Barkat Rice Mills

UAE ambassador appreciates Health Minister's appointment

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. (Report on Page 8)



US Dollar in trouble after proposed BRICS currency?

zil's President called for the BRICS nations to (

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Safarul Muzaffar 7, Friday, August 25, 2023





🤰 www.dailyspokesman.net 🔰 @daily spokesman 📑



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



PM Kakar commends heroes who rescued trapped chairlift

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Hag 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 Batta-

The prime minister, addressing the commemoration ceremo-

ny held at the PM Office, said the achievement, acknowledging that 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 success-

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.

"Hats off to all of you who did an immaculate job. The biggest credout the planning," he remarked. Earlier, the prime minister also distributed commendation certif-

icates among the security forces personnel as well as the local experts who took part in the rescue operation. The rescued children. who also attended the event, were also given souvenirs.

In his address, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt. ful endeavor was a collaborative it goes to those who were carrying General Inam Haider Malik he said was also being worked out.

said the effective coordination among all relevant departments led to the success of the difficult operation.

He said the safety audit of all the cable cars in the region had been ordered and a report would be presented to the prime minister.

He, however, emphasised the capacity building of the local rescue departments to deal with such emergency situations, which

President House seeks law ministry's opinion on election date 👺 N A Khan

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

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

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

It may be noted that President Arif Alvi on Wednes-Sultan Raja for a meeting in the letter.



elections.

In the letter President wrote that he dissolved the National Assembly on August 09 on the advice of the prime minister. "President is bound to give the date of general elections, being held within 90 days after dissolution of day invited Chief Election the assembly under the Arti-Commissioner Sikandar cle 48-V," the President wrote

CEC decides 'against' meeting President Alvi

👺 NA Khan

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

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.

According to the briefing of as after the Election Amendment Act, there is no need for tions. such consultation.

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

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



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.

It may be noted that President Arif Alvi on Wednesthe legal team, the CEC was day invited Chief Election advised not to 'consult' Presi- Commissioner Sikandar dent Alvi on the election date Sultan Raja for a meeting to decide the date of general elec

In the letter President wrote After the briefing, CEC that he dissolved the National Assembly on August 09 on the advice of the prime minister. "President is bound 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.

Solangi, Bugti reaffirm commitment to assist ECP for polls

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Ministers for Interior and Information and Broadcasting SarfrazBugti and MurtazaSolangi 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 MuratazSolangi.

During the meeting, both the ministers discussed matters related to the assistance of the ECP in conducting the general elections in the country.

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.

However, the court said if the census was completed then why it was not approved by the CCI at that time. Earlier, Election Commission of Paki-

stan (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

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (r) Maqbool Bagar, 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 Bagar said that the people who were playing with the lives of innocent people must be dealt with iron hands.

Prime Minister visits Ministry of Foreign Affairs

跨 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.

The Prime Minister was apprised of the steps being taken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in coordination with the concerned Ministries



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.

According to the Forex

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

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

PTI chairman challenges cancellation of his bail pleas in LHC The PTI chairman has chal-victimised and the cases were and allowed the arrest of Paki-👺 Bureau Report minister in Jinnah House attack

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreekformer prime minister on bails in seven cases, including man today at 11 am. the Jinnah House attack case in Lahore High Court (LHC).

lenged the cancellation of his interim bails through his e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and lawyer Barrister Salman Safdar. A two-member bench of the Thursday challenged the Lahore High Court will hear cancellation of his interim the petitions of the PTI chair-

The petition maintained that the PTI chairman was being PTI chairman in the May 9 cases

politically motivated. The petitioner has sought a

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

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman. The court was informed that court order for hearing of his the PTI premiere was convictthat PTI Chairman Khan was

ed under the Election Act and is currently under arrest. The ATC accepted the plea and granted permission to police to conduct the inquiry

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 crimiand arrest of the former prime

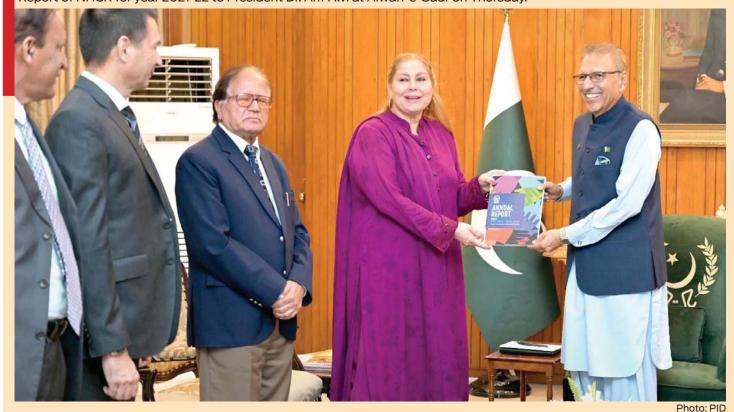
It is pertinent to mention here

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

The Spokesman

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.



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?

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, Brazil's president doesn't which ha 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

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.

governor Lesetja Kganyago told

"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.

Pakistan to continue moral, political support to Kashmiris: PM



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

The caretaker prime minister assured the AJK prime minister mir through a plebiscite.

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 Kash-

Solangi for following ECP's timeline to hold election

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday said the government would hold the general election in accordance with the time-line of the Election Commission of Pakistan. "The election will be conducted on the date which the Election Commission will announce, the minister said while talking to the media.

"We stand by the Election Commission's stance, as we do not have any intention to take its powers back," the minister maintained. In taker finance minister would present accordance with Article 218(3) of the Constitution, he said the caretaker government would provide all-out support to the ECP for holding free, fair and transparent elections. The committed to economic progress and ECP was bound to carry out delimita-prosperity.



tion exercise under Article 51, he said, adding the election watchdog had already issued a plan in that regard.

He said it was clearly stated in the Constitution that the country would be run by the elected representatives of the masses. Solangi said the carean economic recovery plan in a few days. He said the elected government would have the economy in better form as the caretaker government

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 assign-

EUAmbassador,

discuss trade

enhancement, export goals

跨 City Desk

export sector.

Commerce Minister

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Riina Kionka, Ambassador of European Union

to Pakistan, called on Dr. Gohar

Ejaz, Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries, in Minis-

try of Commerce and congratulated him for assuming this important

Commerce Minister appreciat-

ed the unilateral trade concession of

GSP Plus to Pakistan by EU, which

informed about his vision to increase

Pakistan global exports to US\$ 80

billion and Ministry of Commerce

work, where special focus would be

strategic export markets and poten-

tial products. The EU-27 zone is the

stani businesses and continuation of

Ambassador Kionka expressed

her appreciation for Minister Ejaz's

vision and assured EU full support

in helping Ministry of Commerce.

largest export destination for Paki-

GSP scheme will assist Pakistan.

vigorously preparing the frame-

is of great importance to Pakistan

Minister Gohar Ejaz also



ing the right man for right job on his appointment as the country's health minister.

the two countries were bound to strengthen in the times to

The minister expressed his keen desire to work whole heartedly 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 this November at Dubai health projects that serve Expo City.

He said that the UAE is the Pakistani people and Pakistan's strong and valu- looking for the possibilities able partner, and that the of forging joint partnerships brotherly relations between 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)

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.

to Imaan to meet her mother in the



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 The ATC judge granted permission to human rights lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari in a sedition case

US provided \$215m flood relief assistance to **Pakistan**

跨 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 and risk reduction assistance was

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,

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-



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 occupa-

Altaf Ahmed Bhat, a senior leader from the All Parties Hurriyat Conference plight and actively support and Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) shared ists in foreign countries who "Paradise on Earth."

a poignant video message. ed 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 their cause. He requested support for Kashmiri activ-

the Kashmir Freedom Movement and advocated for special arrangements for Kashmiri students seeking education in OIC member Ambassador Syed Fawwad Sher expressed gratitude to

are raising awareness about

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

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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 Econom- in Pakistan." Two-way trade stands ic Chief, Douglas Johnston while at approximately \$9.9 billion in FY talking to those attending noted 2022. Pakistani exports to the Unitthat, US companies play a significant ed States are around \$6.8 billion, and the local communities where they investment in the economy.



role in Pakistan's business environment. Over 65 US companies, most of which are Fortune 500 companies, are registered and operating

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.

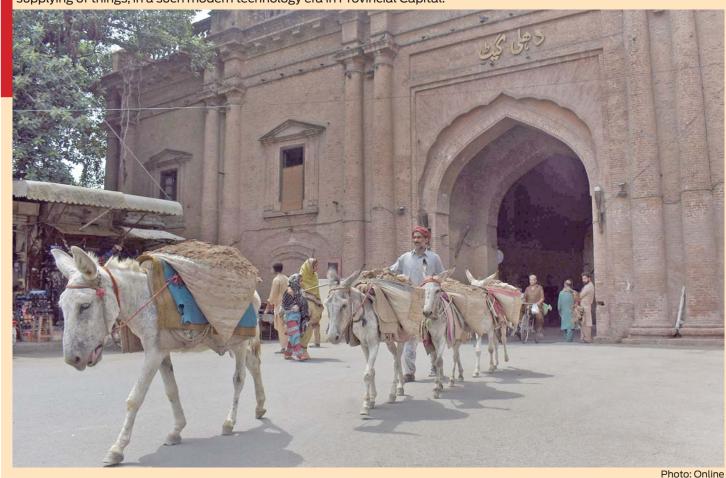
US companies have made commendable contributions to

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 John-

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

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.



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. 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 Vice-Chancellor UAJK, as the chief 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

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

German company to train doctors in video-assisted surgery



B Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABABAD: 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 Abaro 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 Abaro 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 Abaro 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

Mazir 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 Enclosurees 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 labourers, 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

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.

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 Sustain- integrated planning and coordination able Energy' in Karachi. The event among various government bodies, aimed to fuel discussions on sustainable economic expansion and energy ronmental sustainability, energy effiself-sufficiency by embracing native ciency, and conservation. The timely resources for power generation, propelling Pakistan towards fortified economic resilience.

Khalid Mansoor, Former SAPM on and a distinguished expert on the energrowth of the power industry."

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 with a strong focus on long-term enviapproval of Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM) and wheeling regulations is also deemed crucial, along with the commitment the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, to uphold competitive tariffs to fuel the

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

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.

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.





SERVICES	
Namaz 1	imings
Fajr	4:07 am
Zohr	12:10 pm
Asr	4:51 pm
Maghrib	6:44 pm
Isha	8:12 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	1!
Bomb Disposal	
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad	1122 & 10
Emergency Ambulance	1122 8
& Rescue Services	445112
Motorway Police	26604
Motorway Police927	0601-20

Women Police **Stations**

Rawalpindi	. 9270601-20
ENQUI	RY
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Edhi Ambulance	115
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MH	561116
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RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
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Islamabad Metropo	olitan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

AIOUcommences 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 imme-

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 physiatrists 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.



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 endeav-



test and preparatory classes is ranked Australian and other

The fourth and fifth exhibitions of the series were success-Islamabad and Hotel One Faisalabad. Hundreds of students official representatives of interalong with their parents participated at the expo with great interest and excitement ors. Information about IELTS to enroll for admissions at top

also being provided at the expo. leading International Universities. The participants appreciated AEO's effort in the provision fully held today in Serena Hotel of a perfect platform offering free counselling sessions with national 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, Karachi26th 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%















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, Fateeha 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



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

Example 2 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

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Institute of the past decade. As Pakistan and its Conflict Resolution (IICR), in collaboration with the China Study Center at COMSATS University, proudly unveiled IICR's latest literary endeavor, "Journey of Connectivity: 10th the untold stories, triumphant achieve-Anniversary on CPEC and Its Moving ments, and poignant personal narra-Stories." This momentous book launch event was attended by a diverse gathering of professionals, diplomats, and experts who share a keen interest in kistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on the landscape of Pakistan.

on a remarkable journey to chronicle uals to communities and businesses the transformative story of CPEC over global partners celebrate the 10th anniversary of this monumental initiative, "Journey of Connectivity" embarks on a literary expedition that delves into tives that have unfolded as a consequence of this monumental partnership between China and Pakistan.

At its core, the book aspires to offer the profound impact of the China-Pa- readers an encompassing account of the remarkable milestones achieved by the China-Pakistan Economic Corri-The book, meticulously crafted dor. Through a collection of diverse through a collaborative effort, embarks perspectives, ranging from individ-

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 interwoven 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.

Friday, August 25, 2023

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Railways to procure passengers coaches

akistan Railways is set to procure 230 passenger coaches and 820 High Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) aiming help to improve the speed of the trains and ensure adherence to fixed timings.

"Out of the total, around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till now while the remaining 184 would be manufactured in the country and the couches would be able to travel at the speed of 160km/h," said an official in the Ministry of

He said, "Pakistan Railways is putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on the railway track, improving the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their respective destinations on time."

The infrastructure, including the track and signaling system from Karachi to Peshawar, Main Line-I (ML-I), and doubling of track from Lahore to Peshawar (462.20 Km) was also being revamped, he added.

The official noted that the length of the track was 1,726 kilometers and the department has planned to improve speed up to 160 kilometers per hour in the project of up-gradation of ML-I under the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said the rolling stock being procured under this project would be capable to run at a speed of 160 km/h whereas the department had a dedicated fleet of 55 diesel-electric locomotives of 4000-4500 HP for freight operation to cater maximum haulage at higher speed.

"The Computer Based Interlocking (CBI) system is installed on 48 stations of ML-I, to improve signaling and interlocking for higher speed and safety of train operation," the official added.

To a question, he said Pakistan Railways was a big organization comprising of around 63,000 employees and its network was spread throughout the country.

The official said the employees were well cared for owing to having several welfare activities, including healthcare facilities through an intensive network of hospitals, dispensaries, and child healthcare units.

He said that provision of government accommodation according to entitlement and priority list, staff benevolent funds, benefits and incentives provided through Prime Minister's Family Assistance Package policy for deceased employees' families were part of these facilities.

While the other facilities included benefits and incentives provided through policy for disabled employees' families, monthly grants to widows scale-wise, the establishment of primary and high schools, industrial schools to teach handicrafts, sports activities, pick and drop facility for schools/offices, installation of water filters plants, a special provision of five medical seats in Riphah Islamic Universities with the reduction of 50 percent in admission and tuition fees.

India Conquered the Moon

ly regarded as the father of India's space program. His visionary leadership set India on a path of space exploration and technological advancement. He recognized the potential of space technology for India's development and was instrumental in creating the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) dedicated to space research and applications. He emphasized the importance of using space technology for practical applications in agriculture, communication, meteorology, and education and aligned the space research with India's socio-economic needs. He also recognized the need to cultivate a skilled workforce for space research at established institutions like the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) to provide quality education and training in space science

and engineering. Knowing that India cannot do it alone he fostered collaborations with other countries and space agencies, helping India benefit from global advancements in space technology and finally launched India's first Satellite marked a significant achievement in space technology self-reliance which transformed into Indian National Satellite System (INSAT), which revolutionized telecommunications, broadcasting, and meteorology in India.

Under Dr. Sarabhai's guidance, ISRO successfully launched its first satellite, Aryabhata, in 1975 marking India's entry into space technology and laid the groundwork for subsequent satellite missions.

The man who translated Dr. Sarabhai's vision into reality was none other than Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, often referred to as the "Missile Man of India." He played a pivotal role in the development of ballistic missile and space launch vehicle technologies.

Due to my deep interest in space technology, I read the book "Agni; the Wing of Fire" authored by Dr. Abdul Kalam. The

would recommend that everyone who has a little interest in developing space technology, wants to know the leadership qualities needed and the ability to raise successful institutions should read this book.

In his book, AK explains his childhood, how he was helped mostly by his

mathematics and engineering skills and how he was awarded with scholarships to pursue his advanced studies. He explained in detail

how Dr. Sarabhai discovered him and put him in charge of India's satellite and missile program which finally made history when the Agni missile was fired successfully and made India one of the few coun-

ballistic missiles. This technology was later used to develop the India Space program. I was amazed by the trust reposed by the Indian government on a tan Muslim of Gujarat by making him incharge of India's first satellite vehicle, SLV-3 program, which successfully launched the Rohini

Satellite RS-1 into orbit in 1980, marking

tries who possessed the ability to launch

India's entry into the space age. He was also made the chief architect of India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) which aimed to develop a range of indigenous missile systems. The program led to the development of missiles like Prithvi, Agni, Trishul,

For a poor country like India during those times, it was not a smooth ride but it faced multiple challenges which included limited financial resources, technological constraints, and the need to build expertise in various areas.

After a journey of several days, Chandrayaan-2 entered the Moon's gravitational sphere. The spacecraft performed

its velocity and be captured by the Moon's Vikram lander was intended to make a soft landing on the Moon's surface. It descent towards the lunar surface but it did not go well and lost communica-Hindu teachers to develop and refine his tion with ISRO during its final stages

of descent. Despite the challenges faced during the landing phase, the mission's achievements have contributed significantly to the understanding of Earth's celestial neighbor.

Undeterred by the failure, India immediately set the launch of Chan-

drayaan-3 (C-3) mission in motion. Learning from the previous experience. C-3 used a new navigation system that helped the lander to land precisely on the Moon's surface. A new braking system was deployed that helped to slow down the lander and prevent it from crashing. It also used a new communication system that allowed the lander to stay in contact with the ground control station during the landing.

Launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on 14th July, 2023, C-3 followed the same trajectory as of Chandrayaan-2 and successfully landed on the Moon's south pole on August 23, 2023. The lander, called Vikram, successfully touched down on the Moon's surface at 1:45 am IST (10:15 pm UTC). The rover, called Pragyan, will be deployed from the lander and will explore the surrounding area for one lunar day (around 14 Earth

The C-3 will help scientists to learn more about the presence of water ice on the Moon, a valuable resource that could be used for drinking, growing crops, and producing fuel. The Moon's southern pole

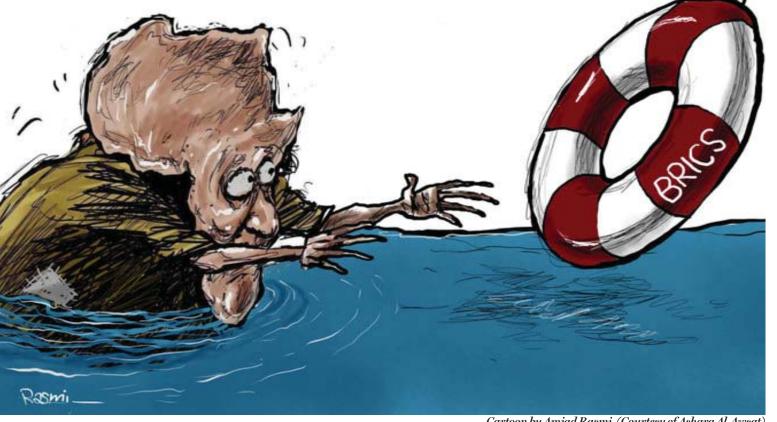
to its location near the lunar south pole, gravity, thus entering lunar orbit. The making it an ideal spot for solar power generation.

The craters in the polar regions are separated from the orbiter and began its believed to be "cold traps" where material from asteroids and comets might have accumulated over billions of years which could provide insights into the history of the solar system and the Moon's geology. It is also believed that the southern pole hosts besides water, such as carbon dioxide and methane which could reveal more about the Moon's evolution and its interaction with the space environment. The presence of water ice and the favorable lighting conditions make the southern pole a potential site for future lunar bases which could serve as research outposts, launching points for deeper space missions, or even stepping stones for human missions to Mars.

> The other programs in line of India's space program are; the Gaganyaan mission aims to send Indian astronauts (Gagannauts) into space, fostering human spaceflight capabilities, the Aditya-L1 mission will study the Sun, and the proposed Venus mission aims to explore our neighboring planet. Moreover, ISRO remains a prominent player in the global commercial satellite launch market.

> India's space program has come a long way since its inception, overcoming challenges and achieving remarkable successes. The pursuit of exploration, technological advancement, and international collaboration defines ISRO's aspirations as it continues to shape the country's space

 $(The \, author \, is \, the \, former \, Press \, Secre$ tary of the President of Pakistan, the former Press Minister of the Embassy of Pakistan in France and also has been the former MD/CEO Shalimar Recording and Broadcasting Company (SRBC)).



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

assaults, demonstrating a ruthless commitment to inflicting maximum damage and casualties. Such attacks not only cause immediate casualties but also create lasting trauma within communities, highlighting the psychological toll of terrorism. The TTP's recent attacks have showcased a concerning ability to strike in both urban centers and remote rural areas. This adaptability allows the group to maintain a widespread and persistent threat, challenging the efforts of law enforcement agencies.

The TTP's recent attacks have had profound societal and economic impacts, ranging from loss of life and injuries to disruption of daily life and economic activities. The fear instilled by these attacks not only affects the immediate victims but also creates a sense of vulnerability among the general population. The targeting of educational institutions, mosques and public spaces reveals the TTP's intention to undermine Pakistan's social fabric by limiting access to education and public

gatherings. These attacks disrupt the normal functioning of stan has also said that Pakistanis have been the most hospisociety and perpetuate a climate of fear that can stifle progress

and development. The geopolitical landscape of South Asia has long been shaped by complex dynamics, and one of the most pressing challenges in recent times has been Afghanistan's hosting of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). This development raises concerns not only for Afghanistan's own security but also for the stability of the entire region. As Afghanistan grapples with post-conflict realities, the presence of TTP on its soil underscores the need for a comprehensive and coordinat- ed approach to address the evolving security landscape. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an extremist group that has wreaked havoc in Pakistan for years, has found refuge and support in various parts of Afghanistan. This strategic shift is of great concern to both Pakistan and the broader international community. Dealing with the TTP's presence in Afghanistan requires a multifaceted approach that encompasses diplomatic, political, and security dimensions: Afghanistan and Pakistan must engage in open and sincere dialogue to address mutual concerns and rebuild trust. International mediators and organizations can play a role in facilitating such discussions. Enhanced intelligence-sharing and joint counterterror-

ism by promoting socio-economic development and providing opportunities for marginalized communities can reduce the appeal of groups like TTP. Regional and global actors, including the United Nations, should play an active role in mediating disputes, facilitating negotiations, and encouraging collaborative efforts.

Recently, The Taliban's interim Defense Minister Mullah Yaqub has said that if someone goes outside of Afghanistan with the intention of jihad, his work is not called jihad,. "If the

> Amir explicitly prohibits Mujahideen from engaging in combat and they still persist, the resulting battle would not be classified as jihad," he said during a speech to Taliban commanders. "The Amir's orders are binding," stressed Yaqoob, adding that any individual leaving Afghanistan with the explicit purpose of pursuing jihad would not be labelled as engaging in true Jihad.

Recently, in his speech during indepen-**Abdul Basit Alvi** dence parade at PMA, Army Chief of Pakitable nation and wished that the Afghan government would reciprocate their earnest efforts by at least not allowing its soil

> to be used against Pakistan. Readers, Pakistan-Afghanistan relations encapsulate a rich history of interconnectedness, challenges, and opportunities. As the two nations work towards a more stable and cooperative future, it is essential to acknowledge the complexities that have shaped their relationship. By focusing on shared interests, diplomatic engagement, and collaborative efforts, Pakistan and Afghanistan can contribute to the broader goal of regional stability and prosperity. Only through sustained dialogue and genuine cooperation can the threads of this intricate tapestry be woven into a brighter and more harmonious future for both countries. Afghanistan's hosting of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan presents a formidable challenge to regional stability and security. The situation requires a concerted effort from Afghanistan to effectively address this issue. Afghanistan needs to do more in this regard by destroying TTP centers in their land and also they should stop hosting and facilitating the militant groups. Pakistan and Pak army are fully committed to secure each and every inch of the country and have full right to eliminate the militants from within and outside the country.

Afghanistan needs to do more - II he TTP's tactics often involve suicide bombings, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and armed improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Malaika Sarwar

mid various difficulties, Pakistan is endeavoring can erode women's self-esteem and impede their access to to find a proper equilibrium between advancing democracy and ensuring gender parity. For decades, it has faced the persistent issue of gender disparity, causing women to confront a multitude of obstacles across different spheres of their lives.

In a common Pakistani family environment, women do not actively engage in political conversations. This is not because of any cognitive constraints on their side, but primarily because they are overshadowed by the male members of the household. Women frequently find themselves assigned to minor responsibilities, with limited chances for meaningful engage-

the choices of their male family members, like how men often yield to more influential individuals' preferences. The current scenario does not augur well for the advancement of a flourishing democracy. The challenge of gender disparity is exacerbated by the reality that Pakistan cannot truly be labeled a democracy, regardless of how strongly we attempt

to convince ourselves otherwise. Gender inequality has deeply entrenched itself within Pakistan, primarily concerning

social freedoms. Women frequently face restrictions, objectification, and discouragement from voicing their opinions. The concept of excusing male behavior with "boys will be boys" unfairly burdens women with the role of caregivers and nurturers, while men often evade their responsibilities. Economic disparity compounds the issue significantly. Women often encounter barriers preventing them from earning or using their income according to their preferences. Those working in domestic roles are especially vulnerable, often lacking control over their earnings and expected to contribute to household upkeep. The legislation crafted by men to protect women presents challenges, as their understanding of women's experiences may be incomplete. Many men struggle to fully comprehend the challenges faced by women. Therefore, laws pertaining to women require input from women themselves to ensure rationality and empathy in their formulation.

Certain cultural norms also strengthen stereotypes and emphasize trivial matters like skin tone and body image, which

equal opportunities. Women are frequently brought up with the anticipation of assuming roles as brides, homemakers, and mothers. While these roles are not inherently flawed, such expectations indicate a lack of broader imagination and fail to motivate women to embrace their full potential as individuals capable of making meaningful contributions to the world through their ideas and actions. Consequently, a substantial portion of the population is disempowered and excluded from crucial decision-making processes. Moreover, the primary hurdle in Pakistan towards achieving gender parity lies in the concept of self-identity. Women are often treated

ment. During voting occasions, women typically align with as possessions of others, denying them the chance to develop their own individualities. True equality cannot be realized if women are perceived as belonging to their fathers and husbands. It is essential for women to acknowledge themselves as complete human beings who do not rely on male validation to substantiate their existence.

> Thus, Gender disparity in Pakistan reverberates as a multifaceted challenge that intricately intertwines with the very foundations of democracy. This pervasive imbalance

extends its influence from political underrepresentation to cultural norms, economic opportunities, and self-perception. By relegating women to predefined roles, society not only suppresses their agency but also stifles the diverse perspectives essential for a robust democratic discourse. Inclusive democracy thrives on the active participation of all citizens, vet gender disparity erects barriers that mute half of the population's voices and potential contributions. To surmount this barrier, Pakistan must embark on a transformative journey encompassing education reform, gender-sensitive policies, and cultural shifts that liberate women from societal constraints. Only by dismantling the deeply ingrained gender biases can Pakistan hope to cultivate a democracy that truly embodies equality, embraces diversity, and empowers every individual to shape the nation's collective destiny.

The writer is a student in the school of Politics and International Relations at Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad. She can be reached at sarwarmalaika18@gmail.com

Xi says BRICS expansion historic, new starting point for cooperation

👺 Xinhua

JOHANNESBURG: Chinese President Xi Jinping said Thursday that the BRICS expansion is historic and a new starting point for BRICS coop-

Xi made the remarks at a press conference during the 15th BRICS Summit after South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that six countries, namely Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, were invited to become new BRICS members.

China offers its congratulations to these countries, and expresses its high appreciation for the efforts made by South Africa, the chair of BRICS, and President Ramaphosa, Xi said.

The expansion reflects the resolution of the BRICS countries to unite and cooperate with other developing countries, meets the expecta-



ty, and serves the common interests of emerging markets and developing countries, Xi stressed.

tions of the international communi- BRICS cooperation mechanism, and further strengthen the forces for world peace and development.

The BRICS countries all hold He added that the expansion will important influence and shoulder also inject fresh vitality into the crucial responsibilities for world

peace and development, Xi noted.

During this summit, in-depth discussions were held on the current international situation and BRICS cooperation, among others. Broad consensus was reached, a declaration issued, and fruitful results achieved, he said.

Xi said he believes that as long as the BRICS countries pull together, a lot can be achieved in BRICS cooperation, and a promising future awaits the BRICS countries.

The Chinese president also called on BRICS members to work together to write a new chapter of solidarity and cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries for development.

The press conference was hosted by Ramaphosa, and also attended by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Russian President Vladimir Putin participated online.

Amb. Sohail Mahmood also deliv-

ered a lecture at the Foreign Minis-

Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Hag called on caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani

Xi says no country should be left behind in global modernization



JOHANNESBURG: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday called for joint efforts in building a community of shared development, and make sure that no country is left behind in the process of global modernization.

Xi made the remarks at the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue held here on the sidelines of the 15th BRICS Summit.

He called on the global community to restore development to the center of the international agenda, and make efforts to increase the representation and voice of developing countries in global governance and support developing countries in realizing better development.

China has been and will always remain a member of developing

China will carry out more cooperation with African countries to support Africa in enhancing its own capacity for development, Xi said, adding that Chinese financial institutions will soon set up a special fund of 10 billion U.S. dollars dedicated to the implementation of the Global Development Initiative.

Uzbekistan's Ambassador meets with Minister for Commerce to discuss trade and economic ties



strong ties between the two nations.

ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan's Ambassador, H. E. Aybek Arif Usmanov, met Dr. Gohar Ejaz, the Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries. He discussed matters of mutual trade interest in Islamabad. The Minister assured the Ambassador every possible facilitation in

Both sides expressed optimism about the potential for increased

enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

trade partnerships and cooperation in various sectors. The meeting marks a significant step towards fostering closer rela-

tions and harnessing shared opportunities for growth. The Ambassador Usmanov extended his warm congratulations to Dr. Gohar Ejaz for assuming the role of Caretaker Federal Minister. He also conveyed heartfelt well-wishes from the President and Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, highlighting the importance of nurturing

Orange County, California, mass shooting claims 5 lives

At least five people were killed and six others injured on Wednesday night as a result of a mass shooting in Orange County, California, at a famous local bar, authorities reported.

Police revealed that the suspect, a retired law enforcement officer, opened fire at a historic biker bar and was killed after the police shot him in response to the shooting, KCAL reported.

The injured were transported to a hospital after gunshots ripped through Cook's Corner, a famous, old biker bar in Trabuco Canyon, at around 7:30pm while footage of the scene showed at least two bodies on the ground covered by sheets.

ISSI delegation's visits Afghanistan

👺 Spokesman Report / PPA

ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of the Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS), Kabul, a delegation of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) visited Afghanistan from 21-23 August 2023. The delegation was led by Director General ISSI, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and included the Director of the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA), Ms. Amina Khan.

During the visit, the ISSI delegation held several interactions, which included a call on the Acting Foreign Minister of the Interim Afghan Government (IAG), H. E. Mr. Amir Khan Muttaqi; and Bilateral Dialogue with the Centre for Strategic Studies, headed by Mr. Waliullah Shaheen, Director General CSS. Amb. Sohail Mahmood also delivered a lecture on Pakistan-Afghanistan relations at the Institute of Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan.

During the ISSI delegation's meeting with Acting Foreign Minister Muttagi, Muttaqi underlined the closeness of ties by numerous commonalities of faith, culture and geography.

During the meeting, Amb. Sohail



Mahmood reviewed the developments shedding light on the relationship, during the two years of Afghan Interim Government, particularly in the realm of security and stability, economy, curbing corruption, and reducing poppy cultivation. He also talked about the importance of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations and the recent positives in Mr. Obaid Ur Rehman Nizamani, terms of enhanced bilateral trade. Amb. the Chargé d' Affaires of Pakistan in Sohail Mahmood underscored Pakifocused on Pakistan-Afghanistan rela- Afghanistan and stressed the urgency security and counter-terrorism through

between the ISSI delegation and CSS, DG ISSI Amb. Sohail Mahmood, while said that there are no other two countries in the region that have so much in common as Pakistan and Afghanistan do; from geographical proximity to common faith to shared history to ties of ethnicity and kinship to cultural and linguistic affinities, the two peoples are bound by indissoluble bonds.

Mr. Waliullah Shaheen, Director Kabul, was also present. The meeting stan's role in efforts for stabilization of General, CSS, stressed the importance agreed to strengthen mutual exchangof bilateral relations – stressing that tions, where Acting Foreign Minister of addressing matters relating to border the relationship must be approached and people-to-people contacts between through the prism of a new narrative between the two countries, reinforced close consultations and collaboration. revolving around friendship and mutu-During the Bilateral Dialogue al understanding' as there is no other way to approach the relationship, since ties are intertwined.

try's Institute of Diplomacy, in which he focused on the evolving geopolitical environment at the global and regional levels and other developments in the economic and political realms that should be a matter of concern for the international community. He noted several key developments in the post-August 2021 Afghanistan including the prevalence of relative peace, albeit with continuing attacks from Daesh/ISKP; increase in IAG revenue generation; expansion in Afghanistan's overall trade volume; decrease in poppy cultivation; and efforts to combat corruption. He also underlined the international country's expectations regarding inclusivity, womens' rights and girls' education, and effective counter-terrorism action. Amb. Sohail Mahmood also spoke about the importance of the Pakistan-Afghanistan relationship and underscored that both countries suffer from trans-national terrorism, which warrants mutual cooperation and a collective response.

During the visit, the ISSI and CSS es as part of think-tank collaboration Pakistan and Afghanistan. DG ISSI Amb. Sohail Mahmood also extended an invitation to Director General CSS Mr. Waliullah Shaheen to pay a return visit to Pakistan.

Jilani says will seek better ties with India

ISLAMABAD: Mirza Abdul Rehman Spokesman Businessman Penal & Chairman of Coordination FPCCI Capital Office met with caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, various issues including the promotion of investment in the country, border trade, access of Pakistani products to global markets, increase in exports, and activation of Pakistani commercial attachés' book were discussed. During the meeting, the caretaker Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jalil Abbas Jilani, while talking to Mirza Abdul Rehman, said that provision of facilities to the business community and the resolution of their issues was among the top priorities of the government.



Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani said he would pursue close political & trade relationships with all of the view that Pakistan always wantmajor powers including the US, China, and European Union (EU), better ties

with India, and further cement cooperation with the Gulf region. He was ed better ties with its eastern neighbor. He emphasized the importance

with the Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia and UAE. The army-led economic revival plan was dependent on investment from these two Gulf Mirza Abdul Rehman while congratulating Jalil Abbas Jilani

of maintaining close relationships

on becoming the caretaker Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs said that Appointing an experienced person like Jalil Abbas Jilani as the supervising federal finance minister is a good move as he has extensive experience in foreign affairs. He hoped that Jalil Abbas Jilani enhances bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, climate change, and people-to-people contacts to further deepen friendship with other countries. No doubt Pakistan's and other countries of world relations will further strengthen in the coming years.

Pak-EU cooperation can help mitigate climate change effects: Speakers

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a workshop on climate change observed that a mass level of cooperation between EU countries and Pakistan can help mitigate climate change effects in the country due to the release of greenhouse gases

The workshop titled "Emerging Trends and Technologies: Carbon Capture and Storage, Climate Change and Net Zero" was jointly organized by COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI)- Pakistan, at Wah Campus.

Cranfield University, UK, and $several\,institutions\,from\,Pakistan$ including NUST, GIKI, NEO, University of Karachi, and Okara University have joined hands as partner institutions with the CUI-

Wah Campus for this event. The Workshop was funded by

the British Council, Islamabad under the Pak-UK Education Gateway Mobility Partnership for Faculty.

The workshop aims to foster academic and research collaborations in the areas of carbon capture storage, climate change, clean energy, net zero, and related issues.

The workshop benefited the participants from academia, industry, research organizations, government and non-government organizations, contributing towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals

Lecturer/Team Lead from Cranfield University, UK, Dr Syed Adnan welcomed the participants of the workshop in the opening remarks.

He shared the introduction, research facilities, and strengths of Cranfield University. He acknowl-

edged the British Council and Higher Education Commission, Pakistan for their support and

Manager of Higher Education, British Council- Islamabad, Mubbashir Sheikh highlighted the aims and details of the mobility program launched by the British Government from the year 2018 for the faculty members of Pakistani Universities

Dr Nasir Ahmad team lead from NUST, Pakistan also highlighted the importance of this mobility

Executive Director, COMSATS, Ambassador, Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria was the chief guest at the inaugural session of the workshop.

He expressed that carbon emission is becoming more dangerous for Pakistan as this is a powerful source of climate change and disas-

ters in the region.

In his remarks, the Rector of CUI, Prof. Dr Sajid Qamar, extended his gratitude for organizing this workshop at COMSATS University and organizing it successfully to strengthen the scientific collaboration between the British Council, Higher Education Institutions of Pakistan and the UK.

He shared the success of CUI within 25 years and its aim for more internationalization, working in emerging technologies, and always took the lead to bring research and academic programs for the benefit of Pakistan.

He appreciated the efforts of Prof. Dr Muhammad Abid, Director of Campus, for choosing this most emerging topic which needs urgent attention to address the climate change issues in Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, T. I., Director of CUI Wah Campus

highlighted that the PAK-UK its technical program by renewed ur Rehman, Ashfaq Ahmed, Asad Education Gateway Mobility Partnership for Faculty embodies the spirit of academic exchange. collaboration, and the pursuit of knowledge that transcends geographical boundaries in his opening remarks.

This collaboration between our university and esteemed institutions in the United Kingdom opens up new avenues for faculty members from both ends to explore and engage in cuttingedge research, exchange ideas, and immerse themselves in diverse academic environments.

This mobility program will not only broaden the horizons of our faculty but also bring back invaluable experiences from both sides that will enrich our classrooms and research endeavours.

The workshop was comprised of a series of invited talks as part of

academicians and industrial representatives. The talks were given by Dr

Muhammad Khan, Cranfield University, UK, Engr Rashid Mehmood, QATPL Bhikki Sheikhupura, Dr Adnan Zahid, Punjab University, Lahore, Dr Mohammed Uneeb, Power Industry Executive, Mr. Ubaid ur Rehman Zia, SDPI, Islamabad, Dr Mohsin Raza & Dr Athar Hussain, CUI Islamabad, Cmdr (R) Syed Obaidullah Defence and Maritime Analyst and Prof. Dr Muhammad Abid, CUI Wah.

In addition to invited talks, a panel discussion moderated by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Khan, Cranfield University UK was also part of the workshop to chalk out a working paper for collaborative activities between partner organizations.

Dr Mohammad Uneeb, Ubaid shop.

Dr Nasar Zaheer were the panel-The workshop was attended by

Mehmood, Rashid Mehmood, and

the academia other than the partner institutions including International Islamic University, Islamabad, Capital University of Science and Technology, Punjab University, Riphah International University, NUTECH, Pak-Austria Fachhochschule: Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology, University of Wah, UET Lahore, Bahria University, CCRD and CUI Campuses.

The representatives of scientific and industrial organizations i.e. GCISC, IWMI, HUBCO, QATPL, POL, SIEMENS, CREECO, ASHRAE Pak Chapter, WAPDA, Energy Sector, SDPI, OPML, Pakistan Navy also attended the work-

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index	Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
47,750.76	47,418.63		
Day's High	Day's Low:		
47,994.18	47,463.68		
Index Value	Change		
11,394,084,932	+332.13		
Percentage	Time		
0.7%	24 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I		
Index Value	Change		
Index Value	Change		
Index Value 7,333.63	Change +13.10		
7,333.63 Percentage +0.18%	Change +13.10 Time 24 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
7,333.63 Percentage +0.18%	Change +13.10 Time 24 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
7,333.63 Percentage +0.18% USA: Dow Jones	Change +13.10 Time 24 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 Industrial Average		
Index Value 7,333.63 Percentage +0.18% USA: Dow Jones Index Value	Change +13.10 Time 24 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 Industrial Average Change		
7,333.63 Percentage +0.18% USA: Dow Jones Index Value 34,253.81	Change +13.10 Time 24 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 ndustrial Average Change -219.17		

Open Market Forex Rates

Change

+276.95

Time

24 Aug, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Index Value

32,287.21

Percentage

+0.87%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200	202
Bahrain Dinar	796.98	804.98
Canadian Dollar	230	232.3
China Yuan	41.28	41.68
Danish Krone	43.67	44.07
Euro	338.5	341.8
Hong Kong Dollar	38.22	38.57
Indian Rupee	3.63	3.74
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.27
Kuwaiti Dinar	967.24	976.24
Malaysian Ringgit	63.83	64.43
NewZealand \$	177.29	179.29
Norwegians Krone	28.04	28.34
Omani Riyal	779.15	787.15
Qatari Riyal	81.91	82.61
Saudi Riyal	83.35	84.1
Singapore Dollar	221	223
Swedish Korona	26.74	27.04
Swiss Franc	338.8	341.3
Thai Bhat	8.19	8.34
U.A.E Dirham	84.8	86.6
UK Pound Sterling	397.5	401.5
US Dollar	314	317

Pakistan Remittance Summit to be held in Dubai next month



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Dellsons Associates, in collaboration with leading commercial banks, will organize an international conference, Pakistan Remittance Summit, in Dubai next month to appreciate the role of overseas Pakistanis in supporting the national economy through remittances.

The conference will also educate overseas Pakistanis to utilize formal banking channels through various options available in formal channels in order to maintain their valuable contribution of sending remittances to the homeland.

Ibrahim Amin, Chairman Dellsons Associates said a significant number of Pakistanis migrated to GCC countries in recent years, but the share of their contribution to the economy remained flat, which needs to be investigated and addressed duly by the government and stakeholders.

He added that the government and banks should facilitate overseas Pakistanis in foreign countries, mainly in GCC states, with incentives and technological solutions to enhance the inflows of remittances from the oil-rich region.

Tufail Ahmed Khan, CEO Dellsons Associates said, "The conference has a unique agenda to facilitate overseas Pakistani workers who have been serving our country for a long period while staying away from families, friends and country.

Pakistan Expo Vancouver 2023: Strengthening bilateral trade ties with triumph

Spokesman Report

VANCOUVER: The Pakistan Western Canada Trade Association (PWCTA), in collaboration with the Consulate General of Pakistan in Vancouver, orchestrated the Pakistan Expo Vancouver 2023, a momentous event aimed at enhancing bilateral trade ties between

Canada and Pakistan. This pioneering initiative witnessed a resounding success, affirming its significance.

The Expo commenced with an exquisite Opening Gala at Vancouver's prestigious Fairmont Waterfront Hotel. Esteemed guests from both public and private sectors graced the occasion, setting a distinguished tone. A pivotal panel discussion on "Bilateral Trade in Mineral Explo-

Textile Industry, and Lumber: Potential and Challenges" captivated attendees with valuable insights into these sectors. The evening concluded with instrumental entertainment and networking.

The main event spanned two productive days at North Vancouver's Pipe Shop Venue, attracting over 2000 attendees-buyers, media, keynote speakers, and community members. Diverse exhibitors, including Mailk Sports, Papa



Sports, Agasi Martial Arts, Sonico Pvt Ltd., Ijaz to a diversified exposition. Garments & Ifran Garments, Pakistan Cutlery Association, Kaalar Rice & Pink Salt

Rozana Tech, Matrix Tribe, Bashir Impex, Agnail industries, Darsa Impex, Rasco Impex, Kalaar foods, H&B Fasteners, Grannis Kitchen, 4B Athletics, Reflection Apparel, Oriental Rugs, and more showcased their contributions

The charity partners were IDRF and Islamic Relief Canada.

Distinguished sponsors like Panoro Minerals Telus - Trusted Provider - Smart Haven, The Grand, Sikh Heritage, Sonora Immigrations and several others played a pivotal role in elevating

the Expo's stature. The Gala and Expo were graced by the High Commissioner of Pakistan to Canada, Mr. Zaheer Janjua, and Trade Minister of British Columbia, Canada, Mr. Jagrup Brar, underlining the initiative's diplomatic and economic significance. Also in attendance were Mr. Bruce Ralston (MLA-Surrey-Whalley; BC Minister of Forests & Minister Responsible for the Consular Corps) and Ms.

Jinny Sims (MLA, Surrey-Panorama). The visionary outlook of the Expo was articulated by Ms. Bushra Rehman, President of

and Mr. Janbaz Khan, Consul General of Pakistan in Vancouver. Mr. Malik Sohail Hussain, Secretary General of PWCTA also played a pivotal role in the execution of the Expo. The event's private-public partnership was fortified by women leadership, exemplified by contributors such as Ms. Bushra Rehman, Ms. Rabia Dastgir, and Ms. Muhayimina Mehmood.

Pakistan Expo Vancouver 2023's triumph is a testament to unwavering commitment towards collaborative trade relations. It not Ltd., Brian Jessel BMW - Diplomatic Division, only highlighted bilateral trade's potential but also addressed challenges in key industries, resonating as a shared pursuit of progress between

Meeting

KARACHI: Meeting with the Turkish delegation comprising H. E. Cemal SANGU, Turkish Consul General, Mr. Eyyup YILDIRIM, Commercial Attache and Ms. Kausar Ahmed, Commercial Secretary held at ABAD House. The meeting was led by Mr. Muhammad Altaf Tai, Chairman ABAD.



Vietnam's envoy assured full participation in Pakistan Int'l Property Expo

ISLAMABAD: The founding chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, Khursheed Barlas, along with the delegation including Fahad Barlas, Conner Exhibition, Aminur Rehman, Shamreez Igbal, EC members, met with the Ambassador of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Thien Phong, at the Vietnam Embassy. Why. In the meeting, Chairman Khursheed Barlas invited Vietnamese Embassy to Phong to participate in "Third Pakistan International Property Housing and Construction Exhibition 17-19 November 2023" at Pakistan China Friendship Center Islamabad. And said



number of prominent build- country. ers, developers, allied construc-

will be attended by a large ism industry from across the

During the conversation, tion industry and various busithe Vietnamese ambassaness community related to dor said that there is a need that the three-day exhibition the bank's project and tour- to improve the economic and

trade relations with Vietnam, Pakistan values relations with Vietnam in all areas of bilateral and multilateral relations for the business community of Vietnam in Pakistan's business-friendly environment.

There are endless opportunities. For Pakistanis, Vietnam has provided the facility of e-visa, you can get a visa by contacting the nearest embassy with the help of the embassy and consulate database, the ambassador of Vietnam said the third Pakistan International Property. Assured full participation in the & Construction

Finally, Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry also presented a shield to the

Six countries invited to join BRICS



JOHANNESBURG: BRICS leaders agreed on Thursday to invite six countries, namely Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to join the group.

2024. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced at a press conference during the 15th BRICS Summit.

"We value the interests of other countries in building the partnership of BRICS," said Ramaphosa.

Through the summit, BRICS has begun a new chapter in its efforts to bring about a world that is fair, inclusive and prosperous, he added.

Calling it "a great moment for Ethiopia" as BRICS leaders endorsed the country's entry into BRICS, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in a statement that "Ethiopia stands ready to cooperate with all for an inclusive and prosperous

global order. On social media X, formerly known as Twitter, UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said that his country "respect (s) the vision of the BRICS leadership and appreciate (s) the inclusion of the UAE as a member to this important group."

In a statement, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi pledged to work with other

BRICS countries to "raise the voice of the Global South with regard to the various issues and development challenges we encounter in order to promote the developing coun-

tries' rights and interests.' BRICS leaders met here from Aug. 22 to 24 to discuss The six countries' member- issues including deepening ship will take effect on Jan. 1, BRICS cooperation and the group's expansion

Under the theme of "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism," this year's summit was also focused on promoting the common interests of the Global South.

In their interviews with Xinhua, African experts and reporters said that BRICS's championing for developing countries' interests has sparked the interest of Global South countries in joining

"With its economic, financial and technological capabilities, as well as a clear future vision, BRICS has the strength and ability to lead the world towards a wide development process and make the global economic system more just and equitable," said Abdel-Sattar Eshrah, secretary-general of the Cairobased Egyptian-Chinese Business Council.

Global South countries want to join BRICS because the group advocates "win-win cooperation and mutual respect with other countries of the world," he said.

ICCI calls for rationalization of taxes on construction industry

55 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the construction industry plays a key role in the development of the economy as the growth of business activities of over 70 allied industries is dependent on this industry. However, the levy of new taxes on the construction industry has plunged it into great difficulties due to which unemployment is expected to increase, so the are not withdrawn, many investors government should rationalize high taxes on this industry to save it from further troubles. He said this while the construction package, investors addressing the business community have invested billions of rupees in the during his visit to the under construction J7 Group's Icon five-star hotel tion of high taxes has made the future Royal Swiss along with a delegation. of construction projects uncertain.

Fayyaz Awan, Project Director of J7 Group along with his team warmly welcomed the ICCI delegation.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that many businesses in the construction and real estate sector have already closed due to the increase in taxes and if these taxes are not rationalized, more businesses of this sector could

Fayyaz Awan, Project Director, J7 Group, said that if the high taxes imposed on the construction sector in this sector would face default. He said that after the announcement of construction sector, but the imposi-



Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan needs to build more five-star hotels in major cities including Islamabad to promote tourism in the country. However, with the exist-

ing taxes, it is very difficult to promote investment in this sector, so it is better that taxes should be revised in consultation with the stakeholders so that the government's revenue is not affected and the construction indus-

try achieves better growth.

Raja Muhammad Imtiaz, Khalid Chaudhry, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Babar Chaudhry, Nisar Mirza, Nasir Chaudhry and others were in the ICCI delegation.

Wahab Riaz & DC Lahore visited Sports Board Punjab

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz along with Deputy Commissioner Lahore Rafia Haider visited Sports Board Punjab's 15-day tennis camp at the state-of-the-art Tennis Courts on Thursday.

Pakistan's world fame tennis star Aisamul Haq and Pakistan number one tennis player Aqeel Khan warmly received Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz upon reaching the venue. Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, International tennis coach and fitness trainer Eduardo Vicencio and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz also met with the young camp probables and enquired about the training and facilities being provided to them. He distributed tennis kits, bags etc among the players who also had group photos



with Sports Adviser Punjab Wahab Riaz, DC Lahore Rafia Haider and Aisam-

Talking on this occasion, Sports Adviser Punjab Wahab Riaz said that Aisamul Haq International tennis star Aisamul Haq, Aqeel Khan, American coach Eduardo Vicencio are imparting modern

training to male and female players in camp in which 16 players from across the country are participating. "Sports Board Punjab has built world-class tennis courts. These tennis courts have all modern facilities that help the players in improving their game".

Wahab Riaz said that Sports Board Shahsawar Khan.

Punjab has also organized several tennis tournaments to promote the game and

Aisamul Haq on this occasion thanked Sports Board Punjab for extending cooperation for the holding of tennis camp. "It is for the first time in Pakistan that a quality training programme has been introduced. Through this programme, we are bringing junior players forward".

He said that he has played tennis all over the world and he is teaching the youth what he has learned so that they can become stars in future.

Following are the participants of

Aĥmed Nael Qureshi, M Hamza Aasim, M Haziq Aasim, M Hassan Usmani, Mahboob Khan, Soha Ali, Nameer Shamsi, Natalia Zaman, Raahim Veqar, Samer Zaman, Taimur Ansari, Zain Nawab, Ahtesham Humayun, Arshad Javed, Bilal Asim, Abubakar Talha, Hamza Rizwan, M Khalid, Hamid Israr Gul, Hamza Roman, M Haroon, Shahid Gul Afridi, Shayan Afridi and

Pakistan Shaheens squad for Asian Games announced

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board today confirms that all-rounder Qasim Akram will lead Pakistan Shaheens in the 19th Asian Games, set to take place in Hangzhou, China. 11 T20Is) and Usman Qadir The event will be played (1 ODI, 23 T20Is). in a T20 format from 28 September to 7 October.

20-year-old Qasim, has till date featured in 20 firstclass matches and 40 T20 Yousuf, Qasim Akram, matches and also captained Pakistan U19 in the ICC U19 World Cup in 2022. In the Muqeem have been associ-15-member squad, there are eight players who have recently. Since May 2023, already represented the Pakistan men's team at the international level.

The players who have

ODIs, 55 T20Is), Haider Ali (2 ODIs, 33 T20Is), Khushdil Shah (10 ODIs, 24 T20Is), Mohammad Hasnain (9 ODIs, 27 T20Is), Shahnawaz Dahani (2 ODIs,

Also, eight players in the 15-member squad, Aamir Jamal, Arafat Minhas, Arshad Iqbal, Omair Bin Rohail Nazir, Shahnawaz Dahani and Sufivan ated with the Shaheens side Pakistan Shaheens have toured Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Australia.

represented Pakistan at the whitewashed Zimbabwe international level are Aamir A in the two four-dayers, in the Asian Games held in

Jamal (2 T20Is), Arshad but lost 4-2 in the 50-over Guangzhou, China, in 2010. Iqbal (1 T20I), Asif Ali (21 matches to Zimbabwe Select. Pakistan Shaheens squad: Shaheens later won the ACC Qasim Akram (captain), Men's Emerging Asia Cup in Sri Lanka in July, beating India A by 108 runs in

> Series in Darwin, Australia earlier this month. As per the tournament's rule, Shaheens will feature in the event from the quarter-finals stage scheduled to take place on 3 and 4 October. The semi-finals will be played on 6 October, while the final will take place on 7 October. The match for

the final. However, they

finished as runners-up in

the six-team Top End T20

place on Saturday, 7 October. Pakistan men's team won In Zimbabwe, Shaheens a bronze medal in their maiden and only appearance

Bronze medal will also take

Pakistan Shaheens squad:

Omair Bin Yousuf (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal, Arafat Minhas, Arshad Iqbal, Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Khushdil Shah, Mirza Tahir Baig, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Akhlaq (wk), Rohail Nazir, Shahnawaz Dahani, Sufiyan Muqeem and Usman Qadir Non-traveling reserves - Abdul Wahid Bangalzai, Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Imran Jnr, Muhammad Irfan Khan Niazi and Mubasir Khan

Player Support Personnel – Shahid Aslam (head coach-cum-manager), Umar Rasheed (bowling coach), Hanif Malik (batting and fielding coach) and Hafiz Naeem ul Rasool (physio-

Pakistan's Nasir Abbas secures bronze medal in Tent Pegging World Cup 2023

KARACHI: Pakistan's Nasir Abbas claimed a bronze medal in the individual lance category on the opening day of the 2023 Tent

Pegging World Cup in George, South Africa. Abbas remained a prominent performer for the country on Thursday as Pakistan were collectively in the 5th position on the first day of the championship.

The opening day saw riders competing in seven different runs of the lance category, which included two runs of individuals, two runs of pairs and three runs of teams.

Abbas from Pakistan was declared 3rd best player of the day due to his skilful performance on the opening day of the event and won the bronze medal. Saudi Arab's Abdul Wahab and Rashid Al Marri were 1st and 2nd best players for the lance compe-

Abbas didn't miss any single point in any run and successfully pierced, picked up, and carried the peg in all seven runs to get over

IBSA Games: Pakistan thrash England to maintain winning streak



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan blind cricket team continued their unbeaten run as they defeated England by six wickets in their last round match of IBSA World Games in Birmingham on Thursday. Batting first England scored 103 runs while losing their all wickets. Pakistan's Shahzeb Haider took four wickets for 14. In reply, Pakistan achieved the target in 10 overs for the loss of four wickets. Captain Nisar Ali scored 35 runs and Matiullah scored 22 runs. The Pakistan team has already qualified for the final. The second finalist team will be decided on Friday. The final match will be played on Saturday at Edgbaston Cricket Ground.

GLaser Run, Shooting: Peshawar students excel in *U-16 and U-12 competitions*

Sports Desk

Exhibiting | performance wonderful Sameen and Asad Hayat emerged triumphant in U-16 girls and boys Global Laser Run City Tour 2023 running and shooting competitions at Punjab Stadium on Thursday.



A total of 290 boys and girls from different schools and colleges participated in these competitions organized under the auspices of Pakistan Modern Pentathlon Federation (PMPF) in collaboration with Sports Board Punjab (SBP).

Amina Asghar and Mehwish finished second and third respectively in U-16 girls' running and shooting events while on boys' side, the runners up and third positions were taken by M Ali and Bilal respectively.

In U-15 boys' event, the top three spots were grabbed by Moosa, Safdar and Zeeshan Mushtaq respectively. Fahad Amir, M Afnan Zahoor and Imran Raza were the other players who excelled in this age group category.

In U-14 girls' contest, Abida took first position followed by Hadia and Minahal while Shakir Ali, Arslan Nawaz and M Ehsan shared the top three positions respectively in the in the U-14 boys event.

In U-12 boys' competition, M Subhan Zahoor, M Hussain and Asim Inam demonstrated excellent performances to share top three positions.

DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail was the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony. Former Commissioner Lahore and President Punjab Pentathlon Association Zulfigar Ghumman, Deputy Secretary Sports Liaqat Ali, Vice-President PMPF Tariq Rashid also attended the prize distribution ceremony.

PAK vs AFG: Naseem Shah stuns Afghanistan again as Pakistan prevail

A Sports

HAMBANTOTA: Naseem Shah once again proved his mettle as a composed finisher after Imam-ul-Haq and Babar Azam's half-centuries as Pakistan devoid the hosts of creating history came from behind to edge Afghanistan by one wicket in a nail-biting second PAK vs AFG ODI on Thursday.

With a sensational one-wicket victory in the second PAK vs AFG ODI, the Green Shirts sealed the three-match series 2-0 with a game to spare.

Naseem Shah, who clinched a thrilling one-wicket victory over Afghanistan in the previous edition of the Asia Cup with two final-over sixes, once again steered Pakistan to a close victory over the same opposition.

The right-arm pacer, who proved his mettle with the bat in numerous crunch situations, stole the spotlight with a tense finish despite Imam-ul-Haq and Babar Azam's half-centuries and Shadab Khan's gutsy 48.

With Pakistan needing 11 runs in the final over, the enthralling contest got a lot more interesting when Fazalhaq Farooqi mankaded Shadab during his run-up to bowl the first delivery.

Afghanistan started things steadily after winning the toss, as their openers dealt with Pakistan's pace attack

Shadab's dismissal, who scored Pakistan with a calculated 105-ball

stan sniffing their first-ever victory over Pakistan in ODIs but Pakistan's tailenders Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf displayed the nerves of steel to as Pakistan sealed the victory on the penultimate delivery.

Naseem Shah scored an unbeaten 10 off five deliveries, hitting two boundaries, while Haris Rauf scored three crucial runs.

Chasing 301 in the second PAK vs AFG, Pakistan openers Fakhar Zaman (30) and Imam-ul-Haq provided a solid start with a 52-run partnership before Fazalhaq Farooqi dismissed the former in the ninth over.

Imam was then joined by Pakistan captain Babar Azam at the crease and the pair soon knitted an anchoring 118-run stand for the second wicket.

The pair appeared to have settled down before Babar miscued one off Farooqi in the 31st over, briefly after amassing his half-century. Babar scored 53 in 66 balls, laced with six

Babar's dismissal opened the floodgates as Pakistan lost four wickets in quick successions, including their mainstay Imam, to slip to 211/6 in the 39th over.

Imam remained the top-scorer for

a crucial 35-ball 48, had Afghani- 91 which featured four boundaries. Following the slump, Iftikhar Ahmed

and Shadab Khan stitched a cautious 47-run partnership and anchored the run chase until the former's dismissal, who scored 17 off 24.

Opting to bat first in the second PAK vs AFG ODI, Afghanistan raised a commendable total of 300/5 at the back of Rahmanullah Gurbaz's marathon 151-run knock.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz charged at Pakistani bowlers, while Ibrahim Zadran anchored through the innings, amid the frustration of Pakistani bowlers, who bowled Afghanistan inside 20 overs in the last match at a paltry total of 59.

Afghanistan openers knitted a brilliant 227-run opening stand, which is the second-highest opening stand against Pakistan in ODI cricket. Rahmanullah Gurbaz reached his fifth ODI hundred during the partnership before it was broken by Usama Mir.

Ibrahim Zadran departed after scoring 101-ball 80 runs, featuring six boundaries and two sixes.

Meanwhile, Rahmanullah Gurbaz continued the onslaught and reached the 150-run mark before being caught behind off Shaheen Afridi. His brilliant 151 runs innings featured 14 boundaries and three sixes.

Pakistani bowlers did a remark-



able job in the death overs to restrict 50 overs. Afghanistan to 300 in the allocated

Shaheen Afridi picked up two wick-

ets, while Usama Mir and Naseem Shah contributed with a wicket each.

Messi into another final after inspiring Inter Miami comeback

News Desk

Lionel Messi inspired Inter Miami to come back from 2-0 down to beat Cincinnati on penalties after their thrilling US Open Cup semi-final ended 3-3 after extra-time in Ohio.

Inter Miami, who won the Leagues Cup on penalties against Nashville on Saturday, are now one win away from their second trophy since Messi joined the club last month.

The US Open Cup is American soccer's oldest and most important knockout competition, dating back more than a century to 1914 and is similar to England's FA Cup or Spain's Copa del Rey.

Miami will host the Houston ber 27 after the Texan side beat assists to striker Leonardo

Real Salt Lake 3-1 after extra

A month ago Cincinnati, who are top of Major League Soccer's standings while Miami are bottom, would have been clear favourites. But the Florida team are now a very different side to the one which was winless in their 11 league games before the arrival of the Argentine.

In the intense heat, with temperatures over 100 degrees fahrenheit (38 Celsius) at kickoff, Inter Miami's unbeaten run since the signing of Messi and Spanish pair Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba looked to be coming

Inter trailed 2-0 with 22 minutes remaining before the Dynamo in the final on Septem- Argentine delivered two perfect

Campana to take the game into extra-time.

Messi's compatriot Luciano Acosta had put Cincinnati ahead in the 18th minute and American striker Brandon Vazquez doubled the home side's lead with a fine strike from the edge of the box in the 53rd minute.

In the 68th minute, Messi whipped in a free-kick from the left which was headed home by Campana to breathe some life into what had been a tired display from Gerardo Martino's side.

Cincinnati thought that they had made it 3-1 but Yuga Kubo's effort was ruled out for handball.

In the seventh minute of stoppage time Messi, from deep on the left, swung in a ball to Campana at the back post and again the Ecuadoran forward



found the net to force extra-time. Miami went ahead in the first period with Benjamin Cremaschi sliding an excellent pass into the path of Josef Martinez and the Venezuelan made no mistake with a precise finish.

But Cincinnati bounced back in the second period with Japanese winger Kubo firing a rightfoot shot into the far corner past the diving Drake Callender.

The teams were at 4-4 in the shoot-out when Callender

saved Nick Hagglund's penalty forced to rest some of his players, for Cincinnati and Cremaschi including Messi, after an intense converted the next to book Miami's place in the final.

The 18-vear-old Miami-born Cremaschi, whose parents are ant physical limit and from today Argentine, was congratulated by Messi after his match-winning spot kick.

"I'm living a huge dream," he told CBS Sports, "Sometimes I sit down and really think about the position that I'm in and it's incredible, I never believed I was going to be in the spot I am in now," he said.

There was a more sober view from Martino, whose team must now begin their 12 game attempt to climb from last in the Eastern Conference to the playoff posi-

Martino suggested he may be win at the death.

eight-game spell. "Both Leo and many other

players are reaching an importwe will evaluate how we approach the next three matches," he said. The fatigue is overcome with

all the enthusiasm ... I hope the team in the future could play better, but it's very difficult to do that when you almost can't rest" Houston took the lead on the stroke of half-time through Mexi-

can international Hector Herrera but Salt Lake levelled with a Julio Anderson goal in the 64th. Panamanian midfielder Adal-

berto Carrasquilla fired in a fine solo goal in extra-time before Luis Caicedo wrapped up the