



UAE ambassador appreciates Health Minister's appointment

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US Dollar in trouble after proposed BRICS currency?

Brazil's President called for the BRICS nations to create a common currency for trade and investment between each other, as a means of reducing their vulnerability to US dollar exchange rate fluctuations. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva made the proposal at a BRICS summit in Johannesburg. Officials and economists have pointed out the difficulties involved in such a project, given the economic, political and geographic disparities... (Details on Page 8)

Appreciation

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq embracing the rescuers of Battagram chairlift incident at a ceremony on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PM Kakar commends heroes who rescued trapped chairlift passengers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday awarded commendation certificates to the valiant commandos, armed forces personnel and local residents who rescued eight trapped passengers of a dangling cable car in Battagram.

The prime minister, addressing the commemoration ceremony held at the PM Office, said the recognition was well-deserved by every individual involved, who exhibited remarkable prowess in orchestrating the mission to a triumphant conclusion.

He emphasized that the entire nation shared the concerns for the safety of the trapped children, who remained stranded on the chairlift for hours.

He remarked that the successful endeavor was a collaborative achievement, acknowledging that recognition was also due to those who, from the confines of their homes, prayed for the safe and successful rescue operation.

He said being a father, he could feel the pain of stranded children's parents but the teamwork based on prudent efficient planning ensured their safety.

President House seeks law ministry's opinion on election date

NA Khan

ISLAMABAD: President House has sought an opinion from law ministry regarding authority of announcement of election date.



As per details, a letter was written to the Ministry of Law and Justice's secretary from the President House.

to decide the date of general elections.

The letter asked for the law ministry's opinion on the CEC response letter regarding the election date.

In the letter President wrote that he dissolved the National Assembly on August 09 on the advice of the prime minister.

It may be noted that President Arif Alvi on Wednesday invited Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja for a meeting

to give the date of general elections, being held within 90 days after dissolution of the assembly under the Article 48-V," the President wrote in the letter.

CEC decides 'against' meeting President Alvi

NA Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja has decided 'against' meeting President Alvi on his invitation to discuss the general election date.



The decision was reportedly taken during a meeting of the ECP to discuss the legal and constitutional options in line with the president's letter.

The president can announce the election date when the assembly is dissolved by the presidency, however, ECP is autonomous in announcing the date, the letter read.

According to the briefing of the legal team, the CEC was advised not to 'consult' President Alvi on the election date as after the Election Amendment Act, there is no need for such consultation.

It may be noted that President Arif Alvi on Wednesday invited Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja for a meeting to decide the date of general elections.

After the briefing, CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja decided 'against' meeting the president and wrote a letter to him.

In the letter President wrote that he dissolved the National Assembly on August 09 on the advice of the prime minister.

The letter stated the ECP respects President Arif Alvi, but there is no need for consultation on the election date as per the Election Amendment

held within 90 days after dissolution of the assembly under the Article 48-V," the President wrote in the letter.

Prime Minister visits Ministry of Foreign Affairs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today. Upon arrival at the Ministry, the Prime Minister was received by Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and senior officers.



The Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi briefed the Prime Minister about Pakistan's foreign policy. The briefing covered Pakistan's external relations, the working of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, recent efforts to strengthen its diplomatic ties with other countries, and priorities for the future, especially in view of the regional and global developments.

and Departments, to facilitate Pakistani diaspora working and residing abroad. The need for close coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all other national stakeholders was discussed with a view to ensuring the synergetic and holistic pursuit of Pakistan's foreign policy objectives, security, trade and economic objection.

Rupee hits record low of 300 against US dollar

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The US dollar ascended to a record high against the Pakistani rupee on Thursday as it traded at the historic low of Rs300.37 during morning trade in the interbank market.

Rs300.4 at 11:50 am. In the open market, the USD was being traded at Rs315, they said. Yesterday, the dollar closed at Rs299.64, according to daily data released by the State Bank of Pakistan.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan, the greenback was changing hands in the interbank market at

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 index gained over 500 points during morning trade on Thursday.

Solangi, Bugti reaffirm commitment to assist ECP for polls

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Ministers for Interior and Information and Broadcasting Sarfraz Bugti and Murtaza Solangi on Thursday reaffirmed the government's commitment to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in holding General Elections.

The ministers expressed the resolve during a meeting held here at the Ministry of Interior.

Upon arrival at the Ministry, the minister for interior accorded warm welcome to Murataz Solangi.

They also discussed the overall situation in the country.

Elections must be held within 90 days: LHC

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) stated that the upcoming general elections must be held within 90 days.

As per details, Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh heard the petition filed to allow the president to announce the election date.

LHC issued notices to the Election Commission of Pakistan and the Principal Secretary of President regarding the announcement of election date.

The AIG told the court that there are different timelines for delimitation process and it's not possible for ECP to decrease the timelines as the delimitation process will take four months.

Earlier, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced that general elections are not possible within 90 days.

Naqvi Orders to Crackdown against the Narcotics Trafficking Mafia

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a meeting at CM office today. Mohsin Naqvi ordered to further expedite crackdown against the mafia involved in narcotics trafficking across the province. Mohsin Naqvi directed that the police should continue taking indiscriminate crackdowns for the eradication of the narcotics mafia adding that benefit from the latest technology should be availed in order to stop the obnoxious business of narcotics in the educational institutions. Mohsin Naqvi underscored that we have to protect the new generation from the scourge of narcotics adding that the concerned institutions by making an excellent coordination should ensure complete eradication of narcotics mafia. It was informed during the briefing that monitoring to identify narcotics peddlers in the educational institutions has been launched.

CM Sindh orders action against medicine hoarders

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (r) Maqbool Baqar, while taking serious notice of the shortage of life-saving medicines in the market, directed the health department to ensure the availability of the medicines and take strict action against the hoarders.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, the chief minister discussed the matter of the shortage of life-saving medicines and the circulation of substandard medicines in the market with Health Minister Dr Saad Niaz. It was decided that the health department would start a campaign against the medicine dealers involved in hoarding.

It was also decided that the health department would go hard against the manufacturers/dealers and even stores involved in making and selling substandard medicines.

Justice Baqar said that the people who were playing with the lives of innocent people must be dealt with iron hands.

PTI chairman challenges cancellation of his bail pleas in LHC

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister on Thursday challenged the cancellation of his interim bails in seven cases, including the Jinnah House attack case in Lahore High Court (LHC).

The PTI chairman has challenged the cancellation of his interim bails through his lawyer Barrister Salman Safdar. A two-member bench of the Lahore High Court will hear the petitions of the PTI chairman today at 11 am. The petition maintained that the PTI chairman was being

victimised and the cases were politically motivated. The petitioner has sought a court order for hearing of his interim bail pleas on merit by the relevant court. It is pertinent to mention here that the anti-terrorism court had rejected the bail pleas of PTI chairman in the May 9 cases

and allowed the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman. The court was informed that the PTI premiere was convicted under the Election Act and is currently under arrest. The ATC accepted the plea and granted permission to police to conduct the inquiry and arrest of the former prime minister in Jinnah House attack case. It is pertinent to mention here that PTI Chairman Khan was arrested from his Lahore residence on August 5 after he was slapped with a five-year disqualification and a three-year prison term in the Toshakhana criminal case.

Annual Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), Ms Rabiya Javeri Agha, presenting the Annual Report of NHCR for year 2021-22 to President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan to continue moral, political support to Kashmiris: PM



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Thursday held a meeting with Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq. The AJK prime minister congratulated him on assuming the office of caretaker prime minister and expressed his best wishes for him.

The caretaker prime minister assured the AJK prime minister

of unconditional support of Pakistan to Kashmir.

He said Pakistan stood shoulder-to-shoulder with people of Kashmir in their struggle for right to self-determination.

The PM said Pakistan would continue the diplomatic, political and moral support of Kashmiris till the Kashmir issue was resolved according to the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and as per wishes of the people of Kashmir through a plebiscite.

US Dollar in trouble after proposed BRICS currency?

Spokesman Report

Brazil's President called on Wednesday for the BRICS nations to create a common currency for trade and investment between each other, as a means of reducing their vulnerability to US dollar exchange rate fluctuations.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva made the proposal at a BRICS summit in Johannesburg.

Officials and economists have pointed out the difficulties involved in such a project, given the economic, political and geographic disparities between Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Related: The end of King Dollar?

Why does Lula want a BRICS currency?

Brazil's president doesn't

believe nations that don't use the dollar should be forced to trade in the currency, and he has also advocated for a common currency in the Mercosur bloc of South American countries.

A BRICS currency "increases our payment options and reduces our vulnerabilities," he told the summit's opening plenary session.

South African officials had said a BRICS currency was not on the agenda for the summit.

In July, India's foreign minister said, "there is no idea of a BRICS currency". Its foreign secretary said before departing for the summit that boosting trade in national currencies would be discussed.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the gathering, which he attended via video-



link, would discuss switching trade between member countries away from the dollar to national currencies.

China has not commented on the idea. President Xi Jinping spoke at the summit of promoting "the reform of the international financial and monetary system".

Building a BRICS currency would be a "political project", South African central bank

governor Lesetja Kganyago told a radio station in July.

"If you want it, you'll have to get a banking union, you'll have to get a fiscal union, you've got to get macroeconomic convergence," Kganyago said.

"Importantly, you need a disciplining mechanism for the countries that fall out of line with it... Plus they will need a common central bank... where does it get located?"

Trade imbalances are also a problem, Herbert Poenisch, a senior fellow at Zhejiang University, wrote in a blog for think-tank OMFIF.

"All BRICS member countries have China as their main trading partner and little trade with each other."

BRICS leaders have said they want to use their national currencies more instead of the dollar, which strengthened sharply last year as the Federal Reserve raised interest rates and Russia invaded Ukraine, making dollar debt and many imports more expensive.

Russia's sanctions-imposed exile from global financial systems last year also fuelled speculation that non-western allies would shift away from the dollar.

UAE ambassador appreciates Health Minister's appointment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi on Thursday said that the appointment of Dr. Nadeem Jan a top public health specialist as Health Minister, reflects the seriousness of the Government of Pakistan towards health sector.

During meeting with the minister, the ambassador lauded the Government of Pakistan's approach of assigning the right man for right



job on his appointment as the country's health minister.

He said that the UAE is Pakistan's strong and valuable partner, and that the brotherly relations between the two countries were bound to strengthen in the times to come.

The minister expressed his keen desire to work wholeheartedly for the health and well-being of his nation and make some tangible improvement in the health sector to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Pakistan.

The UAE leadership is interested in establishing health projects that serve

the Pakistani people and looking for the possibilities of forging joint partnerships in the healthcare sector, as expressed by the ambassador.

The two sides also discussed the importance of enhancing joint action to address climate change, particularly as the UAE is committed to supporting global climate action by hosting the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) this November at Dubai Expo City.

EU Ambassador, Commerce Minister discuss trade enhancement, export goals

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Riina Kionka, Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan, called on Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries, in Ministry of Commerce and congratulated him for assuming this important portfolio.

Commerce Minister appreciated the unilateral trade concession of GSP Plus to Pakistan by EU, which is of great importance to Pakistan export sector.

Minister Gohar Ejaz also informed about his vision to increase Pakistan global exports to US\$ 80 billion and Ministry of Commerce vigorously preparing the framework, where special focus would be strategic export markets and potential products. The EU-27 zone is the largest export destination for Pakistani businesses and continuation of GSP scheme will assist Pakistan.

Ambassador Kionka expressed her appreciation for Minister Ejaz's vision and assured EU full support in helping Ministry of Commerce.

Pakistan to call for international action on Indian Kashmir in Jeddah event

Abdul Majeed Tahir

JEDDAH: The Pakistan Permanent Representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Ambassador Syed Fawwad Sher, hosted a significant event under the aegis of the OIC in Jeddah on August 23, 2023, to vehemently condemn the continuous atrocities and illegal occupation of India in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

The program, attended by Assistant Secretary General of OIC and representatives from various OIC member states, facilitated a platform for the international community to voice their concern over the dire situation in IIOJ&K. Distinguished speakers, including the Consul General of Paki-



stan Khalid Majid and the Chairman of the Kashmir Committee in Jeddah, Mr. Masood Puri, addressed the audience, highlighting the urgent need for intervention to address the ongoing human rights violations and the unlawful Indian occupation.

Altaf Ahmed Bhat, a senior leader from the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) shared

a poignant video message. In his message, he recounted his own experiences as a victim of Indian forces and expressed the determination of the Kashmiri people to stand against the injustices they face.

In his message, Altaf Ahmed Bhat called upon OIC member states to recognize the Kashmiri people's plight and actively support their cause. He requested support for Kashmiri activists in foreign countries who

are raising awareness about the Kashmir Freedom Movement and advocated for special arrangements for Kashmiri students seeking education in OIC member states.

Ambassador Syed Fawwad Sher expressed gratitude to all participants for their support in raising awareness about the grave situation in IIOJ&K. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the Kashmiri cause and urged the international community to take concrete steps to alleviate the suffering of the Kashmiri people.

The event concluded with a solemn appeal from Altaf Ahmed Bhat, urging diplomats, dignitaries, and peace-loving individuals to unite and save humanity in a region often referred to as "Paradise on Earth."

Imaan Mazari sent to Adiala Jail on judicial remand

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad has sent human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari to Adiala Jail on judicial remand after rejecting a plea to extend her physical remand.

The ATC heard the case against former federal minister Shireen Mazari's daughter and human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari related to the interference in state affairs.

Police produced Imaan Mazari before the court. The prosecutor apprised the court that they conducted voice matching and photogrammetry tests of the accused. He added that they are due to recover the transcripts of her written speeches.

Later, the court rejected the plea for an extension in physical remand of the accused lawyer and sent her to the Adiala Jail on judicial remand.

The ATC judge granted permission to Imaan to meet her mother in the



courtroom and directed authorities to not create any hurdles in the meeting.

On Monday, the anti-terrorism court (ATC) remanded human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari into police custody in a case of "interference in state affairs".

The police failed to recover anything in physical remand of 24 hours and now demanding a remand of 10 days of her client.

After hearing arguments, the ATC judge handed over the human rights lawyer to police on three-day physical remand.

On Tuesday, a district and sessions court in Islamabad had granted bail to human rights lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari in a sedition case.

US provided \$215m flood relief assistance to Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The United States has provided flood relief, disaster resilience, and food security assistance of more than \$215 million to Pakistan since the beginning of the calamity. According to a news release, more than \$80 million in US humanitarian assistance was given through USAID to provide urgently needed supplies for those most affected, including support for food, nutrition, health, security, safe drinking water, improved sanitation and hygiene, and shelter. An additional \$100 million of recovery and reconstruction funding was announced at the January 9 International Conference on Climate-Resilient Pakistan in Geneva, Switzerland, while \$10 million was given as food security

assistance to provide urgent supplies to help farmers recover in terms of seeds and fertilizer, and helps repair damaged critical irrigation infrastructure. "\$2 million was given in humanitarian assistance for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) flood response in Pakistan to provide lifesaving resources to Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan." More than \$1.9 million was provided in US Department of Defense funding to help airlift USAID supplies while \$3 million for new early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience funding to support Pakistan's ability to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters such as floods. An additional \$16.4 million in nutrition and food security support, early recovery, resilience, and risk reduction assistance was

US company to introduce extrusion-cooking systems to Pakistani companies: US CG

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: US Mission Pakistan's Foreign Commercial Service Section and Extru-Tech, leading company in Extrusion-Cooking systems based in Kansas, the United States organized a seminar in Lahore to introduce the US company to prominent local animal and aqua feed businesses, that are operating or in the process of developing feed aqua and animal feed manufacturing units in Pakistan. The gathering provided an opportunity for participants to learn the versatility of good extrusion system in producing best quality fish and shrimp feed, pet food and range of extrusion products for human and animal consumption.

US Consulate General Lahore's Deputy Political and Economic Chief, Douglas Johnston while talking to those attending noted that, US companies play a significant



role in Pakistan's business environment. Over 65 US companies, most of which are Fortune 500 companies, are registered and operating in Pakistan. Two-way trade stands at approximately \$9.9 billion in FY 2022. Pakistani exports to the United States are around \$6.8 billion, and

US exports to Pakistan stand at \$3.1 billion. "The United States bilateral commercial relationship with Pakistan is a vehicle for growing both of our economies," added Mr. Johnston. US companies have made commendable contributions to the local communities where they

do business. Through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, US companies have promoted projects in education, health, disaster relief, women's empowerment, youth education, and skills development. These programs contribute to the sustained development of under-privileged sectors of society, as well as all Pakistanis. "While there are already many important success stories to tell, both of our countries – and the whole region – would gain from expanded bilateral trade and investment," said Deputy Political and Economic Chief Douglas Johnston.

The United States is committed to working with Pakistan to address some of the core challenges, including energy shortages, low capacity and infrastructure for regional trade, and the need for skills development, capacity building, and increased investment in the economy.

German company to train doctors in video-assisted surgery



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The German medical device manufacturing company awarded Pakistan the status of center of excellence in video-assisted surgery and gave the honor of training center for the countries of the region. Dr. Arshad Abro, surgeon of Civil Hospital Hyderabad, has said that the training center will be established in Civil Hospital Hyderabad, where doctors from different countries will be taught about video-assisted surgery. Dr. Arshad Abro told a press conference that after giving Pakistan the status of center of excellence surgery in relation to video-assisted surgery, the German company Call Store requested to give a briefing to 100 countries of the world on video link, according to which a meeting was held on video link, in which doctors from more than 100 countries participated and answered questions. On this occasion, Dr. Arshad Abro further said that he is the founder of video-assisted surgery. Previously, this surgery was not performed anywhere in Pakistan. So far, more than 400 operations have been performed in Civil Hospital Hyderabad, while with traditional surgery the patient had to be treated for 2-3 months, he said that soon robotic surgery is going to be started in Civil Hospital Hyderabad, for which robots have been handed over to them. Professor Arshad Abro said that getting the status of center of excellence in the field of video-assisted surgery is a great honor for Pakistan and especially Civil Hospital Hyderabad.

Tribal elders, labours & watchers demand release of funds in respect of SW Forest Division

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Tribal elders, Labours and Watchers issued a joint statement saying that under the mega project Ten Billion Tree Tsunami under the supervision of South Waziristan Forest Division, many development works like Block Plantations, Avenue Plantations Raising of Nurseries and Enclosures have been completed.

But despite the passage of a long time, the laborers, watchers and closure watchmen of these development works could not get their wages/liabilities, the main reason is non-release of funds by the Government.

The tribal elders strongly demanded the Provincial Minister of Forests and the Secretary of Forests to use their special efforts to ensure the provision of funds for the South Waziristan Forest Division, so that it is possible to pay the liabilities of poor and indigent laborers, watchers and closure watchmen as they have not received funds for many months.

On the other hand, the closure watchers told the media that in this era of inflation, the stoves of our homes have become cold, it has become difficult to feed our children, therefore, the caretaker forest minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and secretary forest KPK should take notice of this basic problem of ours and release the fund so that the stopped wheel of life can continue.

The closure watchers threatened and said that if the provincial government does not release funds for us, we will be forced to protest in Peshawar.

United Nations organizes second of 12 dialogues about sustainable development in Multan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Today the second of a series of 12 dialogues on sustainable development was held in Multan, Punjab, by the United Nations and the district administration.

In total, more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities across six provinces and territories will discuss the development challenges which they face, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts. The dialogues will be held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan in the coming weeks.

"These dialogues will help United Nations agencies better understand which development issues local leaders see as their priorities outside of the federal and provincial capitals," said Julien Harneis, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. "We are actively listening to their concerns and to their ideas for bringing about effective progress in their communities."

In Multan, the discussions focused on four topics chosen by the participants ahead of the event: the cost of gender-based violence; food insecurity; access to basic social services with a focus on water, sanitation and hygiene; and youth employment.

Nearly 100 local leaders — women and men, including youth — participated together with senior Multan officials, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and other UN staff.

The 12 dialogues will engage local leaders around development issues such as access to basic social services; gender equality and women's empowerment; climate change; sustainable, inclusive economic growth and decent work; and governance. All are key to Pakistan's progress towards the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The dialogues will help inform discussions ahead of the global SDG Summit which the UN is organizing to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, halfway of the 2030 deadline. The Government of Pakistan will participate in the event in New York on 18 and 19 September 2023.

Donkey's labour

LAHORE: A labourer along with loaded donkeys coming out from historical "Dehli Gate" as he is still utilizing donkeys for supplying of things, in a such modern technology era in Provincial Capital.

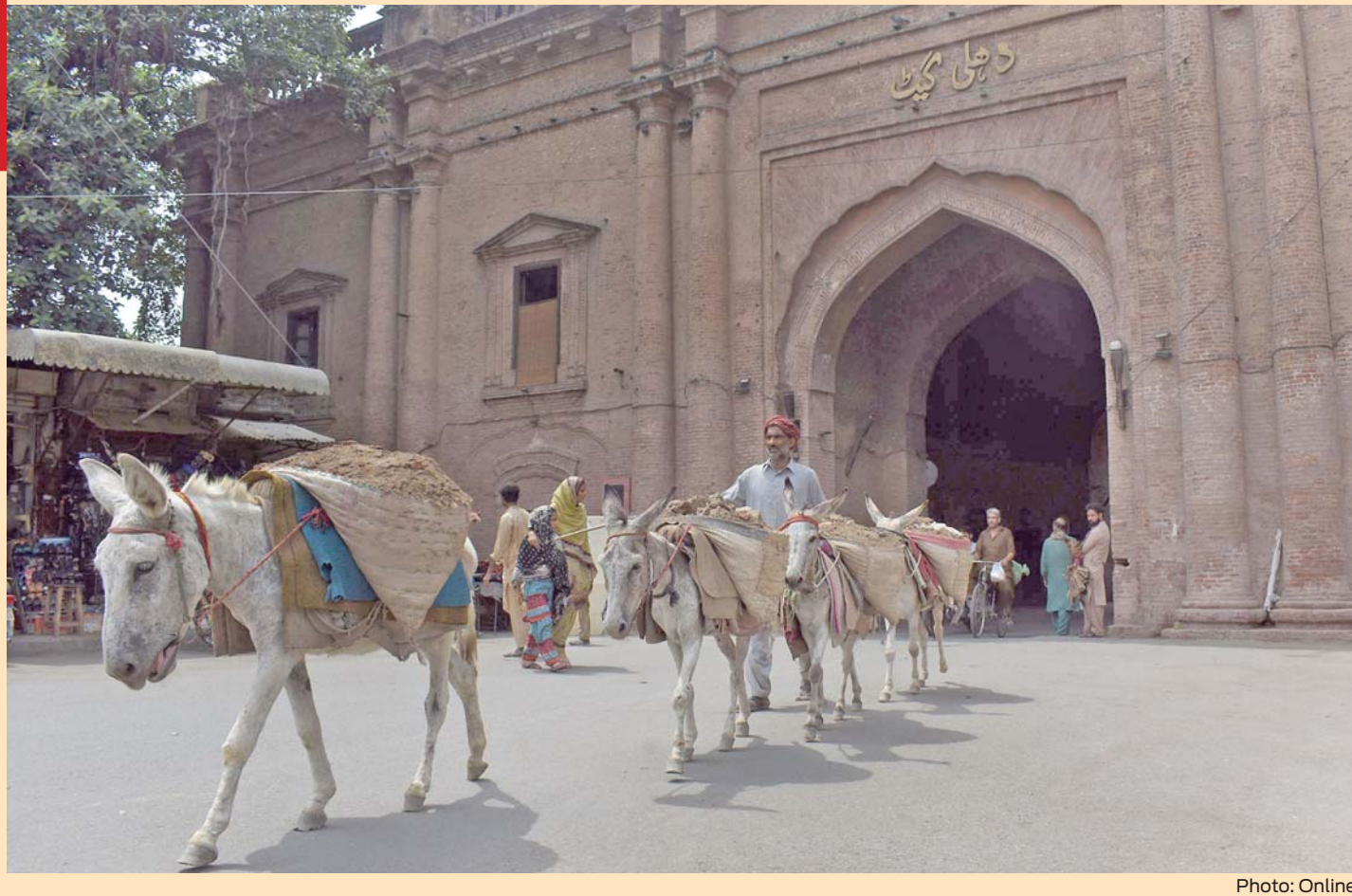


Photo: Online

UAJK's Geological Field Camp 2023 sets new academic milestone

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Institute of Geology at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) successfully concluded Geological Field Training Camp-2023, an unprecedented initiative aimed at enhancing the practical knowledge and skills of students in the field of geology.

The event brought together students and faculty members from esteemed institutions across Pakistan, including Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, Bahria University Islamabad, Punjab University, Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, Aird Agriculture University Rawalpindi, University of Swat, Military College of Engineering Risalpur, and many more.

The closing ceremony, held at the Institute of Geology King Abdullah Campus Chatter Kallas, was graced by the esteemed presence of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, Vice-Chancellor UAJK, as the chief guest. Distinguished guests in atten-



dance included Prof. Emeritus Dr. Muhammad Rustam Khan, Prof. Khawaja Muhammad Basharat, Director ORIC-UAJK Dr. Abdul Rauf Janjua, Syed Kamran Ali, Dr. Safi ur Rehman (Instructor) from Military College of Engineering Risalpur as well as a substantial number of students and faculty members representing various participating universities.

During the ceremony, Dr. Muhammad Farooq Khan, Director of the Institute of Geology, provided an in-depth overview of the highly successful Geological Field Training

Camp 2023, highlighting its objectives and accomplishments.

Several notable speakers, including Prof. Emeritus Dr. Muhammad Rustam Khan, Prof. Khawaja Muhammad Basharat, Dr. Tehmina, Dr. Safi ur Rehman, and participants from other universities, emphasized the crucial link between fieldwork and geology.

Recognizing the historical contributions of the Department of Geology at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the speakers expressed gratitude to Vice-Chancellor Prof.

Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi for his unwavering support in fostering academic development.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi emphasized the three main objectives of universities: teaching and learning, research, and community service. He shared his pride in providing an exceptional educational environment within Azad Jammu and Kashmir and reaffirmed his commitment to the university's ongoing mission.

Furthermore, he expressed his delight in witnessing students from various universities come together to share their experiences, promoting a culture of collaboration and knowledge exchange. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi reiterated his unwavering support for the Faculty and Management of the Department of Geology and pledged continued assistance for the continuation and improvement of the Geological Field Training Camp.

OICCI launches industry dialogue on sustainable energy

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) organized an Industry Dialogue titled 'Promoting Localization and Harnessing Indigenous Resources for Sustainable Energy' in Karachi. The event aimed to fuel discussions on sustainable economic expansion and energy self-sufficiency by embracing native resources for power generation, propelling Pakistan towards fortified economic resilience.

Khalid Mansoor, Former SAPM on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and a distinguished expert on the ener-

gy sector, as part of his keynote address, underscored, "the critical importance of achieving national energy security while minimizing the impact on the balance of payment". Khalid Mansoor further highlighted, "the need for integrated planning and coordination among various government bodies, with a strong focus on long-term environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, and conservation. The timely approval of Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM) and wheeling regulations is also deemed crucial, along with the commitment to uphold competitive tariffs to fuel the growth of the power industry."

Mr. Mansoor's discourse highlighted the intricate interplay of an imbalanced fuel mix, escalated power generation costs, sluggish growth in local power sources, unabated energy wastage, and insufficient recoveries – a collective array of factors culminating in a disconcerting power shortfall, unaffordable electricity, and an escalating circular debt.

"Through this dialogue OICCI endeavors to unite energy experts, corporate leaders, consultants, and academia members in a collaborative dialogue. The goal is to facilitate the exchange of insights, knowledge, and real-world experiences, forging a

progressive journey towards sustainable energy practices and bolstered economic resilience", stated Mr. Najeeb Ahmad, OICCI Managing Committee Member and Country MD, Hitachi Energy Pakistan (Pvt) Limited while opening the discussion.

The event was focused towards creating a dialogue around multifaceted strategies that will propel Pakistan towards energy self-sufficiency, diminish its environmental footprint, and bolster national resilience. Facilitating robust partnerships among participants within the energy value chain, the event encompasses panel discussions, interactive sessions, and networking

opportunities. Through transitioning from imported coal to local coal, harnessing hydropower, and embarking on a clean energy transition, Pakistan can journey towards sustainable economic growth, energy autonomy, reduced environmental impact, and heightened national resilience.

In conclusion, embracing indigenous resources propels a collaborative endeavor, forging robust partnerships among governing bodies, corporates, financial institutions, regulators, and industries. With determination and foresight, Pakistan is poised to usher in an era of self-reliance and prosperity.

The participants comprised esteemed speakers from the power sector, investment landscape, business realm, and academia actively contributed in this dialogue. Distinguished panelists included Ms. Maheen Rahman, CEO of Infrazamin Pakistan Limited, Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi, CEO K-Electric, Mr. Fahd Chinoy, CEO of Pakistan Cables, Mr. Yusuf Siddiqui, CEO of Engro Energy Limited, Mr. Amir Iqbal, CEO of Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC), Mr. Ruhail Muhammad, CEO, Lucky Electric Power Company and Dr. Fiaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director of LUMS Energy Institute.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:07 am
Zohr 12:10 pm
Asr 4:51 pm
Maghrib 6:44 pm
Isha 8:12 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 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
DHO 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

AIOU commences final exams of int'l students from September 11

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is commencing final examinations of Matric, FA, and I. Com programs for international students offered in the semester spring 2023 from September 11, 2023, and these exams will be held online. Date sheet and instructions have been uploaded on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk). As per the instructions of Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, university will use different examination software and mobile apps to ensure transparency and these examinations will be monitored by cameras through Microsoft Teams. According to the Director International Collaboration and Exchange office, Dr. Zahid Majeed, examinations have been scheduled for more than 450 students enrolled from 36 countries including Australia, Russia, South Korea, Japan, China, America, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, France, Spain, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, South Africa, Iran, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Iraq, Oman, and others.

Serena Hotels Raabta panel discussion on breaking the Silence

"Caring for our mental well-being-conversations for a healthier tomorrow"

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Raabta Serena Hotels Public Diplomacy initiative has always provided a platform for complex yet much needed discussions. It is time that these issues are identified and addressed head-on. The apparent lack of awareness and proper medically and professionally trained staff, it is has become crucial to bring forth the taint attached to these health problems and start understanding the importance of it. COVID saw a rise in mental stress-related issues in people of all ages, a rise in domestic abuse, suicide, and overall mental health was observed highlighting how important it has become to address this matter immediately.

The curator of Raabta, Ms. Sidra Iqbal, a vocal advocate of social issues related to gender inclusion and diversity, introduced the diverse lineup of panelists, which included prominent people from the field. The panelists were Mr. Kamran Rizvi a motivational speaker and an expert in capacity building, Ms. Rukhsar Khurshid is a relationship management professional with expertise in relationship counseling, Dr. Nausheen Kazmi, a mental health expert



at Shifa International Hospital, is one of the most prominent psychiatrists currently in the Capital. The last panelist Ms. Sabahat Bokhari is the Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Jazz, with a clear mission to cultivate cultures of belonging, ensuring a holistic approach with encompasses strategic design, cross-cultural facilitation, and leadership development, making her the perfect fit for the event.

The event had people of different strata of society, members of diplomatic missions, government officials, members of corporate sector and academia attending it. The

discussion is based on mental health and the importance of recognizing if a loved one requires help to deal with it. The panel also emphasised the importance of reaching out promptly for help to understand and treat it as per the severity as identified by certified professionals.

Q & A session followed the discussion where the audience, comprising a variety of people from different strata of society engaged with the panel of experts. The discussion was broadcast live to those unable to attend in person to provide access to the discourse for all wishing to participate.

Negligence

ISLAMABAD: A view of the weary conditioned and missing words on the sign board of "Kohsar Complex", which is the open sign of the negligence of concern authority.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Hundreds of students attended the AEO Education Expo in Islamabad and Faisalabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: This August once again AEO Pakistan is organizing Pakistan's biggest study abroad education fair being organized across 10 major cities of Pakistan i.e., Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Multan, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, Peshawar, Bahawalpur and Hyderabad. The AEO expo is providing an ideal platform to prospective students across the country, to get free expert advice and counselling about how to apply to study in at top ranked international universities in Australia, USA, Canada and UK. Representatives of more than 20 universities/institutes are participating at the expo providing golden opportunity for Pakistani students to get free guidance and counseling for their future study endeavors. Information about IELTS



test and preparatory classes is also being provided at the expo. The fourth and fifth exhibitions of the series were successfully held today in Serena Hotel Islamabad and Hotel One Faisalabad. Hundreds of students along with their parents participated at the expo with great interest and excitement to enroll for admissions at top

ranked Australian and other leading International Universities. The participants appreciated AEO's effort in the provision of a perfect platform offering free counselling sessions with official representatives of international universities to explore the options of enrolling for a degree of their choice. The next expo of the series

will be in Multan 25th August Hotel One Tariq Road, Karachi 26th August Beach Luxury Hotel, Abbottabad 26th August Hotel One, Peshawar 27th August Serena Hotel, Hyderabad 27th August Indus Hotel and Bahawalpur 27th August Four Seasons Restaurant. Entry to the exhibition is FREE with a mask and Scholarships opportunities are also available. With over 5000 alumni and 300,000+ IELTS registrations, AEO Pakistan over the past two decades has established itself as Australian & Global Education Specialists, the most trusted IELTS and OET Test Centre in Pakistan. AEO Pakistan operates as the official Liaison office for over 40 leading Australian Universities/Institutions and facilitates the enrolment of international students at these Universities / Institutions.

New Siddeeq Public Montessori & High School has shown 100% result



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: New Siddeeq Public Montessori & High School has shown 100% result in BISE Rawalpindi grade 9th Annual 2023. All students got A+ & A grade. Top scorers girls are: Rauzat Hafeez 527, Sabeen Manzoor 526, Fateha Rani 519, Hafsa Mujeeb 519. Top scorers boys are: Sahal Bangish. 492, Muhammad Umer 471, Usman Rasheed 469, Abu Bakar Shafiq 469

IIUI gives historic reception as Prof. Dr. Samina Malik assumes charge as varsity rector



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Newly appointed Rector of International Islamic University (IIU), Prof. Dr. Samina Malik assumed her charge on Thursday as she was warmly welcomed at the female campus and Faisal Masjid campus. Worthy Rector IIUI was given a remarkable reception at the female campus where she was received by the Professors, Provost, Students Advisor, faculty members and officers. On the occasion, in a special ceremony held by the IIUI fraternity for Prof. Dr. Samina Malik at the female campus, the speakers congratulated her and termed her as an iron lady recognizing her effortless services as Vice President female campus and Dean at the faculty of Social Science. The academic fraternity said that the appointment of Dr. Samina Malik is an omen of women empowerment. They said that Prof. Dr. Samina Malik is a role model for the female students and academicians. The speakers paid tribute to her academic and administrative services adding that her altruistic leadership will help in achieving the lofty goals of university's success. In her remarks on the occasion, Worthy Rector Prof. Dr. Samina Malik thanked the academic and nonacademic employees for the felicitations and rich tributes they paid on her services as Vice President female campus. She said that she has always been a staunch supporter of merit and rules adding that the IIUI community will find her among the leading ranks to uphold the honesty, dedication and rules. She also praised the female campus administration saying the women have a pivotal role in building the society. She also thanked the Government of Pakistan for trusting her abilities while she also thanked the Government of Saudi Arabia for continuous support of the university. She also praised the vision of university President and reiterated her resolve that she will keep working to make IIUI an ideal international seat of learning. Meanwhile, on her arrival at the Faisal Masjid Campus the newly appointed rector was given an extraordinary reception by Directors General, officers and employees. She thanked all the officials and commenced the work with a slogan that there is no tomorrow, we shall start the work today. She met with her staff and also visited various sections of her office.

Standard Chartered Pakistan delivers record half-yearly operating profit

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Bank (Pakistan) Limited delivered a record profit before tax of PKR 38.1 billion for H1'23, registering an increase of 73 per cent year on year. Profit after tax grew by 132% year on year to PKR 18.8 billion during the first half of the year. Performance was driven by strong income growth, as well as continued cost and risk discipline. Overall revenue grew by 70 per cent to deliver a top-line of PKR 46.6 billion, with positive contributions from all segments. Net Interest Income witnessed strong growth of 150% year on year, driven by proactive balance sheet management, pricing discipline and higher interest rates. Operating expenses were well-managed through efficiencies and disciplined spending, with an increase of 27 per cent from comparative period in line with inflation. Moreover, lower impairments as a result of a prudent risk approach coupled with recoveries of bad debts led to a net release of PKR 12 million in H1'23. With a diversified product base, the Bank stands well-positioned to cater to the needs of its clients. On the liabilities side, the Bank's total deposits stand at PKR 726 billion. Current accounts registered a strong growth of PKR 83.7 billion (up 25 per cent) from the start of the year. On the assets side, net advances remained flat, reflecting the Bank's cautious lending approach and prevailing economic conditions.

10th anniversary on CPEC and its moving stories

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR), in collaboration with the China Study Center at COMSATS University, proudly unveiled IICR's latest literary endeavor, "Journey of Connectivity: 10th Anniversary on CPEC and Its Moving Stories." This momentous book launch event was attended by a diverse gathering of professionals, diplomats, and experts who share a keen interest in the profound impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on the landscape of Pakistan. The book, meticulously crafted through a collaborative effort, embarks

on a remarkable journey to chronicle the transformative story of CPEC over the past decade. As Pakistan and its global partners celebrate the 10th anniversary of this monumental initiative, "Journey of Connectivity" embarks on a literary expedition that delves into the untold stories, triumphant achievements, and poignant personal narratives that have unfolded as a consequence of this monumental partnership between China and Pakistan. At its core, the book aspires to offer readers an encompassing account of the remarkable milestones achieved by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Through a collection of diverse perspectives, ranging from individual

to communities and businesses intricately woven into the fabric of this transformative project, the Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution aims to furnish its readers with a profound and nuanced comprehension of the multifaceted impacts of CPEC on an array of sectors. These sectors encompass not only the tangible dimensions like infrastructure development, energy, agriculture, and education but also extend to the intangible realms of cultural exchanges, tourism, and socio-economic growth. The book launch event served as a gathering ground for luminaries from various walks of life, who were drawn by the shared intrigue in the inter-



ven tales of CPEC's impact. Professionals, diplomats, and experts converged

to engage in stimulating discussions and thoughtful exchanges, enriching the discourse surrounding CPEC and its enduring implications for Pakistan and its allies. "Journey of Connectivity: 10th Anniversary on CPEC and Its Moving Stories" stands as a testament to the longstanding collaboration between the Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution and the China Study Center at COMSATS University. This literary milestone not only encapsulates the intellectual rigor of both institutions but also exemplifies their commitment to fostering a comprehensive understanding of the transformative power of international partnerships.

