



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے مشرکوں کے تباہ کن بیچوں کے بارے میں پوچھا گیا۔ آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اللہ تعالیٰ نے جب انہیں پیدا کیا تھا ہی وقت وہ خوب جانتا تھا کہ یہ کیا عمل کریں گے۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 1383)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

## PK will have to pay the price of fake narrative of regime change:

Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday said PTI Chief Imran Khan has to pay the political price for his lies and changing narrative regarding foreign conspiracy behind his ouster from power. Asif quoting Imran's interview with Financial Times, said Imran took an other U-turn expressing the desire to mend relations with the United States despite accusing it of treating Pakistan as a 'slave'.



## Leaders of China, US need to set right course for bilateral ties, says Xi

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday here during a meeting with his US counterpart, Joe Biden, that as leaders of two major countries, they need to set the right course for bilateral ties. From the initial contact and the establishment of diplomatic relations to today, China and the United States have gone through 50-plus eventful years, with gains and losses as well as experience and lessons, Xi said. (Report on Page 5)

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## Souting slogans

KARACHI: Women Health Workers shouting slogans during protest in favour of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital. ONLINE PHOTO by Sabir Mazhar



Photo: Online

## PM returns home from London

TV Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif returned home on Monday after concluding his private visit to London.

The prime minister reached London on Wednesday after

attending the Climate Implementation Summit in Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt. During his stay in London, PM Shehbaz held meetings with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Nawaz Sharif and discussed various important issues.

## Imran Khan bullet wound footage released

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Videos and images of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's bullet wound undergoing a change of dressing have made rounds on social media following allegations from government quarters that his injuries in the Wazirabad attack were 'fake'.

A video posted on journalist Shiffa Yousafzai's official Twitter handle revealed the bullet injuries on the former premier's legs.

"For all those who were asking if Imran Khan's wounds are real or fake," she wrote.

Journalist Asad Kharal also posted pictures of the wounds, asking "those who do not believe" to "carefully look at the wounds".

The reveal comes shortly



Imran Khan's video showing bullet wounds released

after Minister for Information and PML-N leader Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Imran compromised national interests for personal political gains.

In a statement, she said Imran is a 'foreign agent' and has made a mockery of himself, the country, and the nation. The minister said that now all antics of Imran had been 'exposed'.

# Pakistan leads charge for climate justice at COP27

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan has been leading the call for rich nations to compensate poor countries for a crisis they did not cause, the experts believed that just having put loss and damage onto the climate agenda at COP27 held in Egypt was a "huge achievement" for the country.

Pakistan, which has been battered by climate catastrophes for the past decade, is responsible for less than 1 percent of global carbon emissions but is among the most vulnerable to extreme weather events, a US-based magazine Foreign Policy said in a recently published article.

Written by Australian journalist and columnist Lynne O'Donnell, the article said that summer's monsoon rains and floods inundated one-third of the country, destroying farmland, displacing millions of people, and killing nearly 2,000. Economic losses have been estimated at up to \$40 billion.

The author referred to Prime



Minister Shehbaz Sharif's address at 27th UN Climate Change Conference, or COP27, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, last week, who said Pakistan is a "victim of something with which we had nothing to do... a man-made disaster."

As a vice chair of COP27, PM Shehbaz pressed the case for

a "loss and damage" financial mechanism that would oblige developed countries to help "victim" countries pay for the impact of climate change and to prevent energy-poor countries from becoming part of the problem by transitioning to cleaner sources of energy.

The idea of rich countries

helping to cover less developed countries' costs of coping with climate change has been around in force since at least COP15, held in Copenhagen in 2009, effectively dividing the world between the haves and the have-nots. But for Pakistan, this year's carnage wasn't its first rodeo: It also suffered devastating floods in 2010, which caused similar amounts of damage and loss of life.

Lynne O'Donnell said the climate finance is meant to help prepare countries to adapt to coming climate shocks and to take steps to mitigate their own emissions.

The article quoted journalist and climate activist Afia Salam saying that due diligence and stringent monitoring were key to overcoming any trust issues about the disbursement of funds.

To a question by the author, she said, "Political instability cannot stop the track of recovery and development. Most fund disbursement is tied to mile-

stones and transparency mechanisms."

At COP27, the question of how richer countries can help underwrite the climate challenges of poorer countries has dominated much of the first week. As always, the debate has centered on the details of distributing any aid money, and the question of financing short-term fixes versus longer-term investments in mitigation and adaptation measures.

A report prepared for the latest summit suggests that developing countries, not including China, will need about \$1 trillion a year of outside climate financing.

Still, just having put loss and damage onto the climate agenda in Egypt is a "huge achievement" for Pakistan, said Abid Qaiyum Suleri, the executive director of the independent Sustainable Development Policy Institute, based in Islamabad. That doesn't mean he's optimistic the talk will lead to anything concrete just yet. APP

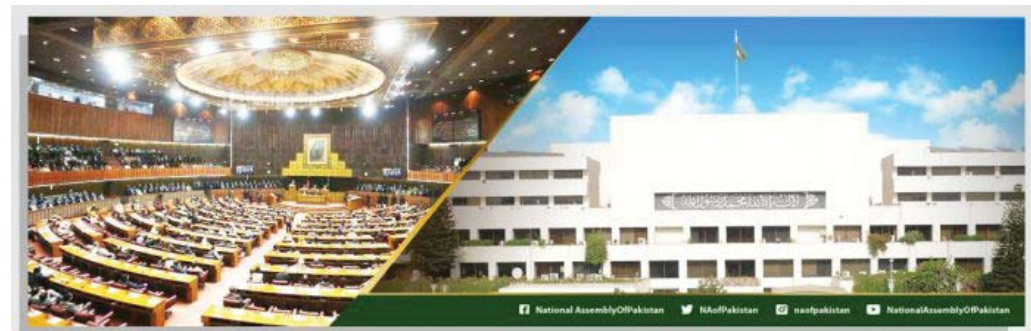
## Govt urged to announce minimum support price of wheat

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government should fix the minimum support price of 40 kg wheat bag for the next season at the earliest to encourage farmers to grow more wheat to replace the crops lost due to floods, said Chaudhry Faqir Ahmed of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) legislator. Speaking on a point of order in National Assembly, he asked the chairman of relevant standing committee of National Assembly to summon its meeting and recommend minimum support price of wheat. He also urged the government to ensure sufficient supplies of diesel in the country.

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf asked minister for parliamentary affairs to look into the demands of the parliamentarian.

## 10 periodical reports of various standing committees presented in NA



ISLAMABAD: Ten periodical reports were presented of various standing committees of certain time frame in the National Assembly (NA) on Monday.

The NA bodies on science and technology, parliamentary affairs, maritime affairs, energy (Power Division) and energy (Petroleum Division) presented periodical reports for the period from 1st January, 2021 to 30th June, 2021, as required by the rule 234-A of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the NA, 2007.

Moreover, the NA bodies on public accounts (Public Accounts Committee), religious affairs and interfaith harmony and national food security and research present-

ed periodical reports for the period from 1st July, 2020 to 31st December, 2020, under the same rules and regulations.

However, the NA bodies on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Kashmir presented periodical reports for the period from 1st January, 2020 to 31st December, 2020, as required by rule 234-A of the rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the NA, 2007.

It should be noted that NA Standing Committee on Science and Technology Chairman Sajid Mehdi presented its committee report while NA Standing Committee on Law and Justice Chairman Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk presented reports on behalf of the

chairmen of rest of the committees in the NA.

Meanwhile, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi laid annual report of the Council of Common Interests (CCI), for the year 2020-21, before the house, as required by Clause (4) of Article 153 of the Constitution.

He also on behalf of Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haq laid the annual report on Universal Service and Research and Development Fund of the Federal Government for the year 2020-21, before the house as required by Section 33-A and 33-E of the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-Organization) Act, 1996. APP

## Imran retracts from foreign conspiracy narrative after playing havoc with national interests: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that the PTI Chairman Imran Khan after playing havoc with the national interests had now given up foreign conspiracy narrative.

In her reaction to Imran Khan's interview with the Financial Times, she said, "Imran Khan could not be pardoned after retracting from his narrative and he will be held accountable."

The minister said that on the basis of this narrative, chaos and lies were spread throughout the country and now a simple withdrawal was not enough. "After terminating the Parliament, the Pakistan Army, the national institutions as traitors, he can't be let off just by saying it's behind me and it's over, Marriyum added. APP

## Pakistan 'performing well' in checking cross-border crimes: Hina



ISLAMABAD: European Union Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs Ylva Johansson on Monday lauded Pakistan's role in controlling cross-border terrorism, smuggling, and trafficking and expressed the EU's intent for "deeper cooperation" in the area of border management.

At a joint press stakeout with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani

ni Khar, the EU official said Pakistan was "performing well" in checking cross-border crimes.

Johansson, who arrived in Islamabad on Sunday on a two-day visit, held meetings with government representatives and authorities on matters pertaining to migration, mobility dialogue, and security cooperation.

EU Commissioner Johansson said her meetings with the officials of Frontier Corps and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) during her visit to Peshawar focused on the fight against terrorism and organized crimes, and also on the border management activities along with the Pak-Afghan border. APP

## Convocation ceremony

LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the convocation ceremony of Minhaj University on Monday.



Photo: PID

## Women must be taken along in development process: Dr. Arif Alvi

LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi said on Monday that women should remain in the mainstream national development process and economic cycle of the country to double the development pace.

He cited that Hazrat Khadija (RA) was a business woman; therefore it was not justified to confine the educated women to their homes to look after the family matters only.

Addressing the Minhaj

University Lahore (MUL) Convocation 2022 here, he said that Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Jinnah had also advocated for taking women along in the national development process.

The society must benefit from their skills and knowledge, however, it was government's responsibility to provide women with harassment-free environment at their workplace. He said that

50 percent of the women students after acquiring MBBS degree did not go for practice in the field or most of them went abroad to serve there, which was unfortunate and in a way, wastage of the resources spent on them during their studies at respective educational institutions.

Dr Arif Alvi advised the graduating student that they should not isolate themselves from the society in their practical

life and their motto should not be earning livelihood only, and they must use their knowledge and skills for well-being of the society and uplift the poor strata.

At global level, the IT industry was running short of manpower and the international community was looking towards Pakistan having youth bulge to cater to the needs of this vital sector, he said and added that Pakistan

must take substantial advantage of this great opportunity.

On this occasion, the President also awarded medals and degrees to some of the position holder graduates.

Earlier, Prof Dr Hussain Mohiyuddin, Deputy Chairman of MUL Board of Governors, Vice Chancellor Prof Sajid Mahmood Shahzad also spoke on the occasion and highlighted history and achievements of the varsity.

## Iran strongly rejects the false claim of delivering drones to Russia

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nowadays some states are attempting to create a severe hostile media atmosphere against the Islamic Republic of Iran, by making various claims, one of which is the baseless claim of sending Iran-made drones to the Russian Federation for use in the Ukraine war. The principled position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard is quite clear which is to firmly oppose the war while emphasizing on addressing the root causes of the conflict.

From Iran's point of view, the root causes of the conflict undoubtedly lie in the expansionist and interventionist approach of the United States



and NATO, which seriously jeopardize the independence and authority of the other states.

Based on the said policy the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly rejects the false claim of delivering drones to Russia for use in the Ukraine

war. It has not sent any drones or weapons to the Russian Federation to be used in the Ukraine war. The authorities of the Russian Federation have also announced and emphasized that the weapons used in the Ukraine war are Russian-made. It is worth

mentioning that Tehran-Moscow defense cooperation started long ago and has continued along with other collaborations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran endeavors to stop the war in Ukraine through political means, in the meantime it reiterates that the Europeans should address the war based on a realistic approach. Iran believes that provocative actions that had been taken by the US and some European states created conditions that led to the war in Ukraine. Nevertheless, despite showing such harmful and irresponsible behavior, they are now accusing Iran of supporting one side of the conflict by circulating false information

and fabricated evidence.

As a matter of fact subsequent to Ukraine claims that Russia is using Iran's drones against Ukraine, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation announced their readiness to hold a joint expert meeting with the Ukrainian experts to examine the alleged evidence and documents. Ukraine initially agreed and a group of Iranian diplomats and experts was dispatched to Poland to hold the agreed joint expert meeting in Warsaw however hours before the meeting, the Ukrainian side was banned from attending the meeting due to pressures from the United States and the European Union.

## Dr. Fai condemns bombing in Istanbul

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, World Forum for Peace Justice has expressed deepest condolences to the people of Turkey and the families of victims of the bomb attack at Istiklal Avenue, Istanbul. In a statement in Washington, he added that the punishment of criminals should be unforgiving, sufficient to deter would-be imitators. Terrorists must recognize that a life that indulges in terrorism is not worth living, no matter what the cause. Dr. Fai said that we are heartened by President Erdogan assurance to the nation that Our people can rest assured that the culprits behind the attack will be punished as they deserve.

## EU-Pakistan: Launch of a comprehensive dialogue on migration and mobility

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ms Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs, paid a two-day visit to Pakistan to discuss with the Government, law enforcement bodies and UN agencies a broad spectrum of bilateral questions on migration and security. Pakistan and the EU wish to strengthen their cooperation in all migration related areas, including from a regional point of view.

First, the European Union and Pakistan agreed to launch a comprehensive dialogue on migration and mobility. This will encompass all relevant aspects of migration management, including legal pathways for migration to Europe and addressing irregular migration and migrant smuggling and, continued enhanced cooperation on return, readmission and reintegration, through the full and effective implementation of the Pakistan-EU readmission agreement.

Commissioner Johansson



European Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson held discussions with Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on a broader spectrum of bilateral questions on migration and security.

and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar agreed to intensify preparations for the launch of a Talent Partnership with Pakistan to facilitate working and living in interested EU Member States for suitably qualified Pakistani nationals.

Commissioner Johansson thanked the Pakistani Government for their generosity in hosting 3 million Afghans, 1.3 million

of whom are refugees.

She stated that it is a continental solidarity that the European Union has recently experienced, with the hosting of 4.5 million Ukrainian refugees in the course of this year.

The Commissioner held discussions with Federal Ministers and Secretaries of Interior, Overseas and Human Resource Development; and Education

and Professional Training, about possibilities for legal and safe pathways of migration to Europe.

With Minister Rabbani Khar, Commissioner Johansson agreed to intensify the concrete bilateral cooperation in security, including counterterrorism and fighting criminal networks, including the fight against smuggling of migrants.

The Commissioner visited Peshawar, where she exchanged views with the Frontier Corps and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). She was briefed about fight terrorism and against organised crime and on border management activities.

Commissioner Johansson agreed with the Minister of State that the first EU-Pakistan counterterrorism dialogue since 2018 will be held in the beginning of 2023 in Islamabad.

A broad exchange of views on migration and Afghan refugees with several UN agencies completed the Commissioner's first visit to Pakistan.

## Vulnerable countries come to COP27 in hope of getting climate action: Sherry Rehman

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: "Vulnerable countries come to COP27 in the hope that a path will be forged from intention to action, ambition to process, and delivery on the ground will be precipitated."

If you want to hear from the frontlines of climate catastrophe, this is the voice of the lost and damaged," said Senator Sherry Rehman, Federal Minister for Climate Change, in her keynote address titled 'Voices from the Frontlines' at the IPU Parliamentary Meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh during COP27.

Senator Sherry Rehman reiterated that Pakistan would need US\$348bn for climate adaptation, and for initiating deep de-carbonization until 2030

from climate shocks experienced each year.

She addressed a session titled 'How to avert, minimize, and address Loss and Damage to infrastructure' where she highlighted the lack of early warning systems that safeguard infrastructure when the climate goes rogue, as it did in Pakistan during the 2022 floods.

"We are clear that we must prioritize adaptation in Pakistan, as much as we are focused on nature-based solutions for mitigation."

We are not big carbon emitters, but even if we become 100% renewable – which is the aim to reduce our import bill – it will make no difference to the global warming hitting us," she said. APP

## Javed Latif seeks speaker's ruling to 'gag' Imran's media talk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif on Monday sought the National Assembly (NA) speaker to give a ruling against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's media talks against the national defense institutions and their respective heads.

Speaking at the floor of the house on a point of order, the minister accused Imran Khan for making the army chief's appointment controversial which to him had never happened in the 75 years of Pakistan's history.

He went on to state that Imran

Khan not only made the most sensitive institution head's appointment controversial "but also launched a defamation campaign against the security institutions' official(s) by leveling allegations against them".

He alleged Imran Khan had spread "disinformation over the nuclear assets" in a bid to degrade the morale of the nation on many occasions.

He claimed the PTI chief had accused the Pakistan's defense institutions for not being independent, also contesting why Imran did not reveal it, even for a single time when he was at the helm of affairs. APP

## MoHR announces scholarships for minorities' students

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) in collaboration with Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (PEEF) have announced scholarships for minority communities' students, said an official here on Monday.

According to the details, the aim of providing scholarships was to facilitate the minority communities'

students in high ranking universities in the country. The students can apply online till March 31, 2023 and get Rs 40,000.

The university students could apply for scholarships through their universities. The students who have shown satisfactory result, they will be given the scholarships for their higher studies, he added.

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## IHC hears Islamabad traders' plea against sit-in, roadblocks

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) summoned the IG Islamabad Police over a petition of traders moved against proposed sit-in and roadblocks. Chief Justice Aamir Farooque while hearing the petition on Monday ordered the Islamabad police chief to submit his report with regard to the sit-in and roadblocks on November 17. Joint Secretary Ministry of Interior Shabbir Khattak appeared in the court hearing today. "Motorways is the federal subject, why the government not opening the motorway," the bench questioned. "The law and order is the provincial government's matter, therefore it is blocked," additional attorney general said.

"Protests also staged before the Parliament, why you block roads

then," Chief Justice Aamir Farooque asked. "Containers are placed in Islamabad, in a manner as there are unusual circumstances," chief justice remarked. "Why you are placing containers instead of constituting an efficient anti-riot force," chief justice IHC questioned. "Why don't you take some other steps instead of placing containers on roads," Justice Farooque further asked. Sardar Umar Aslam Advocate represented traders in the court, while AAG Munawar Iqbal Duggal appeared from the government in the case hearing.

Traders pleaded to the court, during the ongoing protests, students have been unable to attend schools and colleges. People are unable to attend their offices and the worst is happening with daily wagers as they have been deprived of their right to earn livelihood.

# LG polls will be held as per schedule in time: PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the local elections would be held as per the scheduled time. "The municipal election being held after a prolonged period of time will play an essential role in changing the destiny of the people of the region", the PM said while interacting with the divisional and district administrative officers and members of public delegations who called on him here today.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM while brushing aside fears of violence said that the elections would be held peacefully in a free, fair and transparent manner. "All the arrangements have been finalized in this regard and there is no issue of security as federal minister has given his full assurance of providing security forces during the elections", the PM said, adding that the AJK Police, FC, Ranger, Punjab



Police and Army would be deployed to make sure that the polls were conducted peacefully. Reiterating his government's commitment to hold the polls on time, he said,

"Now there is no question of postponing the election, the elections would be held on the same day all across the liberated territory." "Opposition parties will not be allowed to run away from the field under the pretext of security", the PM said, adding that it was quite astonishing to see that the opposition parties were creating mess when elections were a few weeks away. The opposition parties, he said, were recycling lame excuses to delay elections. Regarding the opposition's letter

to the federal government the PM said that the letter has no significance. The government, he said, won't back out from its commitments the name of security.

"Those who are talking about lodging of an FIR against me should know that the FIR will be filed against those who want to kill people's mandate", he said. About opposition's purported plan to bring vote of no confidence against the prime minister, he said, "It is a democratic right to bring no-confidence, which I cannot stop nor do I want to stop. I am loyal to the party and Khan, and according to the vision of the party chairman, I will use all the legal and constitutional authority to

transfer the power to the elected representatives of the people at the grassroots level".

The government would not allow anyone, whoever, to create anarchy, chaos and disturb the peaceful atmosphere in the state", he said, adding that whoever was guilty of an offence would get punished as per law. He said that the PTI government was implementing public welfare projects in good faith. He said that work on 30 billion rupees project funded by Saudi Arabia would start soon. He said that there will be a model tax system in Azad Kashmir. "Government will provide possible facilities so that sales tax and property tax will be improved".

## District Emergency Response Committee meeting held at DC office

Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: The meeting of District Emergency Response Committee for Anti Dengue was held at DC office which was presided by Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh. CEO DHA Dr. Kashif Mehmood Kambo, District Coordinator Epidemics Control Dr. Zulqarnain and other officers from various departments attended the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the ACs for holding Tehsil Emergency Response Committee meeting on regular basis and reviewed the performance of departments in connection with anti dengue. He said that the officers of concerned departments should be active in field to achieve the desired output of the anti dengue campaign. He asked for submitting departmental performance reports regarding surveillance and prevention activities daily.

He cleared that the carelessness and dereliction from duties should not be tolerated and stern action would be taken against the officials showing poor performance in this regard. The Deputy Commissioner further said that the strict monitoring of the anti dengue measures is being carried out by the District Administration to make the preventive and precautionary measures as successful on durable basis.

He asked the concerned departments to take the dengue issues very seriously. He said that, due to change in temperature dengue is shifting in houses therefore precautionary measures should be adopted very seriously. During the meeting District Coordinator for Epidemics diseases gave detailed briefing regarding the indoor and outdoor surveillance.

## DPO SW Attiqullah Wazir visited the house of martyred constable Hameed

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: DPO South Waziristan Attiqullah Wazir visited Tehsil Shakai, during which he visited the house of martyred policeman Hameedul-ah and condoled with his family and offered prayers.

On this occasion, DPO Attiqullah Wazir assured his family members of continued support and said,

"That when these defenders of the nation sacrifice their lives for their soil and people, they are not dead, they are alive, and their services are always remembered by living nations.

Shakai Police Station SHO Inamullah, Additional SHO Naseebullah were also present on the occasion of condolence.

DPO Attiqullah Wazir also visited Shakai police station, the in-charge of the police station gave a detailed briefing to the district police officer on the situation in the area and informed about the situation.

On this occasion, District Police Officer Attiqullah Wazir issued instructions to the police and said, "That public service should be the motto of the police, and no one should be harassed unnecessarily.

The best service and protection of the public is the job of the police, keep a watchful eye on elements engaged in mischief and illegal activities

Continue your campaign against addiction and drugs, so that the area can be saved from the scourge of drugs

## A major historic protest and peace march was held in Wana,

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: People belonging to different walks of life including political leadership, civil society and lawyers participating in the protest demanded the government and security agencies to maintain law and order in view of the recent disturbing situation in Lower Waziristan, civil administration and other security agencies are the responsibility.

Many political parties, lawyers, businessmen, councilors, civil societies, and social personalities participated in the protest Apart from this, political leaders from other parts of the country also participated.

The district police had made full-proof security arrangements for the protesters. The business community completely shut down Wana Bazaar for demonstration.

Addressing the protest, the speakers said that Waziristan has been a victim of external and internal conspiracies, terrorism and unrest for the past several decades.

The speakers demanded that separate DC, DPO, Judicial Complex and all line departments for Lower Waziristan should be shifted to their headquarters.

The speakers said that in the 25th constitutional amendment, Lower Waziristan district including the entire former FATA has become a part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In which regional responsibility and maintaining peace and order become the duty of civil administration and security agencies.

In the ongoing declaration, it has also been said that Article 9 of the Constitution is the protection of life and liberty of citizens, while Article 18 is the guarantee of livelihood, business and safe trade

## Sindh decides to take all stakeholders onboard before approval of HR Policy

KARACHI: Sindh Human Rights Department has decided to take Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and other civil society stakeholders onboard for its draft Human Rights Policy before final approval by the Sindh Cabinet.

The decision was taken at a consultative meeting on Draft Human Rights Policy Government of Sindh presided over by Surendar Valasai, Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Human Rights and attended among others by Saeed Ghani Minister for Labour and Human Resource, Bangul Khan Mahar Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Wildlife, and representatives of other departments at Human Rights Secretariat today.

The draft policy is developed by Human Rights Department with inputs from UNDP and several human rights activists.

## Protest

LAHORE: Students of Virtual University shouting slogans during protest in favour of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# Local body elections will be held in any case fair impartial atmosphere: AJK President

Bureau Report

BAGH: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that local body elections in Azad Kashmir will be held on November 27 in any case and will be fair. There is no security problem in Azad Kashmir either. To say that there will be no local body elections due to security is wrong and it will have a negative impact on Azadi Kashmir Movement because there is no security problem in Azad Kashmir. Tax collection will remain the boss of Azad Kashmir government and there will be no compromise on this.

Some people have created misunderstandings in this regard. I will also talk to the Chief Justice of the High Court for setting up a circuit bench in Bagh, but in the meantime, the bench of the High Court, which is closed at Rawalkot for four months, should be shifted to Bagh for that period. India



wants to end the Kashmir problem, for which Hindus are being resettled to change the state demography by abolishing the special status of Kashmir, India is using nefarious tactics to make a Hindu Chief Minister in Occupied Kashmir, America The State Department gave me the official protocol as the President of Azad Kashmir, which supports the position of Kashmiris.

If India continues its nuclear program, we also have to continue our program. A strong and stable Pakistan

is the guarantor of Kashmir's independence. Defense condemns the cowardly threats of attack on Azad Kashmir.

The international community should take notice of this. The political leadership of Pakistan should be united and speak the same language for the nuclear program, economic development and Kashmir issue. There is political tolerance in Azad Kashmir, India. If the defense minister tries to implement the threats, Kashmiris will make their own history of 1947.

He expressed these views while addressing a special meeting of the District Bar Association Bagh here today as a special guest. On this occasion, Sardar Mir Akbar Khan Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, President District Bar Association Bagh Farrukh Khan Chagatai, Vice Chairman Azad Jammu and Kashmir Bar Council Sardar Tariq Masood, Secretary General District Bar Association Raja Atiq attended the meeting of District Bar Association Bagh.

Ahmed Khan, also speaking, appreciated the efforts of President Azad Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, to highlight the Kashmir issue at the international level. After the action of Shimla Maaidah, the status of Shimla Maaidah ended and therefore Kashmiris were not participating in it. It will be able, the President of Azad Kashmir announced to play his full role for the establishment of Circuit Bench of High Court in Bagh.

# Economy has become an integral part of current diplomacy

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Economy has become an integral part of current diplomacy while the business community has also voluntarily attained ambassadorial responsibilities to promote economy and peace at the global level, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Addressing the participants of the 28th Junior Diplomatic Course at Foreign Service Academy (FSA) Islamabad, he said that Pakistan is the second largest country of South Asia with a massive population of 220 million. "It has all weathers in different parts of the country", he said and added that it is the

hottest, wettest and coldest country with divergent weathers.

He termed the gathering of junior diplomats from twelve different countries as a meeting of mini-UN. Introducing Faisalabad, he said that it was established by colonial rulers on the pattern of Union Jack with clock tower in the centre and eight bazars emanating from it. He said that this city has now evolved as the third largest city of Pakistan with textile as its iconic identity.

"It has the largest industrial estate sprawling over 10, 000 acres of land", he said and added that this city has the unique privilege to contribute one third of its textile export in addition to producing 80% cloth for the domestic needs. He further said

that it has the largest agriculture university, second largest women's university in addition to the state-of-the-art socks unit Interloop.

About FCCI, he said that it has 8,000 members belonging to different sectors and trade. He said that FCCI has been mandated to protect the interests of its members from federal to the local level. He said that a paradigm shift in diplomacy has inspired the business community to play its proactive role with a focus on enhancing imports and exports.

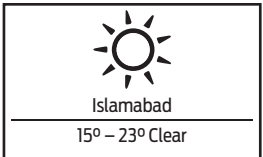
Mr. Irfan Shaukat Director Program FSA thanked the President FCCI for hosting the participants of the junior diplomatic course and said that our objective is to harness the skills of young

diplomats to promote linkages at the global level which are prerequisite for international peace.

Dr. Khurram Tariq President FCCI boldly responded to the question and queries of the diplomats and also presented FCCI mementos to Mr. Irfan Shaukat Director Program FSA and participants of the diplomatic course. Mr. Irfan Shaukat reciprocated and presented a shield of FSA to Dr. Khurram Tariq. Later Muhammad Azhar Chaudhary Executive Member offered vote of thanks. The visiting diplomats belong to Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Kazakhstan, Nicaragua, Samoa, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Uganda.



FAISALABAD: President Dr. Khurram Tariq is presenting FCCI memento to Junior Diplomats from 12 different countries studying in FSA who visited FCCI.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 5:12 am  
Zohr ..... 11:52 am  
Asr ..... 3:28 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:06 pm  
Isha ..... 6:31 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town ..... 9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316  
Wapda Islamabad ..... 9217579-80  
Sui Gas Complaint ..... 119, 9272249  
Wasa Water Tank Rawalpindi ..... 0331-5022125

**Foreigners telling Stories—Overseas Employees look at China' launched**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: China cultural center in Pakistan officially launched online documentary series "Foreigners telling Stories—Overseas Employees look at China"

The 100 episode of documentary series is comprising of the experiences of different Foreign Nationals working with different Chinese enterprises, organizations and companies. Facing the camera, they tell their real feelings of being in Chinese enterprises and observing China from the perspective of foreigners, expressing their love for China and their friendship with Chinese people.

All of them work in the overseas branches of Chinese enterprises, including managers who lead the development and growth of their companies, technical experts who work in the front line of R&D, and a group of ordinary employees who struggle for a better life.

It is Co-produced by Publicity Department of the Shanghai Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China, Foreign Publicity Office of Shanghai Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China, Shanghai Municipal State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization, Xinmin Evening News Agency and launched by China Cultural Center in Pakistan which can be seen by the official Facebook page.

China Cultural Center in Pakistan will comprehensively utilize all the humanity resources in the future to showcase Chinese history, culture and tourism, stories and will continue to make relentless efforts for a new chapter of China-Pakistan friendship.

**CEO AKAH pays call-on Chairman NDMA**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Miss Nusrat Nasab, CEO Aga Khan Agency of Habitat (AKAH) Pakistan called on Chairman NDMA Lt General Inam Haider Malik in his office today. Both discussed various aspects of collaboration pertaining to habitat planning and disaster risk mitigation at community level especially in mountainous region of Pakistan. Miss Nasab apprised the Chairman of AKAH's network to help communities with pre-disaster education and emergency plans to respond natural disasters and effects of climate change.

She told that currently AKAH is working with over 100 villages, towns and cities on habitat planning initiatives. She briefed about the flood donation of \$10 million for affecteds in flood-hit areas with exclusive mention of AKAH's flood relief efforts mainly in GB & Chitral and construction of 3000 prefab houses in GB. Chairman NDMA acknowledged the humanitarian efforts by AKAH.

While delivering his remarks on NDMA's vision to adapt a remodelled structure, he underscored the need of an effective framework for geo-monitoring and implementation of response and



evacuation plans within scope of Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment (HVRA) in GLOF-prone areas due to prevalence of intense heatwaves in region. He also underlined the importance of disaster mitigation and adaptation as well as evacuation plans for mountaineers and tourists in case of any natural disaster.

While discussing the avenues of mutual coordination with AKAH, the Chairman suggested to hold a workshop or seminar on disaster mitigation encompassing pre-disaster awareness with

technological interface, community level response strategy and AI-based simulation exercises for disaster management.

He also mentioned that envisioned National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) would play a key role in training and research in DRM and indicated that its chapter would also be set up in Gilgit with support of AKAH aligned with global practices. At conclusion, both agreed on continuing mutual cooperation for disaster mitigation in the future.

**Rain in Capital**

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way during rainy weather at Faisal Avenue in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**IGP orders revamping of CIA Islamabad**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has ordered the revamp of the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad capital police with a purpose to solve the cases professionally and purely of merit, a police public relations officer said.

He said that the IGP Islamabad issued these orders while chairing a meeting with the Investigation Wing which was also attended by the AIG (Investigation), SP (Investigation), DSPs and Inspector Investigation Officers and Incharge anti-vehicle lifting cell.

The IGP directed that the under-investigation cases of Special Sexual Offences Investigation Unit and Homicide Unit should be completed and their challans should be completed at the earliest. He further directed that the officials being closed from different divisions will report in headquarters adding that the ministerial staff of operations division officers will work six days in a week.

Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized that the investigation officers continue the investigation process of the cases with



the law and order duties. He also ordered the investigation officers to improve their performance and no laxity would be tolerated in this regard.

He further ordered that the investigation of the cases would be changed twice. The first investigation of the case would be changed by the board headed SSP Investigation, while the board under the supervision of AIG Investigation will be the authority to change the investiga-

tion a second time. He further directed the Anti Car Lifting Cell (ACLC) to take strict measures in order to tackle car theft in the city and to arrest the culprits involved in it and also recover the stolen vehicles.

The IGP Islamabad said that the revamping of CIA would help in carrying out quality investigation into cases and bring the entire investigation process at par with international standards.

**Pakistan's Ayla Majid elected vice president of ACCA**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Joseph Owolabi president and Ayla Majid elected vice president of ACCA. Ayla joined ACCA in 2006 and has been serving on ACCA's global council since 2014. She is the first person from Pakistan and South Asia to be elected the global vice president in a 118-year history of ACCA.

Ayla is also proud that ACCA plays a major role in offering young Pakistanis a promising career path full of growth and opportunities while creating a positive global impact. ACCA is a wonder-



ful qualification, with high quality standards, up to speed with addressing global needs and provides flexibility, and

therefore fits really well with the requirements of a diverse audience. It's particularly a very attractive career choice for women in all parts of the world including developing countries,' she said.

The newly elected ACCA president, Joseph Owolabi, grew up and studied in Nigeria, has lived and worked in Africa, North America and the UK, and now is an adoptive Australian. He will bring his knowledge of being a global citizen to his time as ACCA president and will draw on his experience of finding a home and a family with ACCA wherever he has lived

and worked.

He became an ACCA member in 2011 and has served on ACCA's International Assembly 2014-2015 and has been a Global Council member since 2015.

Joseph said: 'If you had told me as a child growing up that I would one day be the first African leading the largest, truly global accounting body, I would not have believed you. ACCA is an inclusive open and global community for members, future members and partners. Wherever in the world I have found myself, ACCA has given me a home and a family.'

**Impersonator arrested; car recovered**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad capital territory Lohibher police has arrested impersonator and car recovered, a Police Public Relation Officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad capital police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens.

According to the details, a Lohibher police team arrested impersonator Saqib Shahzad and recovered car from his possession. Case has been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

IGP Islamabad said that the safety of lives and property of the citizens is our prime responsibility and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard



**The Diabetes Centre Islamabad Celebrates World Diabetes Day**



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: An event was held in connection with World Diabetes' Day at The Diabetes' Centre here today in Islamabad

It was attended by management, staff, students from various educational institutions, senior management of Crescent Lions Club, media personnel and higher officials of Motorways Police and NHA CEO, TDC, Mr Tahir M. Abbasi said that there is dire need to create awareness and education among masses to put a halt to soaring rate of diabetes in Pakistan

Chairman, TDC, Dr Asjad Hameed stressed the need of adopting a healthy life style and remain health conscious.

An MOU was also signed with Crescent Lions Club to collaborate and create awareness among masses about diabetes.

Later, a walk was held followed by a Press Conference

**AIOU organizes speech competition on Allama Iqbal**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) organized a speech competition in light of the Iqbal week celebrations. The topic for this competition was "Politics and Religion in sight of Iqbal". It was organized by the Directorate of Student Advisory and Counselling Service among the students of local schools, colleges, and universities.

It is pertinent to mention here that the AIOU administration announced the celebration of Iqbal Week to pay tribute to the national poet. Various events have been planned and this competition was one of the series of Iqbal Week events. Students highlighted all the aspects of Allama Muhammad Iqbal's life, especially the concept of politics and religion according to Iqbal. The event was presided over by Director Student Affairs, Rana Tariq Javed. Dr. Samina Yasmeen, Dr. Kishwar Sultana, Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid and Dr. Sajjad also attended the event. Faisal Altaf, Student Counsellor hosted and conducted the competition.

Rana Tariq Javed said that Iqbal's philosophy has guidance for our future. Addressing the students, he said that you are the spokesmen of the coming generations, and you must make it a habit to read Iqbal to bring discipline into your life. He said that AIOU represents the whole nation, and it is named after Iqbal and the responsibility of promotion and dissemination of his thoughts, ideology, philosophy and message falls on this national university (AIOU). Other speakers were of opinion that after listening to the thoughts of the students regarding Allama Iqbal, it seemed that Iqbal's Shaheen are still present in this nation.

**Kashmir's EU Week begins in Brussels**



**Sohail Anjum Malik**

BRUSSELS: The Kashmir's EU Week encompassing a photo exhibition, a conference, a press conference and several meetings on Kashmir issue opened in Brussels, the European headquarters.

The photos presented in the exhibition which will be continued throughout some important events in the European Press Club Brussels in next two weeks, were taken by Mr. Cédric Gerbehave, the Belgian photo journalist during his visit to the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

Rest of the programs of the Kashmir's EU week such as an international conference on Kashmir in EU parliament, a press conference in the EU press club and meetings with the members EU parliament and representatives of organizations of human rights and civil society will be held during the week.

On the opening of the Kashmir EU Week in Brussels, Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed said, the week long programs of Kashmir EU week are being organized by Kashmir Council EU for many years and purpose of such programs is to highlight Kashmir issue in Europe.

He asked the international community special European Union to put pressure on India to immediately end crimes of Indian security forces against people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and grant them right to self determination according to the UN's resolutions on Kashmir.

He said, since 1947, people of occupied Kashmir are facing endless hardships as their miseries are being increased day by day. It is duty of international community including Europe Union to take immediate steps in order to end the atrocities against the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

So that situation of that disputed land should be normalized and people of Jammu and Kashmir should be provided a peaceful atmosphere where they can use their right to self determination in accordance with their wishes and according to United Nations resolutions.

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# The case of Katas Raj Temples: Shiva cries - I

**Ghaania Usman**

**T**he Katas Raj Temples are a compound of Hindu Temples connected to each other through paths located in the Potohar Plateau region in Punjab. The site holds immense religious significance for Hindus on account of their belief that the temples' pond formed through Shiva's teardrops after the death of his wife, Sati. The word Katas is derived from a Sanskrit word meaning tearful eyes.

Regardless of this site's great importance and cultural richness, government authorities have failed to provide adequate attention or allocate the right resources towards it. In 2012, the water levels of the pond decreased because of the construction of nearby cement factories: Bestway Cement, DG Khan Cement and Dandot Cement. The tremendous amount of water usage as well as the plantation of water-avid eucalyptus trees immensely lowered the water table. Regardless of the installation of Shikaras and a water filtration system for pilgrims, the water levels once again plum-

meted in 2017. In 2017 during a court hearing, Chief Justice of Pakistan MianSaqibNisar noted, "This temple is not just a place of cultural significance for the Hindu community, but also a part of our national heritage. We have to protect it." Even though the cement factories were told to obtain water from elsewhere immediately, this problem still prevails today.

During a visit to the Katas Raj Temples, an interview with the tour guide and care-taker revealed the opinions of the locals in the area. He believes there are a lot of tourist spots within this part of the world, but not nearly enough maintenance or resources to ensure their upkeep. Katas Raj has been described as a gold mine: if properly conserved, it could result in endless returns.

Regardless of belonging from a different religion, it seems that the locals realize this site's potential even more than officials and care for it to the best of their abilities. The care-taker stresses upon the need to think neutrally: "think back to the philosophy that Pakistan was made on!" He takes us back to Jinnah and Iqbal's ideas and how with the creation of Pakistan, people of

all religions were meant to be liberated. At the end of the day, Katas Raj is still a part of Pakistani culture.

Since the site is both historical and religious, ticketing is a sensitive and tricky factor. It is difficult to verify the difference between sightseers and those there for religious purposes. The government needs to implement a ticketing system within Katas Raj Temples and figure out how to differentiate between Hindus, Sikhs, and tourists, as well as how much to charge tourists. The revenue earned from this approach can then be reinvested into the site's restoration and maintenance.

The tour guide tells us how 3 cement factories were constructed 2km away from the Katas Raj Temples - legally, such construction should not be allowed near population, tourism, or heritage sites. The government should be working on developing tourism in these areas rather than engaging in aiding industrialisation. He notes that the water levels have immensely decreased due to the turbines of the cement factories which caused the springs to disconnect. The water, which was once blue, is now murky. Initially, there were 12 springs. Now, just one tubewell

remains which stops functioning when there is no electricity. The motionless water on its own creates endless problems, and the cleaning of the water proves to be a strenuous task as well. If factories manage their water in other ways, Katas Raj's water levels will automatically increase again. With the construction of dams, rainwater could easily be collected and utilized.

He notes how original material is not used within the restoration of the site due to being more expensive. This is due to different organizations being in charge of restoration at different points in time. In reference to the significance of proper, authentic restoration, the tour guide says, "Without it, there is no mark of this site being thousands of years old." Alongside the difference in aesthetics that the various materials cause, there are also issues of protection from rain and other natural factors in the case of materials such as wood.

He believes it is important for officials and organizations to be fined/removed for bad work. Without a system of accountability, history is slowly but surely being erased and newer generations are left with more and more unanswered questions

about their own land. He acknowledges that in recent years, with Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) in charge, measures have been taken to ensure higher security. A boundary wall was finally constructed, care-takers and guards were appointed, and cameras were installed. However, there is still a lot of work that needs to take place.

An interview with an individual working on the development of tourism confirmed that there is a crucial need for the implementation of the law in regards to tourism within our country. There is barely any tolerance or awareness in our society. The individual claims that our government is capable of carrying out the needed changes, but it does not have enough of a bandwidth to deal with these issues. However, in close collaboration with the locals, Katas Raj Temples can definitely be properly restored.

This individual highlights the need to change the setting and make it look more like a holy site in order to honor its background. Promotion will also be a lot more feasible if there is visa ease for Indians.

*To be concluded*

## G20 must be part of solution not problem

**A**t the 2022 G20 Summit that is to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday on the Indonesian island of Bali, the new UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is apparently going to speak ill of China in a roundabout way. He will reportedly tell the summit that developing nations must have access to credit for economic growth without becoming reliant on "exploitative" lenders, echoing past G7 "debt trap" criticism of China.

He is also likely to tell the summit that the World Trade Organization should be reformed to curb the "manipulation of global markets by malign actors", another common Western trope intended as a coded critique of China.

No doubt the other Western leaders will nod their heads in sage agreement and offer similar squeezings from sour grapes. Yet what the world's second-largest economy has done for developing countries and the global economy by means of the Belt and Road Initiative and other programs only brings into sharp relief how manipulative and exploitative of others these countries are.

Amid the current challenges facing the world, the G20 Summit is neither the time nor the place for the leaders of Western countries to air their grievances at China's rise and the emergence of other developing economies. They have plenty of other occasions when they can air their postprandial gripes among themselves. The G20 Summit is for serious business. It should be a platform for the leaders of the world's major economies to discuss ways to address the many concurrent crises impeding a global recovery and creating headwinds to shared development.

If Sunak and other Western leaders beat about the bush attacking China at this summit, it will make the meeting a wasted opportunity. There are too many issues that need to be dealt with by the joint efforts of the international community for leaders of major countries to hear about such meaningless grievances.

With an increasing number of developing countries benefiting from the Belt and Road Initiative, more and more world leaders have come to realize that China is promoting global economic development with all the programs it has launched.

By comparing what China has been doing as a cooperating partner with what Western countries have done as colonial powers, the developing economies and least-developed countries know well which country has been helping them and which have been exploiting them.

At their summit in Bali, all the participants should earnestly compare notes on the best ways to approach the many pressing challenges the world faces rather than indulging in clique politics.

They should try to put aside their differences and reach a consensus on concerted actions to solve as many issues as possible. They should put the common interests of the international community ahead of parochial concerns.



## Palestinians should look beyond follies to resurrect narrative

**Ramzy Baroud**

**A**t a recent Istanbul conference that brought many Palestinian scholars and activists together to discuss the search for a common narrative on Palestine, a member of the audience declared at the end of a brief but fiery intervention: "We are not red Indians."

The reference was a relatively old one. It was attributed to former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat during a 2004 interview in his office in Ramallah, where he was forcefully confined and surrounded two years earlier by the Israeli military that had again invaded the populous Palestinian city. In the interview, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization and president of the Palestinian Authority said that, despite Israel's attempt at eradicating the Palestinian people, they remain steadfast. Israel had "failed to wipe us out," Arafat said, adding, "we are not red Indians."

Though Arafat's intention was not to degrade or insult Native American communities, the statement, often taken out of context, hardly reflects the deep solidarity between Palestinians and national liberation struggles, including indigenous struggles, around the world. Ironically, Arafat, more than any Palestinian leader, had forged ties with numerous communities in the Global South and in fact all over the world. A generation of activists had linked Arafat to their initial awareness of, then involvement in, Palestine solidarity movements.

PLO factions, intellectuals and activists were known and respected worldwide as ambassadors for the Palestinian cause. Three years after his 1972 assassination by the Israeli Mossad in a Beirut car bombing, Palestinian

novelist Ghassan Kanafani was posthumously awarded the annual Lotus Prize for Literature by the Union of Asian and African Writers as a delineation of the common struggle between peoples of both continents.

Arab countries, which also fought their own painful but heroic national liberation wars, played a major role in the centrality of Palestine in the political discourses of African and Asian countries. Many non-Arab countries supported collective Arab causes, especially Palestine, at the UN, pushed for the isolation of Israel, backed Arab boycotts and even hosted PLO offices and fighters. When Arab governments began changing their political priorities, these nations, sadly but unsurprisingly, followed suit.

The massive geopolitical changes after the Cold War, in favor of the US-led Western camp, profoundly and negatively impacted Palestine's relations with Arabs and the rest of the world. It also divided the Palestinians, localizing the Palestinian struggle in a process that seemed to be determined mostly by Israel alone. Gaza was placed under a permanent siege, the West Bank was splintered by numerous illegal Jewish settlements and military checkpoints, Jerusalem was swallowed whole and Palestinians in Israel became victims of a police state that defined itself primarily on racial grounds.

Abandoned by the world and their own leadership, oppressed by Israel and bewildered by remarkable events beyond their control, some Palestinians turned against one another. This was the age of factionalism. However, Palestinian factionalism is bigger than Fatah and Hamas, Ramallah and Gaza. Equally dangerous to the self-serving politics are the numerous provisional discourses that it espoused, neither governed by any collective strategy or an inclusive national narrative.

When the PLO was ousted from Lebanon following the Israeli invasion and deadly war, the nature of the Palestinian struggle transformed. Headquartered in Tunisia, the PLO was no longer able to present itself as a leader of a liberation movement in any practical sense. The Oslo Accords of 1993 resulted from this political exile and subsequent marginalization. It also accentuated an existing trend where an actual war of liberation turned into a corporate form of liberation, hunger for funds, false status and, worse, a negotiated surrender.

This much is now familiar and acknowledged by many Palestinians. Less discussed, however, is that nearly 30 years of this process left Palestinians with a different political discourse than that which existed for decades prior to Oslo.

Undoubtedly, Palestinians are aware of the need for a liberated new language. This is not an easy task, nor is it a randomly generated process. The indoctrination that resulted from the Oslo culture, the factional language and the provincial political discourse of various Palestinian communities left Palestinians with limited tools through which to express the priorities of the new era. Unity is not a political document. Neither is international solidarity. It is a process that is shaped by a language that should be spoken collectively, relentlessly and boldly. In this new language, Palestinians are Native Americans, not in their supposed propensity to be "wiped out," but in their pride, resilience and continued quest for equality and justice.

*Ramzy Baroud has been writing about the Middle East for more than 20 years. He is an internationally syndicated columnist, a media consultant, an author of several books, and the founder of Palestine Chronicle.com. Courtesy ARAB NEWS*

## Women Move Mountains

**Quratul Ain Salman**

**W**omen are soft, gentle and do considered not strong enough to undertake the tough, hard and physically challenges particularly in the Eastern countries. Quite recent, we witness that the women are bracing much more challenges which is earlier considered for men only. They have achieved new heights in achievements. General perception about their role in the society is not improving. The women living in remote areas and mountain regions are facing much more challenges and they need attention of the top brass of the country to improve their living conditions. We may review the traditional role of women in our society and provide them equal opportunities to excel in every sepher of life. It is for the decision, policy makers and resource allocators to look into the matter more deeply to address the issues. In fact, women can move the mountains, if they are empowered, keeping in view their needs, cultural, social values and religion. Food & Agriculture Organization of UN has done exactly what is required to empower the women at the occasion of International Mountain Day (IMD) by assigning the theme i.e. "Women Move Mountains". This theme has much more importance and significance for Pakistani women.

The IMD is celebrated every year on 11 December. It provides an opportunity to create an awareness among the masses about importance of mountains and associated challenges and opportunities. This year the theme is quite distinguished and would help to create awareness about the importance of women and encourage them to play more effective role in the society. At this occasion, the stakeholders organized activities across the globe. In Pakistan too a large number of stakeholder organize activities to mark this day. Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) is celebrating this day for 17 years. Last year, it organized 1st ever Sustainable Mountain Tourism and Sports Conference in collaboration and support by the key stakeholders. The inaugural Session was held at the President Secretariat whereas rest of the Sessions were conducted in Pearl Continental, Rawalpindi. A number of other activ-

ities Seminars, Eco Hikes etc. were also organized.

Here I would like to mention that Samina Baig, NailyaKiayni have really moved the mountains. Samina Baig has climbed all the highest peaks of the seven continents and she has recently climbed K-2 as well. NailaKiayni has also climbed three Peaks above 8000-M. She is the only Pakistani women who has climbed three Peaks above 8000-M. These women have inspired young girls now following their path.

Dr ZubairaSirang, another lady from mountainous/ remote area. She is an eye surgeon and the first-ever Pakistani author to have her work featured on the prestigious Book Authority List. Her book Optics Made Easy: The Last Review of Clinical Optics was included in the list of "Best Ophthalmology Books of All Time. Zara Naeem Dar internationally topped the exams for the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)/ Amna Baig Assistant Superintendent Police (ASP) Amna Baig's contributions towards making positive changes and devotion to her profession for raising women and gender issues, -decorated her Award by the Danish ambassador to Pakistan.

Women in Army are not behind. Lieutenant General Nigar Johar has become Pakistan's first ever three-star female general of Army Medical Corps (AMC). So there is a long list of such high achievers which cannot be mentioned due to lack of time and space.

We need to look into the challenges being faced by women in our society as well. The women living in mountain areas are more vulnerable. They are moving mountains while performing their traditional role of rural women. However, the emergence of tourism in mountain regions of Pakistan has opened new opportunities for women for which more resources are required to be allocated.

In brief, this day is an opportunity for the stakeholders to break the stereotype concept of women in our society. Women can move mountains like the a few names mentioned above. However, leadership of the country need to formulate policies which may encourage women participation in the country, particularly living in remote/mountain regions of Pakistan.

*The writer is MS(Media & Communication) and recently started contributing to the newspaper.*

# Leaders of China, US need to set right course for bilateral ties, says Xi

BALI, INDONESIA: Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday here during a meeting with his US counterpart, Joe Biden, that as leaders of two major countries, they need to set the right course for bilateral ties.

From the initial contact and the establishment of diplomatic relations to today, China and the United States have gone through 50-plus eventful years, with gains and losses as well as experience and lessons, Xi said.

Noting that history is the best textbook, the Chinese president said that the two sides should take it as a mirror and let it guide the future.

Currently, the state of China-US relations is not in the fundamental interests of the two countries and their people, Xi said, adding that it is not what the international community expects from the two countries either.

As leaders of two major countries, Xi said, the two presidents need to play the leadership role, set the right course for the China-US relationship and put it on an upward trajectory.

A statesman should think about and know where to lead his country. He should also think about and know how to get along with other countries and the wider world, he added.

Emphasizing that in this time and age, great changes are unfolding in ways like never before, Xi said that humanity is confronted with unprecedented challenges.

"The world has come to a crossroads. Where to go from here? This



is a question that is not just on our mind, but also on the mind of all countries," Xi said, noting that the world expects that China and the United States will properly handle their relationship.

Noting that his meeting with Biden has attracted the world's attention, Xi

said that the two sides should work with all countries to bring more hope to world peace, greater confidence in global stability, and stronger impetus to common development.

Xi said that he stands ready to have a candid and in-depth exchange of views with Biden on issues of strategic importance in China-US relations and on major global and regional issues, adding that he also looks forward to working with Biden to bring China-US relations back to the track of healthy and stable growth to the benefit of our two countries and the world as a whole. (Xinhua)

## APCEA participated in the 5th CIIE to promote high-quality Pakistani products



SHANGHAI: The Pakistani flag inlaid with emeralds and diamonds, the golden Chinese characteristic element "Ruyi" embellished with gems, and the glittering topaz necklace on the booth have become a unique and eye-catching sight of the 5th China International Import Expo.

"Pakistan is blessed with precious stones, among which the bright colored emeralds have become a feverish treasure for European collectors more than 2,000 years ago," Said Miao Lan. "We hope to make use of the CIIE as an international platform to expand the popularity of Pakistani gems so that Chinese consumers can also have high-end consumption experience."

As the Coordinator for Middle East and Asia Pacific, All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA), Miao Lan is committed to promoting Pakistan's high-quality products' exports to China and other countries. This is her first time as an exhibitor at CIIE.

In contrast to many other exhibitions, CIIE attracts delegations from various professional industries for on-site discussions, exchanges and cooperation. One visitor, Huang Weiwei, who works in jewellery design, introduced herself as someone who used to buy rubies and sapphires from Sri Lanka. The Pakistani gems on display caught her attention, satisfied her with both quality and price, and opened up a new channel for her to purchase gems.

Besides jewelry, Miao Lan also brought multiple commodities from Pakistan, such as rice, salt, oil, textile products and innovative works of art.

"I want to change the image of Pakistan in people's minds," said Miao Lan. "Pakistan has many valuable resources actually. Not only can we accept China's help, but also have good business cooperation."

Miao Lan explained while displaying the goods, "long-staple cotton from Pakistan is of high quality, the towel made of which won't be hard after long time use; Footballs used in Qatar World Cup are also handmade by Pakistanis; Rice from Pakistan, which contains low sugar, can meet the current demand of Chinese consumers for healthy diet; Pakistan's salt contains a variety of healthy trace elements; IT outsourcing and tourism are also outstanding."

"Visitors who came to our booth were surprised after hearing my introduction," Miao Lan said. "Many Chinese people's impressions of Pakistan stay in Pakistan railway. My purpose of participating CIIE is to let people in China learn Pakistan comprehensively. As we all know, Pakistan suffered floods this year. Trading helps the country in the long run, not donations. Therefore, CIIE, a national platform, is the best platform, in which we can reach distributors, traders, governors and investors in China."

In response to a series of pain points facing exports, Miao Lan said, they were improving a series of industrial chain processes. "The governments of the two countries strongly support cross-border e-commerce, and we are considering launching high-quality products from Pakistan on e-commerce platforms," added Miao Lan. (Xinhua)

## Istanbul police say Syrian woman main suspect, detain 46 over bombing

ANKARA: Istanbul police said on Monday it had detained 46 people in relation to an attack at the heart of the city, including Syrian woman Ahlam Albashir who is suspected to have planted the bomb.

In initial questioning, the woman said she was trained by Kurdish militants in Syria and entered Turkey through northwest Syria's Afrin region, the police said.

State broadcaster TRT released footage of police escorting a woman, the main suspect, from an apartment after an overnight raid.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu said the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, which Ankara says is a wing of the PKK, were responsible for the attack on the historic and bustling Istiklal Avenue on Sunday.

Soyulu said the order was given in Kobani and the bomber passed through Afrin — both cities in northern Syria where Turkish forces have carried out operations against the YPG in recent years.

The woman, with curly hair and in a purple jumper with the words 'New York' on it, was shown being brought into police headquarters in the TRT footage. Police used a dog to search the apartment and found gold, money and ammunition, it showed.

Six Turkish citizens, two members each of three families, were killed in the attack. No group has claimed responsibility. (Web Desk)

# Rochdale Barrow's awarded to Lala Ali Asghar Babu

By Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Lala Ali Asghar Babu, Rochdale's prominent political entrepreneur and president of the Liberal Democratic Party North west, was awarded Rochdale Barrow's highest honour.

On receiving the Freedom of the Borough award, former mayor of Rochdale Zulfiqar Ali and businessman Liberal Democratic Party Rochdale Chairman Chaudhry Mohammad Khizr gave a reception to Rochdale K at Koz Restaurant in which Leader Liberal Democratic Party Councilor Andy Kelly Professor Dr Zahid Asghar—Muhammad Adil Wajid Ali Haji Rasheed Dr. Maqsood Ghori Lala Mansha Haji Muhammad Ramzan Chaudhry Kale Khan Chaudhry Ashraf Rafat Mahmood Haji Ramzan and political businessmen and community leaders participated on this occasion.

Lala Ali Asghar Babu said that first of all former mayor Zulfiqar Ali and I am grateful to Chaudhry Muhammad Khizr who organized this prestigious event for me.

I am grateful to Allah Almighty for receiving a great honor like Freedom of the Barrow. This honor is due to my lifelong community service.

Will be free soon Rochdale



Council Liberal Democratic Leader Councilor Andy Kelly heartily congratulated Ali Asghar Babu on receiving the important award and said that Lala Ali Asghar's community service award was given, Rochdale city is proud of Dr. Maqsood Ahmed Ghori.

And Chaudhry Bashir

Ratvi said that Ali Asghar Babu has dedicated his whole life to the community and he has done a lot of services for the Liberal Democratic Party of UK and Muslim Conference Party of Azad Kashmir.

Rubina Asghar said that she is proud of her father that he has devoted himself

round the clock to serve the community. Thanked the friends and said that Rochdale's son Ali Asghar Babu has made us proud.

Young Abdul Jabbar also expressed his best wishes for Lala Ali Asghar. Finally, the cake was cut and the guests were humbled. Done with food

## Afghan supreme leader orders full implementation of Islamic law

Raja Furqan Ahmed

KABUL: Afghanistan's supreme leader has ordered judges to fully implement aspects of the Islamic law that include public executions, stonings and floggings and the amputation of limbs for thieves. The Islamic Emirate's Spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid tweeted that the "obligatory" command by Hibatullah Akhundzada came after the secretive leader met with a group of judges. Akhundzada, who has not been filmed or photographed in public since the Taliban returned to power in August last year, rules by decree from Kandahar, the movement's birthplace and spiritual heartland. "Carefully examine the files of thieves, kidnappers and seditionists," Mujahid quoted Akhundzada as saying. "Those files in which all the sharia (Islamic law) conditions of hudud and qisas have been fulfilled, you are obliged to implement. "This is the ruling of sharia, and my command, which is obligatory." Mujahid was not available Monday to expand on his tweet. Hudud refers to offences which, under Islamic law, certain types of punishment are mandated, while qisas translates as "retaliation in kind" — effectively an eye for an eye. Hudud crimes include adultery — and falsely accusing someone of it — drinking alcohol, theft, kidnapping and highway robbery, apostasy and rebellion. Qisas covers murder and deliberate injury, among other things, but also allows for the families of victims to accept compensation in lieu of punishment. Islamic scholars say crimes leading to hudud punishment require a very high degree of proof, including — in the case of adultery — confession, or being witnessed by four adult male Muslims.

# Pak-Afghan economic ties: Opening new vistas

The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa CAMEA at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) organized a webinar on Pak-Afghan Economic Ties: Opening New Vistas on November 14, 2022. The distinguished speakers included, Ambassador Mansoor Ahmed Khan, Pakistan's Former Ambassador to Afghanistan, Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb, Charge d' Affairs/Minister Counselor, Afghanistan Embassy, Islamabad, Mr. Haroon Sharif, Former Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment, Shinwari, Former Deputy of the International Trade Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Afghanistan, Mr. Adnan Jalil, Peshawar Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Hashim Pashtun, Kabul Institute of Peace. The webinar was moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director of the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA). Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors also participated in the webinar.

While giving her introductory remarks, Ms. Amina Khan, stated that in a rapidly changing world, which is fast transitioning from geo-politics to geo-economics, regional economic integration and regional connectivity have gained utmost importance. She further explained that the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan is unique, as both countries complement each other in terms of trade and economic opportunities through bilateral and transit trade. Since August 2021, we have seen an increase in trade activity between the two, with Afghan exports to Pakistan, jumping from \$550 million to \$700 million; this can be attributed to bilateral cooperation and trade-related concessions by Pakistan, increased purchases of Afghan coal and the introduction of an operationalized Integrated Transit Trade Management System (ITTMS) Torkham. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, in his welcome remarks stated that Pakistan and Afghanistan have shared destinies and are now focusing on shared economic linkages. He stressed on the importance of strong economic

ties between the two countries. Ambassador Mansoor Ahmed Khan, while expressing his views stated that this is a very important topic for the entire region as the economic potential is immense, with common markets, common culture and other factors. These connectivity advantages that both Pakistan and Afghanistan sit on have not been made use of substantially. Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb, in his remarks said that the last year has been very difficult for Pakistan and Afghanistan alike. Unprecedented floods, droughts and the freezing of Afghan currency has been a major impediment. He went on to say that the new government of Afghanistan is economy-oriented; it has focused a lot on trade, transit and regional connectivity during the last year. Mr. Haroon Sharif, while expressing his views said that times have changed and we are living in economic uncertainty, with challenges like high inflation, shrinking GDP's and reduced cash flows. The world is experiencing a global recession. Mr. Muzammil Shinwari, in his remarks stressed on three key points, namely, bilateral



trade, joint investment and transit trade. He went on to say that the world is changing rapidly and regrouping is taking place. Mr. Hashim Pashtun, while expressing his views said that Afghan Pak economic ties should be based on the policies driven by the agenda set by the traders, economists, and business people

from both sides. The vision shall be formed on multilateral approach with, supporting the Small and Medium Enterprises and enhancing them to get connected via matchmaking, easing up the trade laws and on the long term will be successful implementation of major projects such as TAPI, CASA, and Rail-

road connectivity. Other additional factors to be considered is the role of Climate Change in defining the regional economics, establishing SEZs and a review or upgrade of current trade agreements will be vital for boosting the economies on both sides of the borders.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said that there are numerous agreements between Pakistan and Afghanistan; however they are not reflected at the ground level. He concluded by saying that the mindsets need to change and we must avoid politicization and work on the lack of trust, which is a huge impediment.



