

The Israel-Hamas war has driven around 80% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million from their homes, caused vast destruction in several towns and cities, and pushed northern Gaza to the brink of famine. The death toll in Gaza has soared to more than 34,500 people, according to local health officials, and the territory's entire population has been driven into a humanitarian catastrophe.

Sudanese refugees flee UN camp in Ethiopia following attacks



NAIROBI
Web Desk

At least 1,000 Sudanese refugees have fled a camp run by the United Nations in northern Ethiopia following a series of shootings and robberies, three of the refugees and the United Nations said.

The refugees said about 7,000 of the 8,000 residents of the Kumer camp left on foot early on Wednesday morning after they were attacked and robbed by local militiamen.

They said they were detained by the police shortly after leaving the camp, which is 70 km (43 miles) from the Sudanese border in Ethiopia's Amhara region. They asked not to be named for fear of reprisals.

The United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said it was aware that 1,000 people had left Kumer on Wednesday because they felt unsafe after a series of security incidents.

Spokespeople for the Ethiopian government, the Amhara regional administration, the federal police and the national refugee agency did not respond to requests for comment.

More than 1.6 million Sudanese people have fled their country since civil war broke out in April 2023 between the army and a rival paramilitary unit. About 33,000 have crossed into Ethiopia, according to UNHCR.

Sudanese refugees in Kumer told UNHCR in a recent letter that they have been facing rampant insecurity for months, including kidnappings for ransom, killings and armed robberies.

Amhara militiamen have been battling federal forces for nearly a year across the region in a conflict that left more than 200 people dead last year, according to the United Nations.

"We can no longer stay here," one of the refugees told Reuters by phone. "We have been abducted, killed, and attacked repeatedly since we arrived here in June. We have decided to go back to Sudan, despite the war."

Top US officials Blinken, Austin to visit India for Indo-Pacific talks



TBLISI
Mariam Tsertsvadze, the co-founder of an animal charity in the Georgian capital, has managed only three or four hours of sleep a night in the past few weeks, but says she is full of energy.

Tsertsvadze has joined thousands of other Georgians in mighty protests in the centre of Tbilisi to voice their opposition to a government bill on "foreign agents" that critics have condemned as authoritarian and Kremlin-inspired.

The bill, which parliament approved in the second of three readings on Wednesday, would require organisations receiving more than 20% of their funding from abroad to register.

Sports & Showbiz News



Pakistan to tour South Africa in December for T20I, ODI, Test series



Sports Desk
The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Friday announced that the Green Shirts would tour South Africa in December for three T20Is, three ODIs and two Tests.

Durban, Centurion, and Johannesburg will host the T20Is from December 10 to 14. The ODIs will be played between December 17 and 22 in Paarl, Cape Town, and Johannesburg, while the two ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 matches will be held at Centurion and Cape Town — from December 26 to 30 and from January 3 to 7

respectively — the cricket board said in a press release.

The PCB said the national side will depart for Durban on December 2 after returning from Australia on November 19, having featured in a series of three ODIs and three T20Is from November 4 to 18. After completing their African safari on January 8, the national side will take on New Zealand and South Africa in a three-nation ODI tournament on home turf, which will be followed by the eight-team ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan.

Liverpool manager Klopp speaks up about Mohamed Salah amid spat



Sports Desk
Days after heated exchange between the Liverpool manager and the forward player last week that made headlines, Jurgen Klopp revealed the status of his relationship with Egyptian Mohamed Salah Friday.

While speaking in a pre-match press conference, Jurgen Klopp told the media that they have known each other very long and they know how they should deal with it, without any outside expectations.

The manager said while responding to the question about the bilateral matter: "Completely resolved. It's no problem. If we didn't know each other for that long, I'm not sure how we would deal with it."

The 56-year-old German noted: "But we've known each other for that long and respect each other too much that it's really no problem. I think we have the right to deal with these kinds of things completely

independent of any expectations from the outside. So we are absolutely fine with it, that's a long story."

Liverpool's Mo Salah and the manager were spotted having a spat last week Saturday against the match with West Ham at the London Stadium when the teams drew by 2-2.

At that time, Salah did not reveal anything about the argument, but said: "If I speak, there will be fire."

Referring to Klopp's benching, Klopp said: "In general, the best situation would be that everyone's in the best possible place, we win the games, we score loads of goals and yes, then the situation probably would not have been exactly like that."

Salah has been off the field for two of Liverpool's last three stand-offs, but will be in action against Tottenham Sunday.

What Nazish Jahangir feels about love and marriage



LAHORE
Pakistan showbiz industry actor Nazish Jahangir shied away from the question of heartbreak and also hinted at an arranged marriage.

Nazish recently joined co-star Khushal Khan as a guest on Dunya News' program "mazaq raat" where she opened up about her upcoming romantic-comedy movie "Poppy Ki Wedding".

During the program, when nazish was asked about her heartbreak, she said in a witty manner that her heart has never been broken and that is why she is alive today and attending the program.

Pakistan slide to number 7 in T20 rankings

Sports Desk
Pakistan on Friday lost two spots in the International Cricket Council (ICC) T20 rankings, sliding to the seventh position, according to the annual update issued by the global cricket body.

India (264) are still at the top in the updated T20I rankings but their lead has dropped from 11 points to just seven with second-placed Australia (257) rising above third-placed England (252).

South Africa (250) also jumped two spots from sixth to fourth and are now only two rating points behind England.

West Indies (249) in sixth place are two points ahead of Pakistan.

"The rankings update only takes into consideration teams' performances after May 2021, with India's impressive 2-1 series triumph over Australia under skipper Virat Kohli that finished in January of 2021 dropping out of the rankings period," the ICC said in a press release.

"All results between May 2021 and May 2023 are then weighted at 50 per cent and the ones in the following 12 months — that includes Australia's



World Test Championship final victory — are then weighted at 100 per cent."

There is no change in the ODI rankings with India increasing their lead at the top to six rating points over Australia (116).

Third-placed South Africa (112) have reduced the gap with Australia to four rating points, while Pakistan (106) and New Zealand (101) are also in the top five.

Sri Lanka (93) in seventh place are only two points behind England (95), with Bangladesh (86), Afghanistan (80) and West Indies (69) other teams in the top 10.