

LAHORE: Rangers and police personnel stands alert outside Gaddafi Stadium during the Asia Cup 2023 one-day international (ODI) cricket match between Bangladesh and Afghanistan in Provincial Capital.



Business leaders, COAS discuss economic initiatives

Highlighting Air Battle of 03 September, 1965 released

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General Public Relations (Air Force) has released a short documentary to highlight the valour and professionalism of the brave sons of the nation in دنگ ستمبر 5%

the September 1965 war. The air battle fought on the day of documentary showcases the 3rd September, 1965.

Situation in GB completely peaceful: Solangi

腾 🛛 News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting MurtazaSolangi said on Sunday that situation in Gilgit-Baltistan was completely peaceful and speculative news about deployment of Pakistan Army were

completely baseless. In a post on his X account, quoted a statement released by the Home Department of Gilgit-Baltistan which said "it has been clarified that the situation in Gilgit-Baltistan is completely peaceful and the news and speculations circulating in media regarding the deployment of Pakistan Army

are completely baseless. All roads, trade centers, usiness activities and



The services of Pakistan Army and Civil Armed Forces have been requisitioned only to maintain law and order on the eve of Chehlam of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S).

Moreover, special measures have been taken for the security of the procession routes and Imambargahs as per the past practice, he maintained.

It has been further stated by the GB Home Department that Section 144 of CrPC 1898 has been imposed across the region to maintain law and educational institutions in order, protect the lives and Gilgit-Baltistan are open as property of the people and avoid any untoward incident, he remarked.

🐞 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar alongside prominent business figures met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, here on Sunday.

Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also attended the meeting in which country's economic trajectory was discussed in detail, LCCI spokesman confirmed this to the media.

During the meeting, General Asim Munir highlighted the pivotal role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), emphasizing its potential to attract substantial investments of up to 100 billion dollars from countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and others. To bolster economic decision-making, he revealed the formation of task forces focused on economic matters and different sectors.

Kashif Anwar, in alignment

HEC bars

universities

from direct

腾 City Desk

agreements with

ISLAMABAD: The High-

er Education Commission

(HEC) has barred univer-

sities from making direct

agreements with interna-

tional Non-Governmental

As per details, in a letter

Organisations (NGOs).

to Vice Chancellors and

heads of educational insti-

tutes, Chairman HEC Dr

Mukhtar Malik stopped

the universities from sign-

ing contracts with interna-

He stated that universi-

ties are working with inter-

national organizations

on sensitive and political

matters which does not

portray a positive image of

tional NGOs without the

permission from foreign

ministry.

Pakistan.

foreign NGOs

community, recommended active for their collection during the engagement with all chambers to winter months when electricity incorporate diverse perspectives consumption is lower, alleviatinto the task force's agenda.

Addressing critical issues faced by the public, Kashif Anwar proposed a reduction in income and sales tax rates on electricity bills. He noted that the populace grapples with the burden of high taxation on electricity, impacting daily lives, businesses and common people. Additionally, Kashif Anwar introduced a pragmatic approach to fuel with the broader business adjustment charges, advocating

Madad Ali Sindhi

pledges to assess ability

of teachers to improve

educational system

ing financial stress on consumers. Recognizing the pivotal role of exchange rates in Pakistan's economic landscape, the LCCI

President called for greater control over the rates of the US dollar in both interbank and open markets The COAS General Asim

Munir responded positively, assuring that money exchanges would be brought under the purview of taxation, fostering

🐞 Bureau Report

for delimitation process.

demands timely elections.

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has demanded Election Commission of Pakistan

(ECP) to immediately announce the election

schedule. As per details, PPP senior leader Nasir

Hussain Shah said in a statement that the ECP

understood their stance and shortened the time

He urged the ECP to announce the election

schedule as the current situation in the country

tion for the country's problems and will take the

announced to finalise delimitation of constitutes

Nasir Hussain Shah claimed that PPP has solu-

Earlier, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)

transparency in dollar exchange and interbank rates.

President LCCI also pointed out that the disparity between the State Bank's rate and the Hundi rate often leads to the preference for Hundi channels when it comes to remittances. He emphasized that if these rates were aligned, remittances would naturally flow through the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Kashif Anwar emphasized the

importance of an enhanced and sustained interactive dialogue between the business community and relevant authorities. He expressed concerns over the prevailing lack of responsiveness to suggestions put forth by the business sector. Furthermore, Kashif Anwar called for a unified commitment from political parties, suggesting the signing

of a charter of the economy as a precondition before any upcoming elections.

Expanding on General Asim Munir's earlier remarks regarding the existence of a grey econ-

omy, accounting for 2 to 3 times of the overall documented economy, Kashif Anwar proposed an innovative approach. He recommended incentivizing the grey economy to transition into the formal, white economy, offering a strategic solution to combat this pervasive issue.

President LCCI said that the expansion of the tax base would remain elusive as long as the grey economy remains unincorporated, unable to contribute to the formal, white economy.

This gathering exemplified the shared dedication of both the business community and the military leadership to work collaboratively in addressing pressing economic challenges and propelling the nation toward growth.

As Pakistan continues to navigate economic complexities, this constructive dialogue signifies a promising step toward finding practical solutions and fostering economic prosperity for the nation, he concluded.

Nobel Foundation

🐞 News Desk

STOCKHOLM: The Nobel Foundation said on Saturday it would not after all invite the ambassadors of Russia, Belarus and Iran to attend the Nobel Prize awards ceremony in Stockholm this year, reversing an earlier decision after widespread criticism.

Last year, the foundation left out the ambassadors of Russia and its ally Belarus because of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The foundation said on Thursday it would invite them, and Iran's ambassador, to this year's prize award ceremonies in December, commenting that it sought to include even those who did not share the values of the Nobel Prize.

That announcement prompted the leaders of several Swedish political parties to say they would boycott the ceremonies.

usual, Solangi said in the statement.

Special cell established to investigate cases related to financing of terrorism and extremism

🐞 City Desk

and extremism.

this special cell.

sion of SSP CTD."

tal City Police Officer (ICCPO)

Dr Akbar Naseer Khan has

taken the initiative to set up

A police spokesperson said,

'The in-charge of this cell will

be an officer in Grade 17 and it

will operate under the supervi-

cell will function in accordance ISLAMABAD: A special inveswith international standards tigative cell in the Anti-Terrorand will also seek cooperation ism Department of Islamabad from other law enforcement Capital Police has been set up agencies in matters of special investigations." which will investigate cases related to financing terrorism He further said, "Robust

legal actions will be taken On the special directions against the individuals involved of Federal Interior Minister in the financing of terrorism Sarfraz Bugti, Islamabad Capiand extremism."

The ICCPO has stated, "This

Previously, ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan had established an anti-terrorism and extremism unit in CTD which was the first one of its kind in Pakistan. In this unit, Islamabad Capital Police teams are working to combat extremism in educational institutions and schools

PTI chairman ready to talk to all, say lawyers

腾 🛛 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and former prime minister was ready for talks with everyone but with only elections on the agenda, his lawyers said Saturday.

PTI legal team comprising Intezar Panjotha, Shoaib Shaheen, Naeem Panjotha, Gohar Ali Khan and his personal physician Dr Faisal Sultan met the deposed premier in Attock jail yesterday.

Talking to journalists following the meeting, Shoaib Shaheen said that PTI chief was worried about the people

of Pakistan amid 'deteriorating economic situation'.

Meanwhile, Naeem Haider Panjutha said that Imran Khan was completely fine and healthy in jail, stressing the need for political stability in the country. Taking to X, Panjutha quot-

ed Khan as saying that he was ready to talk to any political party or institution about holding elections.

"Finally met Khan sab at Attock Jail with other colleagues. Alhamdulillah, he is in great spirit but concern about ongoing uncertainty, inflation, and terrorism," Barrister Gohar Khan posted on X. "He is willing to talk to all BUT about election."

🐞 Madad Ali Sindhi KARACHI: Interim Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi has vowed

of teachers to correct the educational system in would be put on the right track.

to the Karachi Press Club (KPC) here Sunday, the minister said that the education and ability of the teachers would be checked in the educational institutions including the universities of the country. He said that a grand provincial meeting had also been convened to discuss the matters of education and vowed to improve the quality of education.

Replying to a question, he said that education was the provincial subject after the 18th Amendment. He said that Sindh, Punjab and other provinces had reservations over history subjects and they wanted to put the personalities, they considered to include them in the curriculum.



the country. He said that the educational system

country out of this current crisis. While talking to media persons during his visit by November 30 which was earlier scheduled to be completed on December 14. The decision was

taken after consultations with the political parties to ensure an early election. "The purpose of reducing the time frame of delimitation is to hold the election as soon as possible," the press release stated. "The polls schedule will be announced keeping this date in mind." It is

pertinent to mention here that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) reiterated its demand for holding of next general elections within the constitutionally mandated 90-day period in a meeting with Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) officials.

awards

cancels Russia, Belarus, Iran invites to annual prize

issue election schedule

PPP demands ECP to





Protest

HYDERABAD: Women workers of Jamaat-e-Islami hold banners and placards during protest against inflation, outside press club.



Govt to come up with plan to resolve issue of electricity bills: PM

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday said the government would come up with short, medium and long-term plans to resolve the issue of electricity bills and initiate reforms in the power sector.

In an interview with a private television, he also assured that the government would implement a plan for the conservation of electricity as was practiced in the Western world and taught by Islam.

To a question about public agitation on the issue of electricity bills, the prime minister said extreme political and social attitudes were not beneficial for society.

He sai system of taxa at present the system was in was marred with inefficiency, adding indirect taxation system acute, adding the issue of elecwas responsible for many of the tricity bills was multidimenwoes of the poor. "We needed to tax different sectors which held numerous meetings relat-



tax net."

power sector. He said Pakistan's economic He assured that the Finance Ministry would come up with conditions were affected by the international financial institurecommendations to provide tions and "we have to fulfil the relief to vulnerable sections of society. He said he was misquotagreements made with them." the issue of electricity bills.

of state sector entities including Pakistan International the past circumstances, there Airlines was on the agenda of the government and work was being done on it.

He said the caretaker government was the continuation of the constitutional order and it would not remain in place any extra time on the expiry of its term.

He clarified that the Election Commission would announce the date for the election.

"According to the law of the land, Election Commission will decide about elections," he said adding however, the superior judiciary after listening to the legal experts could decide about the elections

"Law and a binding judg-The government also had ed about the recent protests on ment of the Supreme Court will decide. The respect and He understood that there reverence of judiciary is impor- who was in possession of these and spend on the poor but the past decades, he continued. was a section of society which tant for democratic dispensa-He said flaws in the power was heavily burdened with elec- tion and social order and these should not be disturbed." he remarked.

He agreed that because of were concerns among the political parties about the schedule of polls.

Responding to a question, he said the situation in border areas was aggravated due to the situation emerging after the withdrawal of the United States and NATO from Afghanistan.

There was an inventory of weapons and equipment that was left by the US in Afghanistan and now the terror outfits were more equipped and were not only dangerous for Pakistan but also for China and other countries, he said adding the US should have handed over the inventory of weapons responsibly, but there was a rushed withdrawal by the US and now it was not clear

Turkiye welcomes return of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia, Iran



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian welcomes his counterpart from Turkiye Hakan Fidan (L) in Tehran on September 3,2023.

腾 News Desk

RIYADH: Turkiye welcomes the return of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Tehran's foreign minister said on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed in March to reestablish diplomatic relations and reopen their embassies following years of tensions between the two countries.

During a press conference with his Turkish counterpart in Tehran, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Iran Saturday.

is working on holding a tripartite economic meeting with Saudi Arabia and Turkive.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan is on a visit to Iran and it is his first official trip to the country since assuming the position of top diplomat.

"The visit will render the opportunity to discuss the possibilities for further advancing our bilateral cooperation in all fields with Iran," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said on

CDA plans to develop several new parks



ISLAMABAD: The Capital Devel- to the recreational needs of Islamopment Authority (CDA) is plan- abad residents. ning to develop several new modern "But the policy

has been made

Monday, September 4, 2023

to fulfil the agreements made tion was meant to tax the rich with the power companies in

> transmission system were sional and the government had in the past, he added.

the clutches of profiteers and sector and generation and tricity bills and he could identi-

fy with the social and economic problems of people as he himself faced these problems

are still not brought under the ed to issues of taxation and the zation, he said the privatization

He said according to its constitutional role, the Supreme Court will remove To a question about privati- any doubt about the timing of elections.

weapons and equipment.

He was of the view that the state had two tools including negotiations and the application of force against militants to achieve peaceful social order "We have to use both approaches to achieve our goals."

parks in the federal capital to that whenever a new sector will be provide better recreational facilities to the residents of the city.

"The civic authority has already developed around 37 public parks in the federal capital during the last ten years and is working on a policv to increase their number in the coming years," official sources in the CDA told to media.

"We need three to four months to develop a new park after completion of the codal formalities." At present, they said the federal capital had six amusement parks, which were considered sufficient to cater

developed, an amusement park will be constructed along," they added.

The sources said that the CDA was developing several new sectors, including I-11, I-12, I-14, I-15, I-16, D-12, and Park Enclave, adding that Model Villages and parks were also being developed in the said areas.

"As and when these areas are developed and completed, the new parks will be there to meet the demand and requirement of the general public as per CDA approved layout plan," they added.

FIR registered against abduction of Hareem Shah's husband



🐞 News Desk

KARACHI: Police have registered an FIR in the abduction of Tiktoker Hareem Shah's husband's case.

As per details, the Police officials stated that the FIR was registered in Defense police station on the

The police officials said that the

On January 28, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) asked multiple banks to freeze accounts of TikToker Hareem Shah after she was filmed in a video with a huge cache of foreign exchange.

Punjab Bank and Habib Bank sums of currency abroad.

for freezing the bank accounts of Hareem Shah after she mocked the Pakistani authorities for letting her travel abroad with the bundles of foreign currency.

"Freeze accounts of Hareem Shah until an inquiry under money laundering charges concludes," the agency said in a letter to the banks. The Federal Investigation Agen-

cy (FIA) had also written a letter al Crime Agency to launch a money-laundering probe against TikToker Hareem Shah.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had initiated a money-laundering probe against famous TikToker Hareem Shah after the social media star in a video openly The FIA had written letters to committed illegally carrying large

CIFTIS to support Pakistan in increasing services export: Ambassador Haque

😂 Spokesman Report

BEIJING: The ongoing China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFT-IS) in Beijing will support Pakistan in increasing services exports, especiallv in Informational Technology (IT), e-commerce, finance and logistics, said Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque. The exhibition will also help promote regional connectivity with the presence of NLC and PIA in the exhibition, he told APP after inaugurating the 'Pakistan Pavilion' at the CIFT-IS. Commercial Counselor, Ghulam Qadir, Science and Technology, Counselor Khan Muhammad, and representative of Pakistani companies were also present.

Some prominent Pakistani enterprises including Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEI, National Bank

of Pakistan (NBP), National Logistic Corporation (NLC), Fb Enterprises, and others have set up their booths at Pakistan Pavilion to attract international investors during the event. Ambassador Haque emphasized that the Pakistan Pavilion provides a platform for Pakistani businesses to showcase their capabilities and explore new avenues for trade and investment.

"This initiative reflects Pakistan's commitment to strengthening economic ties with China and other countries, and further positioning the country as a hub for service-oriented enterprises in the region," he added. He said, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has entered its second phase." "We are now focusing on cooperation with China in agriculture, IT, logistics, services, tourism and education," he added. "Pakistan



has signed several protocols which have opened up the multi-billion Chinese market for Pakistani products including boiled meat, dairy, cherry and chilly etc.' Terming the signing of protocols a game changer, he said that this would not only benefit Pakistan traders and companies but also provide ample opportunities to enhance their exports to Chinese markets. He said, "Pakistan and China are focusing on making Khunjerab Pass an all-weather land route for trading and business between the two countries.

"Following the difficult weather Sept 2-6.

conditions, the border remains open for 7-8 months a year but now both countries are working to make it an all-weather route by upgrading facilities like logistics, warehouses, customs clearance, etc.," he added. To a question about the opening of an international road transport (TIR) route between Islamabad and the Chinese city of Kashgar, he said it was very promising and it would not only enhance bilateral trade activities between Pakistan and China but also increase regional trade.

"The products can travel from Pakistan through China to Central Asian counties and vice versa and this is in line with the regional connectivity and trade under the Belt and Road Initiative," he added. With the theme 'openness leads development, cooperation creates a win-win future,' the CIFTIS is scheduled to take place in Beijing from

technological gatherings with an

annual audience of 5K offline, 800K

online participants from more than

500 universities, and 100 countries.

Since 2020, 15 Nobel Laureates,

15 breakthrough winners, eminent

experts, innovators, leaders of inter-

national organizations and global

businesses have participated in the

Expo during the event will include

a demonstration of scientific and

technical developments of univer-

sities and competition for the best

The Technology and Start-up

yearly event of the Nobel Fest.

Nobel Fest VI to be held in Islamabad in Nov

🐞 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Nobel Fest VI 2023, to be held in Islamabad in the month of November, will help the future generations explore mysteries of our world through diving into knowledge of scientific discoveries and technological innovations essential to combat modern day challenges.

According to the COMSTECH, the high level event will be held during November 29-30 at COMSTECH with the support of OIC-COMS-Foundation under the theme "Bridg-



ing Science and OIC Countries in the Digital Future".

It will center around scientific discoveries and technological innovations, with a particular focus on key topics such as the future of medi-TECH and Inclusive Development cine, digitalization in education, world-changing technologies, efforts

to combat climate change, and strategies for economic development.

The objective of the Nobel Fest is to make education and science accessible for everyone in the world, especially the least developed and developing countries of OIC.

Nobel Fest is considered as one of the key tools in the popularization and development of education, science and technology and motivates thousands of students and young scientists to search for answers to the unexplored mysteries of our world. Nobel Fest is a unique and one of the most impactful educational and Tech projects.

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

complaint of his mother.

husband of Hareem Shah, Bilah to the United Kingdom's Nation-Hussain Shah was abducted on August 27.



Monday, September 4, 2023

Railway PREM workers protest against steep rises in electricity, gas, water bills

腾 Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: The brave people of Pakistan have proved by going on a complete strike that the governments never run by lawlessness and burdening the people like not withdrawing the rising prices of electricity, petrol and the continuous demonstration of austerity. This is the open slap on the face of democracy said Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq.

According to the details, the business community and the public force further said that they are thankful to all the businessmen, lawyers and labor who ensured arrangements for the complete shutdown in Faisalabad to open the eyes of the sleeping government.

Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra, President of Cloth Board Ittehad Pakistan said that the system of the country has sat down in the real sense.

Moreover, on the call of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Siraj-ul-Haq, Divisional Ameer Prof. Mahbub-ul-Zaman Butt, Central President Cloth Board Etihad



Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra, traders, lawyers and labor organizations raised voices against electricity bills, petrol and untoward inflation in the country.

On striking, they demanded the government to supply electricity, petrol and other commodities on low rates observing the poverty situations. In the camp set up in Chowk Ghan-

taghar today, traders, lawyers, shopkeepers, laborers and ordinary people from the city of Faisalabad have proved that the people will not accept the government pressing policies at all. They elaborated to Keep in mind that the problems of the common man have been continuously neglected? while compiling the electricity, petrol, gas and others also withdraw come to the real track.

taxes levied on essential commodities. In the camp, Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan Alhaj Vohra, Divisional Ameer Jamata- Islam Prof. Mahbub-ul-Zaman Butt, President Anjuman Tajran City Khawaja Razaaq Sikka, General Secretary Sheikh Saeed Ahmed, Chairman Central Ulema Council Sahibzada Zahid Qasmi, President Supreme Council Amin Butt. Haji Aslam Bhalli, City Cloth Board President Amjad Aqeel, General Secretary Abbas Haider Sheikh, Mian Ijaz Hussain, President Press Market Chaudhry Muhammad Akram, General Secretary Sohail Rafi, lawyers and labor leaders addressed. They warned If the government will not withdraw the prices of electricity, petrol, gas and essential items, then for the future, mega plan of action will be announced soon and then there will be a full-blown Qalandar, and the government has no choice to control this dire situation, and the angry people are ready to do anything at any time, so

Protest

KARACHI: Members of civil society and Hindu community hold a protest in favor of their demands at Ten Talwar area in **Provincial Capital**



CTD Operation: Females terrorists arrested 😂 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 5 suspected females terrorists linked with a banned out-fits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 27 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 27 suspected persons were interrogated and 5 alleged females terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

Among the arrested terrorists are Faiza, Fakhira, Eman Maria and Javeria, he said and added that she belong to the banned organizations Daesh. He said that the arrest of these alleged females terrorists was carried out during intelligence-based operations in Lahore and Sheikhupura. He said that the protective fuse wire 18 feet, 14 books of banned outfits, 21 pamphlets, 29 stickers, 3 receipt books, 3 Mobile phones and 26070 rupees in cash were recovered from the possession of arrested females terrorists.

The spokesman said that the females terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations. The police have registered cases against the alleged females terrorists in Lahore, Sheikhupura and Kasure, and shifted them to an unknown location, he added.

He said that 304 combing operations were also conducted during this week with the help of local police and security agencies, 15225persons were checked, 76 suspects were arrested, 66 FIRs were registered and 16 recoveries were made durting these operations.

Railway reduced fare announce for Economy Class of Shalimar Express

🐞 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Pakistan Railway Headquarters Lahore has issued a new fare table in which the economy class fare of Shalimar Express train has been significantly reduced. The Shalimar Express train is a VIP train that stops at Khanewal and Bahawalpur in Multan division for passengers traveling from Khanewal and Bahawalpur to Karachi.

Or those passengers who want to travel from Bahawalpur and Khanewal to Faisalabad, Lahore can avail this package. There is a shortage. According to the new fare issued, the fare from Khanewal to Faisalabad has been reduced from Rs 1050 to Rs 750, Khanewal to Lahore has been reduced from Rs 1450 to Rs 1050, Khanewal to Rahim Yar Khan has been reduced from Rs 1450 to Rs 1100, Khanewal to Rohri has been reduced to Rs 2050. 1650 rupees, Khanewal to Nawabshah reduced from 2350 to 1850 rupees, Khanewal to Hyderabad reduced from 2700 to 2100 rupees while the fare from Khanewal to Karachi has been reduced from 3250 to 2350, similarly Bahawalpur to Faisal. Reduced from 1450 to 1050 to Abad, reduced from 1700 to 1250 from Bahawalpur to Lahore.

Bahawalpur to Khanpur reduced from 900 rupees to 600, Bahawalpur to Rahimyar Khan 1050 to 750, Bahawalpur to Rohri 1450 to 1100, Bahawalpur to Nawabshah 2050 to 1650, Bahawalpur to Hyderabad 2300 to 1800, Bahawalpur to Karachi reduced from 2700 2100 has been made.

DPO assured the traders of all kinds of facilities at the Angoor Adda border

🐞 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Waziristan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Waziristan Goods Transport and



Three-day exhibition of historical furniture concludes

😂 News Desk

ABBOTTABAD: Three-day exhibition of historical furniture has concluded. Justice Malik Manzoor Hussain Judge High Court Abbottabad, Jibran Malik Chairman District Zakat Committee, Malik Shakeel Awan Central President Anjuman Tajran Mansehra, Justice Help International President Nadeem Sheikh Advocate, labor leader Syed Zulfikar Shah participated in the closing ceremony., the furniture exhibition was organized by Reach Corporate Solutions.

More than 50 companies from all over the country are setting up their stalls in the exhibition. Justice Malik Manzoor Hussain said that the organwelcome, people are getting the best



ization of the furniture exhibition is furniture at reasonable prices. He records, the rush of furniture buyers on said that the exhibition broke all the the stalls, the furniture is being provid-

ed to the public at lower prices than the market, the stock was exhausted due to the rush of buyers, the public made record purchases, the exhibition will be held again soon. will be held, the stock of furniture has been exhausted due to high orders.

On this occasion, the guests were dressed in Ajrak, at the end of the exhibition there was a spectacular firework display and the cake was cut for the successful exhibition., Mega Furniture, Royal Furniture, Pakistan Furniture, MH Interiors, Future Office, MJ Furniture, Turkish Interwood, Pak Tribal, Life Interiors, Fine Furnishers, Alishan Furnishers, Home Style, Taj Furnishers, Amirwood Interiors, The Mode Living, Adam Traders, Abdullah Bed Sheet, Ilyas and other leading companies are participating.

Patrolling police Multan crack down arrested 440 criminals: Huma Naseeb

😂 Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: According to Senior Pole Patrolling Police Superintendent(SSP) Multan Region in the month of August 2023, while cracking down on criminals, arrested 440 people, registered cases against liquor and drug dealers and those possessing illegal weapons in the respective police stations and recovered huge amount of arms and liquor from their possession

Keeping highways crime free is my top priority and violators of law and order are being dealt with strictly. 351776 persons were checked through police



checked.

92,290 challans have been 2023, under the supervision of issued by the police crack-Patrolling Police Multan Region ing down on drivers through (Huma Naseeb, SP Patrolling the Chalanig app. (Huma Police Multan Region) 440 Naseeb SP Patrolling Police cases of various types were regis-Multan Region) According to tered and hundreds of accused in category 78 in A catefgory, 05

app, and 168439 vehicles were the spokesperson of patrolling were arrested. 965 liters of police, in the month of August alcohol, 4630 grams of hashish and 1230 grams of opium were recovered after registering 167 cases against them.

> By filing cases against those who possess illegal weapons, 06

in category and 78 in B category were arrested, 02 Kalashnikovs, 09 rifles, 15 pistols, 02 revolvers with 117 bullets, 19 missing children were delivered to their relatives/heirs, those traveling on the highway. Provided 609 different types of help to individuals, 07 illegal encroachments were also eliminated. More 01. Along with the recovery of 26 stolen motorcycles, along with the recovery of 480 grams of unhealthy meat, 01 tractor, 01 truck, 01 truck, 04 mobile phones and 480 grams of unhealthy meat were also recovered. Appreciation certificates and prizes were also awarded for this.

various other unions held talks with DPO Lower South Waziristan Farman Ullah in a good atmosphere while assuring the traders of all kinds of facilities.

However, it was unanimously decided in the discussion that all the vehicles coming from Afghanistan towards

Lower South Waziristan will not be stopped in any way, If anyone has any liabilities regarding the vehicle, the said driver or owner will contact the local administration, police or FC in this regard.

DPO said, from today, all the vehicles coming from Afghanistan for trade are allowed and it was decided, that the legitimate problems of the business community will be resolved through mutual consultation of Jirga.

On this occasion, DPO said that from today any vehicle will come to Pakistan from Afghanistan side, If any individual or union members owe him, they will report to the district administration, police and FC, and lgal action will be taken against anyone who obstructs business without authorities.

DPO Farman Ullah said that from today there will be no restriction on all the transport vehicles from Afghanistan side coming to Pakistan.

DPO Farman Ullah said that there will be no excuse for those who cause disruptions in trade activities on the Pak-Afghan border, and strict disciplinary action will be taken against them.

RPO Multan Decision to Record Appeals in a Short Period of Time: Capt Sohail

😂 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Regional Police Officer Multan decision to record appeals in a short period of time. The series of welfare measures of police officers and employees will continue Decision

record appeals in



Punjab. It is a unique honor of Multan Region Police. Captain (retd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary

Multan: Regional Police Officer Captain (Rtd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary set a record by deciding 2268 appeals out of a record 2836 appeals in a short span of eight months.

On this occasion, the RPO said that Multan region has decided all the pending of police officers and employees in Multan, Wahari, Khanewal and Lodhran. These measures have been taken for the welfare of police officers and employees of Multan region. He further said that the few pending appeals will be decided this month.

It is to be noted that in Multan region in the past, as many as 2268 appeals were decided in the last five years. While deciding the same number of appeals in eight months, it set a record

This is a unique honor of Multan Region Police in Punjab. The credit goes to a top police officer of Multan region.



The Spokesman 3

Islamabad 15º – 23º Clear

Namaz	Timings
Fajr	4:17 am
Zohr	12:07 pm
Asr	4:42 pm
Maghrib	6:31 pm
Isha	7:57 pm
EMEDGENCV	

Rescue (Police) Bomb Disposal 15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance...... 1122 & & Rescue Services 4451122 ..9266044 Motorway Police .

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596 9270601-20 Rawalpindi

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ENQUIRY Edhi Ambulance

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

HOSPITALS		
CMH		
MH		
MH		
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1	
DHQ		
RGH		
Holy Family	9290322-7	
PIMS	9261170-79	

Chelum of Hazrat Imam Hussain observed peacefully

腾 🛛 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Chelum of Hazrat Imam Hussain was observed peacefully in Attock. The main zuljunnah procession of chalum in Attock City was taken out on Sunday from imam bargah-Panjaitani with peace and religious enthusiasm amid tight security. Karbala is a lesson-teaching incident of human history, which gives the message of upholding righteousness and truth to the mankind for their eternal success besides failing the nefarious designs of devilish forces, this was stated by religious scholar Farhan Haider Abidi of Karachi while addressing the Chelum Majlis at Imam bargah Panjatani Attock He mitigated the difficulties faced by Imam Hussain and his followers for the glory of Islam and narrated several events of the journey of Imam Hussain which led his martyrdom at Karbala. He also state that Imam Hussain a.s saved islam and his grand father prophet Muhammad PUBH legacy till the day of judgement and after. Latter on Azadar also performed "Zanjeerzani" and "Matum" by beating their chests. Sabeels of water, milk and food stalls were also set-up under the surveillance of security personnel on the route of procession to facilitate the mourners. The mourners offered Zhurain prayer near Fowara chowk and later procession lasted at markaziImambargh Hussainia Kamalpur Syedan, Attock Cantonment at evening in peaceful manner after crossing through the traditional route.

PM says people need to pay their electricity bills at previous rates

😂 🛛 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Ul Haq has said that the AJK government has stopped the implementation over tariff hike in electricity and asked people to pay their bills at previous rates.

During his interview to a private TV channel, the AJK premier said that it was good to see that the mainstream media was now debating and discussing the issues being faced by the people of Azad Kashmir. The PM said that he had raised the issue of inflated electricity bills in recently held meeting of the Senate standing committee on finance and asked the federal government to provide us electricity at the same rate at which it was being generated.

"Instead of the Power Purchasing Company, the federal government should provide electricity to us directly and then we will decide at what rate we have to give it to our citizens", he said.

The PM said that in order to improve electricity supply in the region there was an urgent need for restructuring of the electricity department of Azad Kashmir.

He said that line losses in AJK were around 28%. "Grid stations are yet to be built in Azad Kashmir, 100% billing target is yet to be achieved", he said, adding that efforts were being made to reduce the losses as much as possible.

Referring to the constitution of Paki-

MI)CA



stan, the PM said that the people of areas in which the electricity is produced have precedence over the other in meeting their energy requirements.

"All our problems will be solved once we are given the opportunity to deal with this issue directly", the PM said.

He said that Thermal power producers have set up a large number of power plants which were producing highly expensive electricity as compared to the hydelpower generation.

Azad Kashmir, he said offers a potential of 9000 megawatts which needs to be exploited.

In response to another question, he said that the cabinet has decided to provide relief to the masses to ease their burden amid the soaring electricity bills.

My case is as simple as that I demand

the right, which is the constitution guarantees to me", he said.

"The destiny of Kashmiri people was intertwined with that of the people of Pakistan", he said, adding that Pakistan was the center of hope for the Kashmiri people.

"Pakistan is the center of our hopes and dreams", the PM said.

'No power on the surface of the Earth can weaken our relationship with the state and the people of Pakistan", the PM said. Peaceful strikes, he said, were a part

of a democratic society. He said that the Neelum Jehllum power projects in particular the divergence of the River Neelum has been the main cause of environmental issues being faced by the people in the region.

He said that the problems brought to the attention by the business community should be solved.

The PM said that he was working 18 to 20 hours a day. The problem of portfolios, he said, would also be solved soon.

Replying to another query, the PM said that no good can be expected from those who believe in the Hindutva philosophy that seeks Hindu Rashtra.

In response to a question, he said that Sved Ali Geelani was the strong voice of Pakistan in IoK. "We need to follow the legacy of Syed Ali Geelani and promote his ideology to take the ongoing freedom movement in Kashmir to its logical conclusion", he added.

National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) Successfully Conducts MDCAT (NUMS) - 2023 in Pakistan and Abroad



PIDE releases report on Unraveling the State of Industry in Pakistan 腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has unveiled a groundbreaking report shedding light on the challenges faced by the engineering industry in Pakistan. The comprehensive study, conducted by a team of esteemed researchers led by Dr Nadeem ul Haque, and including Dr Usman Qadir, Dr Abid Rehman, and Mr Mohammad Armughan, delves into the realities faced



by engineering firms and provides valuable insights into the state of the industry.

The report is based on an extensive survey of 328 engineering firms from across the Golden Triangle of Lahore, Gujrat, and Gujranwala. It reveals compelling statistics that underscore the critical concerns affecting the industry's growth and productivity.

The report underscores the significance of addressing these challenges. It recommends that engineering firms adopt international and national quality standard certifications to maintain quality standards, a move endorsed by 89% of the surveyed firms. Moreover, the government is urged to focus on enhancing the electricity supply in industrial areas, with smaller firms exploring backup power options to ensure uninterrupted operations, a sentiment echoed by 76% of the respondents.

The report emphasizes the importance of a thriving relationship between businesses and the government for economic prosperity. However, political instability and unfavorable economic policies have led to a lack of trust and dissatisfaction among business owners, impacting productivity and profit margins.

The release of this comprehensive report marks a significant contribution to the understanding of Pakistan's engineering industry. The recommendations provided serve as a roadmap for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and businesses to collaborate and drive positive change in the sector. By addressing the identified challenges, Pakistan can position itself for a brighter industrial future.

NAB arrests Parvez Elahi's close aide over graft charges

🐞 News Desk



LAHORE: The accountability watchdog has reportedly arrested Muhammad Khan Bhatti, the principal secretary of the former Punjab chief minister, Parvez Elahi. According to officials in the National Accountabili-

ty Bureau (NAB), Muhammad Khan Bhatti has been arrested over charges of embezzlement to the tune of Rs1 billion in the award of development contracts. He is accused of the misuse of authority and involvement in illegal recruitments in Gujrat and other cities.

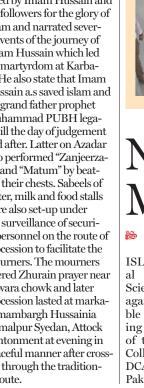
The accused, with the connivance of his abettors, including Mehar Azmat Hayat, a Punjab Highway Department EXEN, managed to approve 116 development schemes in Gujrat, minting more than Rs1 billion allegedly.

The alleged corruption money, the NAB officials point out, was then transferred to the personal bank accounts of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, Moonis Elahi and Muhammad Khan Bhatti.

The NAB Lahore, pursuing the case, took the accused in custody from the Gujranwala Central Jail to be produced before an accountability court in Lahore on September 4 (Monday).

Reason of rising electric bills

If we talk about the current situation in our country, there has been a hike in electricity bills. The country's power regulator, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), approved a hike in electricity bills. The tariff for the years 2023-24 is Rs 29.78/kWh, which is Rs 4.96/kWh higher than the previous tariff of Rs 24.82/kWh. The main reason behind the increase in tariffs is the condition Pakistan agreed to for a \$3-billion bailout by the IMF in June. So, the power tariff was increased at different rates. The other reasons are hikes in taxes, rupee devaluation, low sales growth, surcharges, capacity payments, and monthly fuel adjustments. Our structural reforms are inevitable to cope with economic challenges. After the increase in the price of electricity, it has become 22 rupees per unit at its minimum and 65 rupees per unit at its maximum. People are protesting over electricity bills in different cities across the country. They are unable to pay these bills. Governments should take concrete and beneficial steps to overcome this problem. We should also play a role in coping with this abuse. Syeda Mahnoor Fatima, Student of Law College, University of Sargodha.



NUMS Successfully Conducts MDCAT (NUMS)-2023 🐞 City Desk ISLAMABAD: National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) has once again achieved a remarkable milestone by orchestrating the seamless execution of theMedical and Dental Colleges Admission Test{M-

DCAT (NUMS) -2023 across Pakistan and abroad.

mandatory held annually for the aspir- ed in this competitive assessing students willing to join ment, marking a significant NUMS constituent and affiliated Medical and Dental the education sector at large. Colleges. The exam was A Central Control Room was conducted on Sunday, 3rd established at NUMS Secre-Sep 2023 simultaneously tariat to continuously moniin 20 cities across Pakistan, tor the conduct of the exam. as well as in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) and Dubai (United gir, HI(M), Vice Chancel-

MDCAT (NUMS) is a Arab Emirates). More than examination 74,000 candidates participatachievement for NUMS and Lt Gen Wasim Alam-

lor National University of Medical Sciences, along with Pro Vice Chancellors, visited different examination centers and saw the conduct of examination. He also visited the Control Room where all the activities were being monitored centrally and expressed his satisfaction over the successful conduct of the exam.

No truth in rumors of making Azad Kashmir province: Chief Secretary AJK

腾 🛛 Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALKOT: The Chief Secretary of the Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Dawood Muhammad Brich, has said that there is no truth in the rumors of making Azad Kashmir a province. Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq presented the case of Kashmiris with great skill, courage and vitality in the Senate Standing Committee on the abolition of taxes on electricity. Stopped the consumption, on which the people should stand with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir showed his friendship by stopping the increase in electricity bills.

The Chief Secretary said that I should be considered as the advocate of Kashmiris in Islamabad. Practical steps will be taken to promote tourism in Poonch. These views will be seen soon. The chief secretary expressed these views while talking to leaders of political parties, social figures, public delegations, jour-



nalists and divisional district officers during his visit to Rawalkot.

Protests should not be the cause of people's worries. In the next few days, things will improve. It can be spent together with the people, all kinds of problems will be brought under control, they will benefit from the experiences of the people. He said that the administrative officers are public servants. Actions taken on all the problems that have come up will soon be in front of the people. Promotion of tourism will provide employment opportunities to the people. Availability of flour. Elimina-

tion of taxes on electricity. Improvement of roads. On this occasion, former Information Minister Sardar Abid Hussain Abid, the central leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Commissioner Poonch Division Muhammad Farid Chaudhry, Deputy Inspector General of Police Poonch Shehryar Sikandar, well-known businessman Sardar Shahzeb Khan, former Secretary Hikmat Sardar Muhammad Siddiq. Khan Ex-Secretary Information and Tourism Sardar Muhammad Javed Ayub Deputy Commissioner Poonch Muhammad Sabir Mughal

Deputy Commissioner Siddhunati Dr. Umar Azam Khan, Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch Syed Waheed Ali Geelani Deputy Director Information Poonch Saadullah Khan Superintendent Engineer PWD Shahrat Mehmood Rathore, Conservator Forest Mafsir Geelani President Press Club Ghazi Millat Sardar Rashid Nazir Sardar Abdul Razzaq Sardar Abid Siddique Malik Ejaz Qamar District Information Officer Nasir Latif, Finance Officer Seemab Aslam, Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Usman Saram were also present.

On this occasion, the political and social leaders and public delegations thanked the Chief Secretary of Azad Kashmir for taking time to personally listen to the problems of Poonch. This is a very welcome initiative. Commissioner Poonch Division Muhammad Farid Chaudhry gave a detailed briefing to the Chief Secretary regarding the problems of Poonch Division.

Ombudsman Office intervention leads to payment of 2,524,832 rupees to retired employee 😂 News Desk

LAHORE: Upon the directive of the Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan, the protracted pension arrears amounting to 25 lakh 24 thousand 832 rupees have finally been disbursed to a retired employee of the revenue department.

The complainant had submitted an application to the ombudsman's office, stating that he had retired on December 25, 2019. Nevertheless, he had yet to receive his pension dues, and his pension case had not been forwarded to the accounts office. Given the lack of progress in his case, the complainant earnestly implored for the intervention of the provincial ombudsman to compel the revenue department to settle his outstanding dues.

Responding to his application, Ombudsman Punjab Azam Suleman Khan issued a directive to Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur, instructing him to expedite the disbursement of the complainant's long-delayed employment dues.

In compliance with the order of the Ombudsman Punjab, the sum of 25 lakh 24 thousand 832 rupees has been remitted to the complainant, thus resolving this lingering issue.

CM orders preparation of package for farmers

b Commerce Desk

LAHORE: On the direction of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, a special package would be prepared to provide facilities to farmers of the province.

In this regard, the CM sought comprehensive recommendations for preparation of the special package. Chairman Planning & Development Board, secretaries Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation, Finance and a team comprising officials of Punjab Bank would prepare recommendations for the package.

Mohsin Naqvi also sought a durable plan for the establishment of a Model Agricultural Market in every division. Pesticides, agricultural equipments, fertilisers and seeds would be available in the Model Agricultural Market.

je Spokesman

Editorial/Opinion

Monday, September 4, 2023

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Polio: Rawalpindi's high-risk areas

hief Executive Officer (CEO) of the District Health Authority Dr. Ejaz Ahmad has said that a week-long Anti-Polio drive will commence in the four high-risk towns of the district on Monday (September 4).

The CEO told that 2,770 teams including 2,430 mobile teams, 568 area in charges 261 fixed points and 156 Union Council medical officers would vaccinate polio drops to over 741,579 children under five years of age in four towns of the district including Rawalpindi city, Rawalpindi Cantonment, Rawalpindi rural, and tehsil Taxila which had been declared high-risk areas.

He added that drops would also be administered at 109 transit points while teams have been deputed at toll plazas so that no child could miss immunization. The CEO said the purpose for launching the special drive was the presence of continuous detection of the polio virus from environmental samples collected from the area of Sarae Kala, Taxila and Safdarabad, Rawalpindi. The positive sample in Rawalpindi indicates that the virus was circulating in the region, though no positive case had been reported so far, he said and added that "If a single case is reported in a region, it remains a threat to children residing in 200 houses in the vicinity.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatta directed the official concerned to improve the anti-polio micro plan devised during the previous campaign.

He said the crippling disease was a national issue, and it was the responsibility of all to play an influential role in making the country polio-free.

The Commissioner warned the officials that strict action would be taken against those responsible for fake entries. Liaquat said hiding facts was not a solution to any problem, but it complicated the issue

Unlocking Pakistan's Inland Waterway Potential

potential for developing a robust ferry or ship liner service, utilizing its extensive river system, coastline, and canal network. With a coastline spanning approximately 2,000 kilometers and five major rivers, including the Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej, Pakistan boasts a natural transportation network capable of efficiently and sustainably moving people and goods. Recognizing this potential, the World Bank, in March 2022, emphasized the need for establishing a federal-level Inland Waterway Authority (IWA) in Pakistan aimed to standardize inland

waterways transportation (IWT) through legislative measures. It's noteworthy that the World Bank has been advising Pakistan on the development of its inland waterways since 1961. An earlier confidential report dated November 8, 1961, revealed the World Bank's keen interest in enhancing Pakistan's inland water transport system, offering financial assistance of around \$2 million for the initial phase of improvements.

Despite decades of recommendations and discussions, Pakistan has yet to harness the highly promising economic benefits of maritime and inland waterway transportation. This delay is attributed to a combination of factors, including canals while emphasizing effective rivershifting priorities, political challenges, and the influence of vested interests in various sectors of the economy.

In 2017, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif welcomed a proposal to establish a ferry service between Karachi, Gwadar, and Muscat, emphasizing its potential to provide an affordable alternative mode of transportation for the people regular-

akistan possesses a vast ly traveling these routes. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs subsequently proposed the creation of a ferry service, linking Karachi, Port Qasim, and Gwadar with ports in Iran, Iraq, Oman, and the UAE. The proposal also included plans for the establishment of ferry terminals and related operational facilities.

In parallel, the Planning Commission developed Pakistan's first compre-

it as a cost-effective and environmen-

tally friendly mode of transportation.

The policy envisioned the integration

of inland waterways into an intermod-

al transportation system, emphasizing

the use of navigable waterways along the

Indus River for both freight and passen-

Moreover, the policy highlighted the

importance of developing an inland

waterway transport master plan to

explore additional navigable rivers and

Simultaneously, the policy recognized

the significance of Pakistan's maritime

sector, considering it a potential engine

of economic growth through support for

international trade and regional transit. It

proposed the development of internation-

al ports and their integration into global

supply chains, with a focus on efficient,

ine water management planning.

ger transportation.

hensive transportation policy, which incorporated inland waterway development and maritime transportation. The Inland Waterway Transport National Transport Policy of Pakistan 2018 outlined the strategic direction for inland waterway transport, promoting

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Fast forward to 2023, Pakistan's President, Dr. Arif Alvi, reiterated the importance of sea transportation, both for the movement of goods and the development of ports, resorts, and coastal tourism. He emphasized the need for Pakistan to adhere to international standards in developing its coastal areas and harness its blue economy.

private sector-led terminal operations.

While Pakistan has not vet established a federal-level Inland Waterway Authority, the Punjab government has taken a positive step by establishing the Inland Waterway Development Company. This company aims to develop a 200-kilometer stretch of the Northern Indus

as a pilot project to showcase the potential of waterborne transportation. This initiative demonstrates the feasibility of revitalizing the vast network of waterways from Karachi to the North, spanning the entire country.

The Punjab government's survey of the Indus River Channel, funded by private sector entrepreneurs, evaluates the feasibility of phase-wise development, initially focusing on transporting goods and passengers between Daudkhel and Attock. The project envisions expanding throughout Punjab and eventually connecting with waterways in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. The ultimate goal is to create a comprehensive national inland water transport plan, generating significant financial and social benefits by creating employment opportunities and diversifying transportation avenues. To fully capitalize on this potential,

Pakistan must overcome various challenges, with political will being the foremost requirement. Addressing issues related to infrastructure, investment, and security concerns, such as potential misuse for anti-national activities, is critical. Other countries have successfully managed similar security challenges and harnessed the economic and environmental advantages of waterborne transportation.

Investing in a ferry or ship liner service in Pakistan can lead to a wide range of benefits, including boosting tourism, job creation, increased revenue, reduced transportation costs, and the development of essential infrastructure.

It's essential for Pakistan to redefine its security priorities and place economic and financial security at the forefront. By doing so, Pakistan can fully leverage waterborne transportation to transport goods, connect remote regions with urban centers, and promote sustainable and efficient transportation while ensuring the economic prosperity of its citizens.

In conclusion, Pakistan stands at a pivotal moment where it can tap into the immense potential of its waterways to reshape its economy and secure its future. Embracing waterborne transportation is not just a transportation alternative; it's a path to economic prosperity, job creation, and a sustainable future for the nation.

(The author is the former Press Secretary 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)).



Qamar Bashir

Laiquat further directed to cover the missing and refusal cases by convincing the parents with the help of local community leaders and achieving the target set for the drive.

He urged the citizens, particularly the parents, to come forward and play their role in eliminating the crippling disease from society.

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

Indian Supreme Court on Article 35A and Revival of Special Status of Occupied J & K - I

marred by a history of conflict, with the issue of Indian aggression casting a long shadow over its past and present. The complex and contentious relationship between India and the people of Jammu and Kashmir has had profound consequences on the region's political landscape, social fabric, and international relations.

The seeds of Indian aggression in Jammu and Kashmir were sown during the partition of India in 1947. As the subcontinent gained independence from British colonial rule, the princely states were given the choice to accede to either India

VSI

Anal

Abdul Basit Alvi

or Pakistan based on their geographical and demographic realities. The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, led by Maharaja Hari Singh, was predominantly Muslim but ruled by a Hindu monarch. The decision to accede to either India or Pakistan was met with uncertainty and tension. Amidst this uncertainty, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession with India in October 1947, seeking military assistance against tribal militias and forces from Pakistan that

had invaded the region. India's intervention, however, was met with resistance from local Kashmiri leaders who sought a more democratic and inclusive approach to determining the region's future. The conflict escalated into the first Indo-Pakistani war over Kashmir, leading to a de facto border known as the Line of Control (LoC) dividing the region between Indian-administered Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir. This division resulted in a complex territorial and political dispute that has persisted for decades.

Indian aggression in Jammu and Kashmir has been accompanied by human rights concerns, with allegations of extrajudicial killings, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, and excessive use of force by Indian security forces. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) grants Indian security

he region of Jammu and Kashmir has been forces wide-ranging powers in the region, often criticized for enabling impunity and inhibiting accountability. These allegations have drawn international attention and criticism from human rights organizations, putting pressure on India to address these concerns and ensure the protection of civilians in the conflict zone. The issue of Indian aggression in Jammu and Kashmir has not only strained relations between India and Pakistan but has also impacted the broader geopolitical landscape of South Asia. The two countries have fought several wars and skirmishes over the region, with the potential for armed conflict always looming. Efforts by international actors, including the United Nations, to mediate and find a peaceful

resolution to the Kashmir conflict have faced challenges due to stubbornness of India. The issue continues to affect regional stability and has broader implications for global security. The history of Indian aggression in Jammu and Kashmir is a tale of complex geopolitics, conflicting aspirations, and unresolved disputes. The region's history is marked by a struggle for self-determination, human rights concerns, and the ongoing impact of a historical decision. As the international

community watches and calls for peaceful resolutions, it is clear that the issue of Jammu and Kashmir remains a critical factor in shaping the political and social dynamics of the region.

On August 5, 2019, India made a controversial decision that sent shockwaves through the nation and the international community alike. The Indian government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, announced the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, revoking the special autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir. This move marked a significant turning point in the region's political landscape, sparking debates and discussions on its implications for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, India's federal structure, and its global relations. Article 370 was a provision in the Indian Constitution that granted a special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. To be continued

Kashmir, Palestine and Rohingya were discussed during ISNA Convention

😂 Spokesman Report

66 Kashmir has had its checkered history of strife, foreign invasion and occupations just like all other nations of the world. That was up to 1947 when the British Empire let South Asia (India and Pakistan) go free after nearly 200 years of colonial slavery. That is when the newly un-enslaved India chose to turn on its smaller neighbor to its north-the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. Just to be sure the Indians had their eyes on Kashmir ever since they started dreaming of freedom from the British at the beginning of 1925- The birth Hindu nationalism of Savarkar's Hindutva and its political manifestations in the form of RSS and Hindu Mahasaba," this was stated by Dr. Ghulam Nabi Mir, President World Kashmir Awareness Forum and Chairman, Kashmir Global Coalition during 60th Annual Convention of Islamic Society of North American (ISNA) that took place in Chicago on September 2, 2023.

"Currently, Kashmir is now a full-fledged settler-colonial project. A genocidal and ethnic cleansing plan is in place. Under the new Domicile Law, 4.2 million Indian Hindus have been issued domicile certificates. Floodgates have been opened to demographically flood Kashmir with non-Kashmiri Indian settlers to dilute the Muslim population," Dr. Mir warned.

Mir continued, "India also resorts to harsh techniques, including attacks on Muslim spaces, such as repression of educational and religious institutions, and endowments and places of worship. Thousands of innocent Kashmiri civilians of all ages have been incarcerated for variable periods in Indian prisons over the last seven decades, starting in 1947. Some of the political prisoners have been languishing in the jails for decades, like Shabir Ahmad Shah and some for years, like Yasin Malik, Masarat Aalam, Aasia Andrabi and internationally known human rights activist Khurram Parvez."

"There is a deep conspiracy to erase the most treasured tradition of Kashmiri Muslim creed, culture, and legacy. This atrocity is starting to run deeper and deeper under the Modi regime. It is what amounts to crimes against humanity. Even in the academic space, our history books, or any reference to Kashmir's struggle for self-determination are

being removed," Dr. Mir alerted. Other speakers were Dr. Miko Peled and Dr. Moham-

mad Karim Dr. Miko Peled is a writer and human rights activist, born and raised in Jerusalem. He is considered by many to be one of the clearest voices calling for justice in Palestine, and creation of a single democracy with equal rights on all of historic Palestine. Driven by a personal family tragedy to explore Palestine, its people and their narrative, he has written a book about his journey, 'The General's Son: The Journey of an Israeli in Palestine.' He travels regularly to Palestine, and he has been arrested several times by the Israeli authorities for his activities.

Dr. Mohammad Karim is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the university of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. He served as Provost, Executive Vice Chancellor, and Chief Operating Officer of the University. He served on the Board of Regents of the North American Bangladeshi Islamic Community (NABIC) as well as on the Bords of multiple universities in Bangladesh. He is an author of 20 engineering books and over 300 scientific publications.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General, World Kashmir Awareness Forum was the Emcee of the event. Dr. Fai said that Kashmir, Palestine and Rohingya genocide are the three important international conflicts. We do not need to tell the Palestinians and Kashmiris what they want. They should be provided the full opportunity to decide whatever they want without any external pressure or compulsion. That choice was given to Palestinians under UN Security Council resolution # 43, 46 and 48 which were adopted in April 1948; and to Kashmiris under UN Security Council resolution # 47, adopted on April 21, 1948. The denial of the right to self-determination to the people of Palestine and Kashmir is a clear danger to the international peace and security.

Dr. Fai added that Rohingya genocide cannot and should not go unnoticed. More than 1 million Rohingya Muslims have fled and are living in refugee camps in different parts of the world. The pain and suffering of Rohingya Muslims are a challenge to the world conscience. Time has come that the United Nations need to intervene in all these three situations to bring peace to the region of South Asia and Middle East.

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International

Monday, September 4, 2023

Interfaith Harmony Conference promotes unity, tolerance among religions: Aneeq Ahmed

😂 Spokesman Report

scholars from diverse religious backgrounds converged at the Interfaith Harmony Conference recently held at the Pakistan National Council of the for followers of those respective faiths. Arts in the federal capital. The conference, organized by the Ministry of Reli- Mufti Muneeb suggested refraining gious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, served as a platform for prominent figures to advocate for unity, peace, and tolerance among different religious communities. Minister of Reli- emphasized that it stems from indigious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, opened the conference with a powerful message of unity. He refuge to individuals who commit blasstrongly condemned any distortion of faith and emphasized the need for all religions to come together.

Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, who also serves as the Pres- uel Khokhar, Sardar Santok Singh, ident of the International Interfaith and Archbishop Dr. Joseph Arshad, Harmony Council, shared valuable made significant contributions to the insights on the importance of reli- conference. They emphasized legisgious cohesion. He emphasized that lative measures to control religious cate for peaceful coexistence among all rials from national curricula, and the Tekin, Dr. Sarfaraz Awan, and Bishop

communities

Mufti Muneeb also stressed the ISLAMABAD: Religious leaders and importance of using appropriate terms, such as Christian for followers of Jesus Christ and specific terms like Jewish, Sikh, Hindu, and Buddhist In line with the spirit of inclusivity, from using the term 'infidel' if it carries negative connotations about certain groups. He challenged the notion that terrorism is tied to religion and vidual actions.

> He also cautioned against providing phemy against revered personalities or holy texts, emphasizing that such acts should not be tolerated. Several other el Khokhar stressed the importance faith leaders and scholars, including Bishop Sarfraz Peter, Pastor Emman-



need to shun discriminatory attitudes towards minority communities. Proposing an enabling environment across the nation, Pastor Emmanuof immediately stopping the teaching of hate material in educational institutions

In addition to these faith leaders. religious scholars and figures, including Dr. Abdul Qadir Haroon, Maulana Abdul Rauf, Air Marshal (retd) the teachings of Islam inherently advo-violence, the elimination of hate mate-Farhat Hussain Malik, Emil Darinoz

diverse range of diplomatic representatives, including those from the United Kingdom, United States of America, Japan, Austria, Italy, Germany, Poland, Turkiye, Indonesia, Turkmenistan, Sweden, Finland, Palestine, Jordan, Myanmar, Iraq, Switzerland, Mauritius, Kazakhstan, Norway, Maldives, and more.

Speakers emphasized that safeguarding these rights was not just

Nadeem Kamran, contributed their a legal obligation but a moral duty the faith leaders passed a unanimous insights during the conference. The aligned with the teachings of Islam. resolution, fostering interfaith harmoconference drew participation from a As the conference concluded, a resounding demand for accountability emerged, particularly concerning among all communities in Pakistan. the Jaranwala incident. Participants called for a thorough investigation and appropriate punishment for those found responsible, emphasizing that justice must prevail, regardless of religious affiliations, to maintain social harmony and uphold the principles of justice. In response to recent interfaith disturbances and acts of violence, ing inspiration.

The Spokesman 5

ny, promoting religious tolerance, and nurturing peaceful coexistence The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony successfully convened the 'Interfaith Harmony Conference,' bringing together faith leaders, religious scholars, diplomats, and individuals from all walks of life. The event demonstrated a united vision of unity and inclusivity, draw-

Pakistan High Commissioner pays a farewell call on the President of Bangladesh

👺 Spokesman Report

DHAKA: High Commissioner Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui paid a farewell call on the Honourable President of Bangladesh Mohammed Shahabuddin this afternoon.

The High Commissioner thanked the President and the Government of Bangladesh for the support and hospitality extended to him during his tenure in Bangladesh. High Commissioner Siddiqui hoped that relations between the two brotherly countries will further grow to the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.

The President appreciated the efforts of the High Commissioner for strengthening relations between the two countries and congratulated him on successful completion of his term in Bangladesh. The Honourable President reciprocated the greetings conveyed by the High Commissioner on behalf of the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi during the meeting.



Earlier, the High Commissioner held

farewell meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. AK Momen, Minister for Commerce Mr. Tipu Munshi and Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan.

During his call on the Foreign Minister, the two sides agreed to continue efforts to further improve bilateral relations.

Commerce Minister Mr. Munshi and the High Commissioner reviewed progress in bilateral commercial relations and agreed to further strengthen them by intensifying exchanges between the businesses in the days ahead

During the meeting with the Home Minister of Bangladesh, the progress achieved in the last three years in addressing consular issues including the release of prisoners was discussed. The Minister hoped that the successor of the High Commissioner would continue to build on the foundation created in the last over three years.

North Korea stages 'tactical nuclear attack' drill

➢ Reuters

North Korea conducted a simulated "tactical nuclear attack" drill on Saturday that included two long-range cruise missiles, state media reported on Sunday, as leader Kim Jong Un inspected shipbuilding and munitions factories.

The KCNA news agency said the drill was carried out early on Saturday to "warn enemies" that the country would be prepared in case of nuclear war as Pyongyang again vowed to bolster military deterrence against Washington and Seoul.

The two cruise missiles carrying mock nuclear warheads were fired towards the West Sea of the peninsula and flew 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) at a preset altitude of 150 meters.

A separate statement said Kim visited Pukjung Machine Complex, which produces marine engines, and a major munitions factory to stress the importance of strengthening Pyongyang's naval forces

"He affirmed that a future plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the WPK (Worker's Party of Korea) would set forth an important modernization of the complex and the development direction of the shipbuilding industry," the KCNA statement said.

The statement did not specify the date of his visit.

The latest missile test came just after the joint annual summertime exercises between South Korea and the U.S., known as Ulchi Freedom Shield, came to a close on Thursday after an 11-day run, featuring air drills with B-1B bombers.

North Korea has been stepping up its military deterrence against Washington and Seoul and has criticized last month's summit agreement between the two on improving military cooperations.

A KCNA statement on Aug. 21 said Kim recently visited a navy fleet stationed on the east coast to oversee a test of strategic cruise missiles aboard a warship, and stressed the ship would maintain striking power for combat situations.

Nigerian president recalls ambassadors worldwide

😂 News Desk

NIGERIA: President Bola Tinubu has ordered a recall of Nigeria's ambassadors the world over with said on Saturday.

"The president is determined to 11 consulates. ensure that world-class efficiency terize foreign and domestic service delivery to citizens, residents and prospective visitors alike," presidential spokesman Ajuri Ngelale said.

Nigeria's United Nations permaand Geneva are exempted from the month.

"total recall" due to the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) later in the month, Tinubu's office said in a statement.

Nigeria has 109 diplomatic immediate effect, his spokesman missions worldwide, comprising 76 embassies, 22 high commissions and

Tinubu, who has embarked on and quality, will henceforth, charac- the country's boldest reforms in decades, is scheduled to hold talks with U.S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the general assembly and also meet leaders from Brazil. India, South Korea and Germany nent representatives in New York during the G20 meeting later in the



Catheter Saved Saudi man from Abdominal Artery Rupture

😂 Spokesman Report

RIYADH: Surgeons in Al-Qasim (Central Saudi Arabia) saved the life of a man who suffered from an abnormal bulge in the aorta during a 3-hour surgery

Saudi Health stated that a team of vascular surgeons at King Fahad Specialist Hospital in Buraydah admitted on Thursday 31st August a man suffering from a severe pain in the abdominal and back areas. The results of medical tests showed a 7cm long ballooning in the aorta causing acute pain due to lumbar spinal stenosis.



Such a case has a high percentage of risk as the aorta is a main artery; it could be fatal in case of rupture.

The team decided to perform urgent surgery in which they used a catheter without any side effects. Post-surgery, the patient remains under observation at the ICU.

Pakistani postdoc: Using Chinese agricultural technology to increase Pakistan's grain production

😂 Xinhua

LANZHOU: Asfa Batool, a Pakistani postdoctoral fellow at Lanzhou University in northwest China's Gansu Province is continuing her dryland agricultural research in China in the hope of using her knowledge and technologies to increase the grain production of Pakistan.

Since Asfa came to Lanzhou University for her master degree in 2012 at the first time, she has spent about 11 years in the university where she earned her doctoral degree in ecology in 2018 and started postdoctoral research after her graduation from PhD.

Referring to studying in China, she was grateful to her advisor, Xiong Youcai, professor at the college of ecology of Lanzhou University, who once gave a lecture in her undergraduate studies at University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan and introduced Chinese dryland that she hopes that Chinese

technology.

She was inspired by Chinese agricultural technologies and expected to learn from him to change the current situation of

agriculture in Pakistan. Sponsored by Chinese Government Scholarship, she applied for a graduate student at Lanzhou University and started her graduate study following

professor Xiong in 2012. She has been engaging in research work focusing on agriculture and biotechnologies to improve plant growth and productivity.

"Chinese dryland agricultural technology provides a potential innovative approach to upgrade the productivity of crops in arid and semi-arid regions, and a key solution to boost the agricultural production system and Lanzhou University is a well-known institute in China for agriculture studies. That's why I chose the university," said Asfa, adding

in Pakistan because dry areas in yield and the crop productivi-Pakistan need more attention where the crops only depends on rainfall.

According to Xiong Youcai, Chinese dryland agricultural technology can not only avoid resource waste and effectively save water but also improve soil fertility and reduce evaporation

at the soil surface. The most important thing is that this technology is easy to be

practiced and costs less. With Xiong's support such as helping her set up research objectives and providing lab facilities and the funding projects provided by Lanzhou University. Asfa did a lot of research on wheat and maize including split root experiments to study the role of phytohormones in drought stress. She also applied Chinese water-saving technology to maize and wheat planting

experiments in Pakistan. "I did that how flat planting and ridge furrow planting can agriculture and water saving technologies will be practiced help Pakistan to increase the

ty there. I compared Chinese technology with the local planting technology. I also especially focused on the poor people like local farmers how they can increase their yield and get benefits from Chinese technology," said Asfa.

She is quite sure that China's ridge and furrow mulching technology, a part of dryland agriculture, can produce more yield than flat planting. When she practiced the technology in experimental fields in dry areas in Pakistan, she was confident that she got very good results there.

She also visited many places in Gansu Province where local farmers implemented the water saving technology to get a harvest and feed their families.

For her, China is really making unremitting efforts to bring out the poor people to have a good life. "That's Pakistan needs," Asfa said, adding that she really wants to bring Chinese agricultural



technology back to Pakistan to benefit more local farmers and improve their life quality.

Besides learning technologies, she focused on theoretical research. She has proposed and demonstrated several novel design techniques with number of high quality journal publications in the reputed peer-reviewed journals.

Moreover, she also worked in collaboration with scientists in China, Africa, Australia and Pakistan as a bridge. She helped arrange many international forums and meetings hosted by Lanzhou University because she is well in both Chinese and English, let alone her mother language Urdu.

participants about their accommodation and participation in the forum and facilitate them regarding daily needs. Lanzhou University trusts on her for every matter related to this.

In this April, 2023 Forum of University Alliance of the Belt and Road was held in Lanzhou University.

Asfa did a lot of volunteer work, including managing participants' invitation letters and visa letters and facilitating them regarding their presentation and other official meetings at the university.

"These were all impressive experiences because they provides a platform for me to share and communicate different ideas among the people who come from different parts of the world," said Asfa.

Asfa is eager to implement Chinese agricultural technologies to Pakistan after graduation and she thinks that China and Pakistan should join hands and According to Asfa, she helped collaborate more in more fields.

The Spokesman

Economy/Commerce

Monday, September 4, 2023

NBP offers financial services to promote international trade: Shaikh Shariq



😂 News Desk

BEIJING: The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has set up a stall in the Pakistan Pavilion at the China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFTIS) to offer financial services to more and more clients in China and other countries to promote trade among them, Chief Representative, Shaikh Muhammad Shariq said on Sunday.

"CIFTIS is one of the largest exhibitions in China and we are participating in the exhibition by setting up our stall.

With this exhibition, we want to connect more and more businessmen and traders and the financial institutions to expand our business and offer our services to more and more clients," he told to media.

He said that this exhibition is related to trade in services which is one of the major components of the economy of any country.

Hence, this exhibition will play a significant role in increasing the bilateral trade and investment between Pakistan and China as well as other countries.

Shaikh Shariq informed that the bank is already providing a number of financial services to customers not only in China but in 17 countries around the globe.

Pakistani firms like Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEI, National Logistic Corporation (NLC), Fb Enterprises and others have also set up booths to attract investors at CIFT-IS, which takes place in Beijing from September 2 to 6.

Durable peace must for development of

Organizational health and safety is very important for exporters: Dr. Gohar Ijaz

🐞 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Commerce, Production and Industry Dr. Gohar Ijaz said that it is important that Pakistani exporters comply with all the laws of International Labor Standards. Progressive implementation of international labor standards, including occupational safety and health standards, is essential to achieve the goals of increasing exports. He was talking to a delegation consisting of Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) President Malik Tahir Javed, Chairman Central Mian Akram Farid, former President Majeed Aziz in his office in Islamabad. The initiative and the attitude of exporters will enhance Pakistan's case to the EU for the next grant of GSP Plus.

He assured that the government is fully committed to providing an enabling ecosystem to exporters and advised the EFP to encourage all its member members to comply with all the

conditions. Empires Federation of Pakistan has arranged for employers. President Malik Tahir Javed said that the Employers Federation of Pakistan is giving an award to such businesses on December 25 in Karachi, which have taken measures related to the elimination of child labor, the safety and health of industrial workers, and others.. S, H laws, he further informed that the Empires Federation of Pakistan is leading the private sector in matters of elimination of child labour, employment, labor legislation, social security, etc.

He invited the Federal Minister as guest in the program Invited for special participation, Chairman Central Mian Akram Farid also advised the Federal Minister to start the process of visiting chambers in all major cities and said that as the leader of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, if she came at the first opportunity. They will get honor if they visit CCI. Expensive electricity is an injustice



to traders and people, they kept saying that bring a new policy for overseas Pakistanis, it will increase remittances, the problem will not be solved until the government consults with

traders and industrialists, the department official added. If not, no businessman can steal electricity.

He said that the government should not increase the price so much that the consumers cannot pay the bills, free electricity supply to government employees and officers should be stopped, power plant owners should meet with the power plant owners. Prices should be brought down, businesses cannot run due to unaffordable expensive electricity.

President Global Compact Network Pakistan Majeed Aziz told the Federal Minister that Global Compact Network Pakistan's awareness campaign to follow the ten principles of the international agreement. He added that it is important that the government works with employer organizations to establish practical policies and institutional frameworks to promote a safety culture and ensure full compliance with all standards.

tries." About discounts, he

said, "PIA offers a 20 percent

discount for students with

free baggage of 80 kgs for

economy class and 100 kgs for

executive economy respective-

ly on flights between Pakistan

and China." "The passengers

can avail further discounts if

tickets are purchased online,"

"We have also offered

discounts on cargo from

China to Pakistan and vice

versa and businessmen and

traders could benefit from it,"

he added. "Pakistani commu-

nity especially businessmen

and students living in China

have expressed pleasure over

discounts." Talking to APP, Ali Imran, a Pakistani education-

ist in Hangzhou said, "The

connected flights to different

destinations in China are a

big relief and it provides great

convenience to the passengers

traveling between the two

he said.

GCNP event on Target Gender Equality

ISLAMABAD: Majyd Aziz, President Global Compact Network Pakistan, presenting crest to Chief Guest Malik Tahir Javaid, President Employers Federation of Pakistan, at the GCNP event on Target Gender Equality. Mian Akram Farid, Former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Hina Mansab Khan, Chairperson Women Chambers Council, Fiza Farhan, Advisor to UN Secretary General, GCNP team members Samreen Shaikh and Zainab Fatima are also seen in the picture.



PIA offers connected flights to 16 destinations in China via Beijing

😂 Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has introduced connected flights between Pakistan and 16 captivating cities of China via Beijing in partnership with Air China, PIA Country Manager, Bilal Afzal said on Sunday. These Chinese cities include Guangzhou, Wuhan, Urumqi, Shenzhen, Xian, Shenyang, Shanghai, Ningbo, Nanjing, Harbin, Hangzhou, Hohhot, Dunhuang, Chengdu, Changchun, and Chongqing, he told to media on the sidelines of China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFTIS) in Beijing. PIA has set up a booth in Pakistan Pavilion at CIFTIS to showcase its accomplishments, particularly the role played by the national flag carrier to promote people-to-people contacts between the people of Pakistan and China. He said that the passen-

He said that the discount gers could also travel from 16 on fare and cargo service rities in China to Islamabad would greatly facilitate

brotherly countries.

SAARC countries



😂 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday strongly advocated the cause of achieving durable peace in the region, an essential prerequisite for economic growth, prosperity, and development for all countries of South Asia

Chairing a virtual conference on 'The role of Afghanistan for durable peace in the region' he said, "South Asia has long been plagued by instability and conflicts that have hindered the region's progress and potential," said a press release.

"One of the major concerns contributing to this instability has been the presence of terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, which have posed a severe threat not only to Afghanistan but to neighboring countries, including Pakistan," he added.

He said, "Counter-terrorism cooperation and collaboration closely with regional and international stakeholders, especially Pakistan, to eliminate terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, can help eradicate the breeding grounds for extremist elements and bring about much-needed stability."

About economic integration, he said, "We must embrace economic integration initiatives within the South Asian region and enhanced economic cooperation can create an environment conducive to peace, prosperity, and development for all."

He said being trade leader of South Asia he firmly believed that by taking these steps, the Afghan Taliban government could play a pivotal role in shaping a more secure and prosperous South Asia, as this, in turn, would foster economic growth, improve living standards, and create a brighter future for all nations in the region.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said, "We remain committed to supporting any positive efforts towards peace and development in South Asia and are hopeful that, Afghanistan can become a beacon of hope and stability for the entire region."

He hoped that Afghanistan would flush out all armed militants' sanctuaries on their soil.

RCCI to organize business opportunities conference in Cairo, Egypt

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is taking a delegation of the Pakistani business community to Cairo, Egypt, for Pakistan- Egypt Business Opportunities Conference on September 7.

RCCI president Saqib Rafiq in a statement informed that the trade volume between Pakistan and Egypt is close to \$400 million which can be increased to one billion dollars in couple of years and added that by enhancing trade cooperation with Egypt, Pakistan can get easy access to many African markets including Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Algeria.

Saqib Rafiq, said that with participation from esteemed Egyptian businessmen, the event is primed to set a new precedent in fostering bilateral economic growth and partnerships. He urged that both sides should focus on developing strong linkages between their private sectors in order to explore all untapped areas of trade promotion.

The conference, organized by RCCI, will witness the convergence of visionary entrepreneurs from both Pakistan and Egypt, he added.

He further added that on the sidelines of the Business Opportunity Conference, Business-to-business (B2B) meetings will



also be held. This will provide an exclusive platform for delegates to establish meaningful connections and nurture potential partnerships, he remarked.

Prior to the conference, the RCCI leadership had a pivotal meeting with Tariq Muhammad Dehroug, the Egyptian Ambassador to Pakistan, Sameh Ahmed El Ghamrawi, Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Mohamed Saad, Egyptian Defense Attaché.

ty to discuss the substantial strides made in preparation for the event and highlight the monumental business prospects that await both nations, he added.

With a delegation numbering in the hundreds, RCCI's efforts stand as a testament to its commitment to fostering economic growth and international collaborations. The Business Opportunities Conference in Cairo signifies a significant milestone in creating lasting partnerships These meetings served as an opportuni- that transcend geographical boundaries.

by availing of this offer. "PIA Pakistani professionals and is currently operating one students to meet their families weekly flight on the Islama- more frequently. The passenbad-Beijing-Islamabad route gers could also avail increase every Sunday but working in baggage allowance during on a plan to add a new direct their travelling between the flight between the two coun- two countries.

Over 3m bales of cotton arrival recorded at ginneries till Aug 31 in Pakistan

😂 🛛 Bureau Report

MULTAN: Seed Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over three million (30,41,104) bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till Aug 31, 2023.

According to a fortnightly report of Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) issued to media on Sunday, Punjab ginning factories recorded a cotton arrival figure of 10,68796 bales while arrivals to ginneries in Sindh recorded at (19,72,308) bales including 11,84,243 reaching ginneries in Sanghar district alone. Arrivals in Baluchistan were according to the report.



recorded at 70,600 bales Out of the total arrivals, seed cotton converted into bales was recorded at 2.8 million (28,61,106) bales.

Exporters have bought 168,726 bales of cotton in total while textile mills bought total of over 2.6 million (26,15,271) bales. The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has not yet started procuring cotton,

World Intellectual Property Organization registers Sindhri, Chaunsa mango as Pakistan's products

腾 Spokesman Report

HYDERABAD: The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) the registration around a year ago, has registered a Geographical Indi- informed here on Sunday that the Mohsin Bullo of Trade Development cation of Sindhri and Chaunsa varieties of mangoes which have been recognized as the products of Sindh, Pakistan. Pakistan.

President of Sindh Abadgar Board, video link, attended by IPO Pakicrucial milestone had been achieved thanks to the cooperation of IPO

Mehmood Nawaz Shah, Vice also held in this regard through a which spearheaded the activity for stan's Chairman Farrukh Aamil, Consultant WIPO Noor Asifa, Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and office bearers of SAB.

Shah said the meeting discussed He apprised that a meeting was the export-related benefits of the



geographical indication.

The meeting was told that no Sindhri and Chaunsa varieties of mango other than Pakistan.

The meeting, according to Shah, referred to the ongoing dispute over the fruit's export.

Basmati rice between Pakistan and India and expressed hope that such other country could lay a claim on a dispute over the 2 varieties would never crop up.

The SAB's Vice President said the registration would also help enhance

Sports

Monday, September 4, 2023

The Spokesman

Dinesh Karthik lauds Pak pacers

😂 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Indian cricketer-turned-commentator Dinesh Karthik has praised formidable Pakistan pacers, Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah for the top notch display in the Pakistan-India match which was called-off without any result due to rain. Karthik lauded the trio for their ability to consistently bowl at speeds exceeding 90 miles per hour, a feat that sets them apart from others. When asked to pick between Pakistan and Indian pace trio (Mohammad Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Siraj), Karthik chose the Men in Green. "Shaheen, Haris Rauf and Naseem can bowl 90+ consistently and all three are very different in nature. Shaheen Shah obviously the left-armer, has an angle to it and brings the ball



both ways, Haris is arguably one of the cricketpakistan.com.pk. Karthik said of an inning because of his skid and the

best bowlers right now at the back end he would feel more comfortable facing the Indian bowling attack comprising nasty bouncer that he's got," Karthik Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, back in, Naseem Shah swings the ball said talking on Cricbuzz as quoted by and Mohammad Shami on flat wick-

Three-member BCCI delegation to visit Pakistan tomorrow

😂 Sports Desk

LAHORE: A three-member Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) delegation will reach Pakistan tomorrow via Wagah Border amid the ongoing Asia Cup 2023.

According to the details, BCCI President Roger Binny will lead the delegation which will also feature BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla on their important visit to Pakistan.

The BCCI delegation will discuss matters of mutual interest with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials before watching the Asia Cup 2023 fixture between Sri Lanka and Afghanistan at the picturesque Gaddafi Stadium.

The delegation will also be attending an official dinner at the Governor's House.

Earlier this week, Chairman of the PCB Manage-



ment Committee Zaka Vice President are coming Ashraf announced that to Pakistan for the openthe BCCI President and ing ceremony of Asia Cup," vice-president will visit Zaka Ashraf said. "We welcome everyone who is Pakistan. While talking to the coming to Pakistan [during

media at Gaddafi Stadium Asia Cup]." He also showed confiduring the national men's dence and faith in the Pakiteam's jersey unveiling ceremony for the upcoming stan team and expressed his ICC Men's Cricket World hope that the national team Cup 2023, Zaka Ashraf will continue the recent welcomed the players and good form and perform officials who are visiting well at the Asia Cup as well Pakistan for the Asia Cup. as the upcoming ICC "BCCI President and World Cup in India. as the upcoming ICC Men's

"Our team is currently united and performing well, and consequently is number one in the ODI team rankings," he said.

"Looking at the recent performances of the team, it is hoped that our team will be successful in the World Cup, however, at the moment all the attention is focused on the Asia Cup," he added.

Talking about the recently unveiled Pakistan jersey for the World Cup, he said: "The Star Nation Jersey bears witness to the enduring bond between our cricketers and the passionate fans who stand by them through every match. This jersey encapsulates our rich cricketing heritage and the luminous future that awaits.

Asia Cup 2023: Miraz, Shanto hit tons as Bangladesh set Afghanistan to chase 335

ets, rather than the Pakistan trio. He reasoned that the bounce generated by the Pakistan bowlers, would pose a greater challenge.

"For me they are a far more potent attack on flat wickets. If there is something in the pitch then both attacks at all times become very equal but if I had to play an attack I have a feeling, I have a better chance of probably playing Jasprit, Bumrah, Siraj and Shami only because the bounce they'll get will be slightly lesser than what these three other bowlers can do from Pakistan," he further said.

On Saturday, the Pakistan trio scripted history by becoming the first set of pacers to claim all 10 wickets in an Asia Cup (ODI). However, the match was called-off without any result due to heavy showers but Pakistan qualified for super four stage.

Jasprit Bumrah to miss India-Nepal Asia Cup 2023 fixture

😂 Sports Desk

India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah on Sunday flew back home due to personal reasons and will miss the team's group match against Nepal in the Asia Cup 2023, a source told AFP.

Rain looms over the final Group A fixture in Pallekele on Monday, a match which will decide the second team after Pakistan to move into the Super Four Stage of the 50-over tournament.

India's opening match against arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday was abandoned after just one innings due to rain, which is threatening to disrupt more games in the tournament seen as a tune-up to the upcoming World Cup in India.

Even if Monday's match is washed out India will enter the next stage as they shared points with Pakistan, who thrashed Nepal in the Asia Cup 2023 opener.

Jasprit Bumrah, who has returned to the team after a long injury lay-off and made 16 with the bat in India's 266 all out, is expected to be back by the next match.

Asia Cup 2023: Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by 89 runs

A.S. Natural Stone U-13 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament from today

🐞 Sports Desk

KARACHI: The opening ceremony of the A. S. Natural Stone Under-13 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament begins on Monday (today) 4th September at KCCA Stadium.

On this occasion Abdul Sattar Proprieter A. S. Natural Stone will be the Chief Guest and inaugurate the Tournament at 1.00 pm

While Nadeem Omar President RCAK Preside over the Ceremony.

This was announced by Jawed Ahmed Khan Secretary RCAK yesterday.

All the selected players are advised to report along with Zonal officials on Monday with proper White Kit at KCCA Stadium at 1.00 pm to M. Touseef Siddiqui Joint Secretary and Khalid Nafees Chairman Tournament Committee.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of A. S. Natural Stone in which 16 Zonal teams, Monday at 2 from each Zone and 3 teams from Zone 2 and 7 are taking part in this tournament.

PFF name squad for AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers



🐞 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has announced the men's squad which will travel to Bahrain on Monday for AFC U23 Asian Cup 2024 Qualifiers, starting from September 6.

The 23 players include Goalkeepers: Salman ul Haq, Hassan Ali and Usman Ali; Defenders: Mohammad Sohail, Mohib Ullah, Haseeb Ahmed Khan, Mohammad Sufyan, Syed Abdullah Shah, Mamoon Moosa Khan, Saeed Khan and Abdullah Iqbal; Midfielders: Mohammad Hayan Khattak, Mohammad Taha, Zaid Umar, Nizam Uddin, Alamgir Ghazi and Harun Hamid; Forwards: Shayak Dost, Moin Ahmed, Mohammad Waheed, Mohammad Waleed, Hamza Ahmed and Fareed Ullah.

Pakistan was placed in Group D of the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qatar 2024 Qualifiers alongside Bahrain, hosts, Japan, 2016 winners, and Palestine.

Pakistan will kick off its campaign against Japan on Septem-ber 6, while they will take on Bahrain and Palestine on September 9 and 12, respectively.

MMA: Anita Karim bags big win for Pakistan in Legends Fighting Championship

fighter Anita Karim scored a memorable victory for the coun-



Pakistan team reaches Lahore for Asia Cup Super 4s match

LAHORE: The Pakistan cricket team on Sunday reached here via a chartered flight from Colombo to partake in the Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s fixture against either Afghanistan or Bangladesh, scheduled on Wednesday.

Upon their arrival, the national team will enjoy a rest day tomorrow before hitting the nets at the Lahore City Cricket Association (LCCA) Ground on Tuesday, September 5 to prepare for their only Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s stage match on the home soil.

Before starting the training, a squad member will hold the pre-match press conference.

Pakistan will play either Bangladesh or Afghanistan in the first Super 4s match on Wednesday, September 6, provided they qualify for the over Nepal and a washed-out game next round.

Bangladesh and Afghanistan are squaring off at Gaddafi Stadium, on September 4 in a bid to join Paki-Lahore today. If Bangladesh loses today, they will be knocked out of the Asia Cup, having lost the previous game against defending champions Sri Lanka.

their spot in the Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s stage as they finished their group- yesterday. stage campaign with three points in



two matches after a dominant victory against arch-rivals India yesterday. Meanwhile, India next face Nepal

stan in the Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s. Pakistan's pace-packed bowling attack booked India on 266 in the first innings after Ishan Kishan and Hardik Pandya's half-centu-Pakistan on the other side secured ries before persistent rain washed out the high-octane Asia Cup clash

Pakistan squad for the Asia Cup to chase 335

2023: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Abdullah Shafique, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Haris (wk), Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi and Usama Mir

Traveling Reserve: Tayyab Tahir Asia Cup 2023: Miraz, Shanto hit tons as Bangladesh set Afghanistan

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Bangladesh defeated Afghanistan by 89 runs in the fourth match of the Asia Cup at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore on Sunday.

Chasing a target of 335 runs, Afghanistan bowled out for 245 runs in the 45th over. Ibrahim Zadran scored 75 runs while Afghan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi made 51 runs.

Bangladesh's Taskin Ahmed took four wickets while Shoriful Islam grabbed three wickets to help beating Afghanistan in the important game.

Earlier, after winning toss, Bangladesh opted to bat first. Two centuries from Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Najmul Hossain Shanto helped Bangladesh to pile huge runs on the board. Miraz scored 112 off 119 balls. He hit seven fours and three sixes.

Najmul scored 104 from 105 balls. He smashed nine boundaries and two sixes. Earlier, Sri Lanka defeated Bangladesh by 5 wickets in the first match.

try by winning against her Thai opponent in the Legend Fighting

Championship on Sunday.

Competing in the 52 kilogramme category, Karim in the second round of the fight, managed to secure a rear naked choke (RNC) against her Thai opponent and won the fight by way of submission.

The mixed martial arts (MMA) star who hails from Hunza, is a testament to her resilience, hard work and utmost dedication to the sport.

The win is all the more significant as despite having an immense talent pool, Pakistan lacks a comprehensive support structure at the grassroots level with regard to MMA.

Karim's win at the Legend Fighting Championship would not only work a as beacon of hope among many youngsters who aspire to become an MMA icon, but it is also a testament to the potential and talent that lies across the country and with proper support and guidance, who knows how many champions Pakistan can produce.

It is pertinent to know that the inaugural 2023 edition of the National Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Championship organised under the banner of the Pakistan Mixed Martial Arts Federation. is scheduled to commence at Pakistan Sports Board Karachi Center on September 8 next week.

The event will span for three days culminating on September 10. Pakistan Mixed Martial Arts is affiliated with the Global Association of Mixed Martial Arts (GAMMA).

The 2023 National MMA Championship is expected to witness a thrilling spectacle, with fighters from all corners of Pakistan competing to etch their names in the annals of combat sports history.

PAKW vs SAW: Pakistan edge South Africa to seal T20I series

b A Sports

KARACHI: Sidra Ameen's 61-run knock after a tight bowling display powered Pakistan Women to a comfortable seven-wicket victory over South Africa in the second PAKW vs SAW T20I on Sunday.

Set to chase 151 in the second PAK vs SAW T20I, Pakistan comfortably completed the pursuit for the loss of just three wickets and five balls to spare.

The hosts, however, got off to a contrasting start to the run match-winning 54-run stand chase as they lost their young and scored at a brisk rate. opener Shawaal Zulfiqar (4) with just 23 runs on the board in four overs.

Another opener Sidra Ameen was then joined by experienced Bismah Maroof and the pair soon launched a brilliant recovery, adding 68 runs for 26, laced up with two boundarthe second wicket before both ies and a six.

perished in successive overs as Pakistan slipped to 102/3 in the

15th over. Bismah scored a cautious 26-ball 27, hitting a boundary while Sidra Ameen top-scored with her career-best 61 in 44 balls with the help of six boundaries and a six.

Following back-to-back dismissals, wicketkeeper batter Muneeba Ali and Aliya Riaz kept Pakistan in the hunt with a crucial partnership.

The pair put together a

Aliya Riaz, who scored the winning runs with a mighty six on the first delivery of the final over, scored an unbeaten 31 off

18 deliveries. Whereas, Muneeba Ali remained not out with a 15-ball

bowling attack for South Africa with 2/20, followed by Delmi Tucker, who had one wicket to her name.

Put into bat first in the second PAKW vs SAW T20I, the touring side once again raised 150/3 on the board with their openers Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin

Brits leading the charge. The in-form openers frustrated Pakistan bowlers with a solid

first-wicket partnership as they added 74 runs before Nashra Sandhu got a much-needed breakthrough in the form of the South African captain.

Wolvaardt was once again unlucky as she missed her well-deserved half-century by just nine runs.

She scored 46 off 34 deliveries with the help of six boundaries. Wolvaardt's Following dismissal, Brits was joined at the

Nonkululeko Mlaba led the crease by Marizanne Kapp and the pair knitted a crucial 37-run stand until the latter perished in the 17th over.

She top-scored for South Africa in the second PAK vs SAW T20I as well with a 48-ball 46, laced up with two boundaries and a six.

With both set batters back into the hut, Kapp and Nadine de Klerk bolstered South Africa's total at the backend.

The duo, however, could put together a mere 19-run stand as Kapp got run out in the 19th over. She scored 26 off 24 deliveries, hitting two boundaries.

Meanwhile, Klerk stood his ground firm and carried his bat all the way through for an unbeaten 21 off 11 which featured four boundaries.

For Pakistan Women, only Nashra Sandhu and Sadia Iqbal could pick up a wicket apiece.

