ر صحیح بناری: حدیث نبر 6026). **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Bilawal warns against 'any new experiment', demands polls on time

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday warned against 'any new experiment' on people of Pakistan and demanded elections within the constitutional limit of 90 days. Speaking to journalists in Karachi, the former foreign minister asked 'people who want to impose puppets onto the country' that stop conducting such experiments on people of Pakistan and let them make their own decisions.



UN ready to help victims of deadly Morocco earthquake: Guterres

UN Secretary-General expressed his profound sadness over the leadly earthquake that struck central Morocco late Friday night essed that the UN was ready to assist the Government in any way needed, to help those impacted. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safarul Muzaffar 23, Monday, September 10, 2023







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Morocco Earthquake



Powerful quake in Morocco kills more than 1,000 people and damages historic buildings in Marrakech

Spokesman Report

MARRAKECH, MOROCCO: A rare, powerful earthquake struck Morocco, sending people racing from their beds into the streets and toppling buildings in mountainous villages and ancient cities not built to withstand such force. More than 1,000 people were killed, and the toll was expected to rise as rescuers struggled Saturday to reach hard-hit remote areas where the dead were buried even as desperate efforts were underway to save those trapped.

The magnitude-6.8 quake, the biggest to hit the North African country in 120 years, sent people fleeing their homes in terror and disbelief late Friday. One man damaged, but the extent was not immedisaid dishes and wall hangings began raining down, and people were knocked off their feet. The enormity of the destruction came into view in the daylight.

The quake brought down walls made from stone and masonry not constructed

Solangi grieved

over huge loss

in Morocco

earthquake

跨 City Desk

of life, property

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker

Federal Minister of Infor-

mation and Broadcasting

(MOIB) MurtazaSolan-

gi Saturday expressed deep grief over the huge loss of

life and property caused by

the earthquake in Morocco.

ter said he was grieved by

earthquake. "The Govern-

ment of Pakistan, the Care-

taker Prime Minister, and

the nation stand with the

people of Morocco in this

difficult time," Solangi said.

nation's prayers were with

the brotherly people and

all possible support to the

Moroccan brothers and

The minister said that the

the loss of precious lives and destruction due to the

In a statement, the minis

to endure quakes, covering whole communities with rubble and leaving residents picking their way precariously through

A tent typically used for celebrations was erected for shelter in the center of the impoverished mountain community of Moulay Brahim, where homes made of clay and brick were largely left uninhabitable. Fathers sobbed into phones telling loved ones about losing their children. Bodies covered with blankets lay in the health center next to a mosque as doctors pulled shards from people's feet and treated surface wounds.

Marrakech's famous Koutoubia Mosque, built in the 12th century, was ately clear. Its 69-meter (226-foot) minaret is known as the "roof of Marrakech." Moroccans also posted videos showing damage to parts of the famous red walls that surround the old city, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



At least 1,037 people died, mostly in Marrakech and five provinces near the quake's epicenter, and another 1,204 people were injured, Morocco's Interior Ministry reported Saturday morning. The ministry wrote that 721 of the injured were in critical condition.

In a sign of the huge scale of the disaster. Morocco's King Mohammed VI ordered the armed forces to specialized search and rescue teams and a surgical field hospital, according to a statement from the military.

The king said he would visit the hardest hit area Saturday, but despite an outpouring of offers of help from around the world, the Moroccan government had not formally asked for assistance, a step required before outside rescue crews could deploy.

Ayoub Toudite said he had been working out with friends at a gym in Moulay Brahim, which is carved into a mountainside south of Marrakech, when "we felt a huge shake like it was doomsday." In 10 econds, he said, everything was gone.

"We are all terrified that this happens again," said Toudite, who made a desperate plea on social media to send more ambulances to the area.

PM expresses grief over loss of lives in Morocco earthquake

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-HaqKakar Saturday expressed his grief over loss of lives in a severe earthquake that jolted

The prime minister expressed condolences to the government and the people of Morocco, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release issued here.

He expressed solidarity with the government and the people support to the quake-strick- math of deadly quake.

Meanwhile: "We have also conveved our offer of assistance to Morocco," Spokesperson Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a press statement, on Saturday. Pakistan Embassy in Rabat has reached out to the Pakistani community to inquire about their safety. "As per initial reports all Pakistani nationals are safe. We will continue to monitor the situation to facilitate them in the wake of this tragedy," she of Morocco in this difficult added. Pakistan stands in solitime and extended all possible darity with Morocco in after-

Soldier embraces martyrdom in Mir Ali fire exchange with terrorists

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of Pakistan Army on Saturday embraced martyrdom while gallantly fighting with terrorists during an exchange of fire security forces and terrorists

was identified as Lance Naik Jamshed Khan (age 28 years, resident of District Upper Dir), having fought gallantly, embraced, Shahadat, during intense exchange of fire.

Sanitization of the area was that took place between the being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in in the general area of Mir Ali, the area. "Security Forces North Waziristan District. of Pakistan are determined According to the Inter Servic- to eliminate the menace of es Public Relations (ISPR), terrorism and such sacrifices the Army troops effective- of our brave soldiers further ly engaged terrorists' loca-strengthen our resolve," the tion. The martyred soldier ISPR said.

Apex Committee of SIFC focuses on efforts to improve business, investment climate



ISLAMABAD: Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) resumed the proceedings of the 5th Apex Committee meeting on Saturday here, focusing on efforts to improve business and investment climate in the country.

The second session was arranged to seek input from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Information Technology & Telecommunications, National Food Security & Research, and Water Resources for improving the business and investment climate in the Country.

The meeting was chaired by the caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-HaqKakar and attended by the Chief of

Army Staff, Federal Cabinet, Provincial Chief Ministers and high-level government officials. Ministries presented comprehensive plans, covering milestones, timelines and solutions to overcome major challenges. The committee unanimous-

ly decided to take all decisions in the larger interest of the Country and deal with the menace of smuggling, hoarding and market manipulations with iron hands through an elaborate enforcement mechanism.

The Prime Minister directed the ministries to optimally utilize the short interim period for a positive contribution while also initiating medium and long-term policy interventions.

Crackdown against smuggling, hoarding continues in Sindh

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: As part of the ongoing campaign against smuggling and hoarding in the country, a crackdown was conducted on Saturday against profiteers in different parts of Sindh. During the raids, 43983 bags of fertilizers were confiscated in Naushero Feroze. The fertilizer included both Urea

and DAP. Similarly in Sukkur, the law enforcement agencies seized 4000 bags of Urea while they recovered 23000 bags of wheat in Ghotki. While in another operation, 550 bags of sugar were seized in Noushero Feroze.

The countrywide operation against illegal activities and hoarding would continue in the coming days and weeks.

Country Director World Bank calls on the Minister for Finance

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Country Director World Bank called on Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatization, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar. They discussed and reviewed $the\, overall\, performance\, of\, the\, World$ Bank ongoing portfolio in Pakistan, and different options were discussed to further expand collaboration in different priority areas to help boost the economic activities in the coun-

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, while welcoming the World Bank team, reiterated that Pakistan values its Economic Affairs and Privatization, Policy Financing Program, which development partnership with World Bank. She appreciated the efforts of the World Bank management, especially the country team in Islamabad in the economic development of Pakistan.

The Country Director World Bank government of Morocco. He Mr. Najy Binhassine, while briefing the Finance Minister on ongoing said, "Pakistan will provide portfolio, indicated that the World sisters at this difficult time."

is making efforts to not only improve the implementation performance of the ongoing portfolio but also to maximize the volume of disbursement of foreign resources. He indicated that the joint efforts are targeting disbursements of around US\$2.0 billion during the current financial year, i.e., 2023-24.

The Country Director briefed the Bank Management, in collaboration Finance Minister on the progress with Ministry of Finance, Revenue, under the RISE-II Development emergency needs of the country.

has recently been negotiated by the World Bank with EAD. The Finance Minister commend-

ed the immediate support of the World Bank during the 2022-Floods. However, considering the enormous post flood rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of the country, the Finance Minister asked the Country Director for extending further World Bank support to better cope with the

Naqvi visits Kot Lakhpat Fail

CM Mohsin

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Kot Lakhpat Jail today and inaugurated utility store established in the jail to provide real relief to the prisoners for the first in history of Punjab. With the establishment of a utility store the exploitative system of decades old of the jail canteen has been eliminated. The prisoners can purchase quality edibles on subsidized rates from the utility store while jail staff members can also purchase from the utility store. Earlier, todav an agreement has been signed between the Punjab government and utility stores corporation at Kot Lakhpat Jail for the establishment of utility stores in other prisons of

Joint Naval Exercises

Royal Saudi Naval Forces officials being briefed onboard PNS SAIF by Pakistan Navy officials during Joint Naval Exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XIV between Pakistan Navy (PN) and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF) comenced at Al Jubail, Saudi



Joint Naval Exercises Naseem Al Bahr & Deraa Al Sahil commences at Saudi Arabian Waters

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Major joint Naval Exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XIV and Deraa Al Sahil between Pakistan Navy (PN) and Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) commenced

and enhance interoperabil- MUHAFIZ reached Al Jubail maritime drills include range traditional & non-traditional Saudi Arabia. warfare domains.

at Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia. cises, PN Flotilla comprising Marines of both the navies, nars, simulators training, The exercises are aimed to Pakistan Navy Ships SAIF, helicopters and aircraft of exchange visits and coordinaconsolidate bilateral relations HIMMAT, DEHSHAT and Royal Saudi Air Force are tion meetings prior conduct

ity between the two navies port of Saudi Arabia. The and Special Ops Forces. The ships were warmly welcomed by senior RSNF officials and of naval operations covering Pakistan's Diplomatic Staff at

For participation in exer- Special Operations Forces &

participating in the exercises. During the harbour phase, both sides exchanged views on professional subjects and finalised the planning of sea exercises. Harbour phase In addition to Naval Ships, activities included workshops on tactical procedures, semi-

of exercises at sea.

Exercise Naseem Al Bahr is biennial naval exercise that has evolved over three decades. The exercise is a manifestation of Pak-Saudi strategic relations and mutual resolve to enhance cooperation in naval domain to jointly deal maritime chal-

Expensive IPPs contracts during the Nawaz Sharif govt should be publicly held accountable: Sirajul Haq

Asim Tanveer

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Amer-e Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq while addressing a public meeting in Rahim Yar Khan said that those responsible for the expensive IPPs contracts during the Nawaz Sharif government should be publicly held accountable. The last five years were the most difficult period for the people. Institutions were weakened, justice and law were flouted.

The previous governments of PDM, People's Party and PTI handcuffed the people by making voluntary agreements with the IMF, the continuation of the policies is still there, the electricity bills have become death certificates, for the first time in the history of the Chinese country, double century. Crossed, the rarity of commodities and sky-high prices in an agricultural country. What is the status of on for 75 years, the nation is the voice of the people's rights



mafias, hoarders and smugglers, who have the backing of every government? Mafias invest in political parties and in their power. After coming, it is received many times, the neck of the people is strangled for looting

This series has been going

not ready to bear more cruelty. and the hope of the country, There can be no improvement in the debt economy and the usurious system. Relief should be given to the people, we demand an immediate reduction in the electricity tariff, food and petrol prices should be reduced, Jamaat-e-Islami is

we will continue the peaceful protest movement in any case. Until the people's demands are fulfilled, the goal of our struggle is Islamic Welfare Pakistan. Will bring development and prosperity in South Punjab

The people of the region were cheated by the so-called

big political parties, oppressive landlords, the farmer of South Punjab is worried, the agriculturally rich region has become a place of deprivation. People of South Punjab support Jamaat-e-Islami for real change. He expressed these views while addressing a public meeting in Rahim Yar Khan.

During the three-day tour of South Punjab, Amir Jamaat will also address public gatherings in Layyah and Muzaffargarh in the second phase of the protest movement against rising electricity bills and inflation. Amir Jamaat in Rahim Yar Khan also thanked the business community for the successful strike of September 2. He expressed concern over the deterioration of the law and order situation in Chitral and said that the area was ideally peaceful where a fire suddenly broke out. He termed the excessive increase as a failure

Health research critical to making progress in medical field

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Health Iftikhar Shallwani on Saturday emphasized prioritizing health research as it is of critical importance to making progress in the health sector.

Inaugurating the two-day National Health Research Conference, he said that evidencebased decision-making is of pivotal importance in meeting the challenges that confront us in the provision of health care to the masses.

He was addressing top health research experts and public health leaders from across the country. Top public health leader Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta

Chairman Board of Governors National Institute of Health (NIH) delivered his keynote address making a strong case for priority to health The two-day National Health Research Confer-

ence has been jointly organized by the National Institute of Health, the Higher Education Commission, the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. and the Pakistan Science Foundation.

The main objective of the conference is to promote collaboration and networking among funding agencies, researchers, policymakers, and allied stakeholders and also to provide a platform for research funding agencies to present their experiences and research.

This conference is a unique opportunity for researchers, healthcare professionals, academicians and policymakers to come together to share knowledge, discuss the latest trends in health research and explore new ideas and collabora-

Digitization of taxation system to streamline economy: *Minister*

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif on Saturday said that the taxation system is being digitalized and that it will help in documenting the economy. Addressing a press conference, he said the Information Technology (IT) sector has emerged as a vital contributor to the nation's economy. With a growing focus on digitization, the taxation system is undergoing a significant digital transformation, which is poised to streamline economic documentation he added. He said that the ongoing digitization efforts are expected to provide a substantial boost to the economy by creating a more transparent and documented financial landscape. This he said initiative aligns with the government's goal of transitioning towards a cashless economy. The minister said Pakistan's IT sector has already made substantial strides, with total earnings reaching a remarkable \$2.6 billion. These earnings, he said, are expected to increase further with the implementation of measures aimed at enhancing the IT industry's contribution to the nation's reserves. He said IT training will be provided to approximately 200,000 young individuals. The minister was of the view that this initiative seeks to empower the youth and make them an integral part of the global economy. In addition to workforce development, measures are being taken to facilitate freelancers, with plans to provide services for up to five million individuals across the country he added.

North Korea marks founding day with parade

News Desk

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un marked the country's founding anniversary with a parade of paramilitary groups and diplomatic exchanges in which he vowed to deepen ties with China and Russia.

Kim observed the parade at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang and held talks with a visiting Chinese delegation, state media KCNA reported on Saturday. The parade displayed rocket launchers hidden in delivery trucks and tractors towing troops and weapons, highlighting the militia's role as guerrilla fighters in a war.

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a letter expressing his willingness to strengthen strategic communication and working-level cooperation.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also sent a letter to Kim, saying the two countries will expand bilateral ties to ensure security and stability in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia.

"Growing China-Russia-North Korea cooperation and Xi skipping the G20 Summit in India give the appearance of a widening fissure in Asia's geopolitical landscape," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

"Most stakeholders in the region want to avoid a new Cold War, but this looks increasingly difficult as Beijing and Moscow prop up Pyongyang and North Korea aligns itself with China and Russia's challenges to the international order." An annual two-day summit of the Group of 20 (G20) countries kicks off on Saturday in New Delhi, India, which will be dominated by the West, with China's Xi skipping it and Russia's Putin also being absent.

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Pakistan introduces business friendly visa policy to boost investment, economic growth: Bugti



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on Saturday said that a significant business-friendly visa policy was introduced, aiming to promote investment and stimulate economic growth. He said that, under the revised policy, the visa process has been streamlined to be more business-friendly, facilitating foreign investors in establishing businesses within the country. Additionally, visas will be issued with greater ease to individuals associated with business entities, and recommendations from bodies like the Chamber of Commerce will also be considered. Minister Bugti emphasised the government's commitment to combat smuggling vigorously.

A collaborative anti-smuggling firearms and violence.

campaign, involving federal and provincial law enforcement agencies, has been initiated to prevent the illegal trafficking of various goods, including currencies, fertilizers, sugar, and wheat. Furthermore, Minister Bugti revealed a comprehensive strategy for repatriating refugees to their respective countries. The objective is to significantly increase refugee registration rates from 38% to an impressive target set at 98%, with the assistance of NADRA (National Database and Registration Authority). Bugti reaffirmed the government's dedication to maintaining peace and stability. He underlined the successful past efforts in combating terrorism and stressed the government's resolve to prevent any individuals or groups from pursuing any agenda through

Condemnation of the 'Israeli' attack on Palestinian **President Abbas**

№ News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates strongly condemns the fierce attack in which a number of countries and their representatives participated against President Mahmoud Abbas, and considers it an extension and arrogant intimidation. of prejudices and positions and an integral part of malicious political schemes to undermine the cause and rights of our people, and a clear attempt to manipulate the Palestinian arena in a pre-prepared, unjustified and unjustified manner. In heinous crime against humanity. any case, this is through intentional distortion of some of the quotes more appropriate for those parties and sayings quoted by international aligned with the wrong side of historesearchers and academics made by ry to review the recording to verify President Mahmoud Abbas, deliberately taken out of context to serve claim of the party that promoted the purposes and objectives of those this lie, or to contact the Palestin-

conspiracy schemes. The Ministry expresses its deep astonishment at the attempts of to (anti-Semitism) in an openly hostile manner charged with verbal between them.



The Ministry strongly rejects the practice of this intellectual political terrorism against the Palestinian people, whose leadership has repeatedly declared its condemnation of the Holocaust as the most

Immediately, it would have been the validity or incorrectness of the ian side officially to request clarification on this issue, before launching the arrows of its aggression some countries to link these quotes and poison in a language unworthy of states. And the relationships

UN ready to help victims of deadly Morocco earthquake: Guterres

№ News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General expressed his profound sadness over the deadly earthquake that struck central Morocco late Friday night reportedly leaving over 1,000 dead, expressing his solidarity with the Government and people of the country. In a statement issued by his Spokesperson, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stressed that the UN was ready to assist the Government in any way needed, to help those impacted. According to the UN humanitarian hub Reliefweb, the powerful quake struck shortly after 10pm local time, measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale at a depth of 18.5 km, with the epicentre located in the High Atlas mountains, some 71 km southwest of the historic reports, several houses in the city of

840,000 collapsed and other buildings suffered structural damage. The epicentral zone is not densely populated. "The Secretary-General was profoundly saddened to learn of the earthquake that hit Morocco today which claimed many lives," the statement read. Guterres addressed his most sincere condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. In a tweet, the President of the UN General Assembly, Dennis Francis, offered his heartfelt sympathy and condolences, calling on the international community "to stand together in support of Morocco in this time of sorrow." Amina Mohammed, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, also responded on social media platform X, saying that her "prayers and thoughts" are with the people of Morocco. "The city of Marrakech. According to media UN is by your side as we strive to recover," she wrote.

Dengue tally reaches 366 cases in Rawalpindi

👺 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi's dengue total tally had reached 366 positive cases with the arrival of 21 more patients during the last 24 hours.

Chief Executive Officer, of District Health Authority Dr. Ijaz Ahmad, said that 12 patients had arrived from the Potohar town urban area, four from Chaklala Cantonment, two from the Municipal Corporation area and one from Kalar Sveda, Tret(Murree) and dengue SOPs.

He informed that 303 confirmed patients had been discharged after recovery while 80 patients were admitted to the district's health facilities of which 63 were positive cases.

During the last 24 hours, Dr Iiaz said that the district administration had registered 50 FIRs, issued tickets to seven, sealed four premises, and a fine of Rs 188,500 was imposed against the violations of

PM says development funds for Poonch to be shared equally among the three divisions

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that after the formal announcement of the administrative package for the Poonch division, the development funds would be distributed equally among all the three administrative divisions of the state.

The PM made these assertions while talking to Chairman Muslim Conference Youth Wing Sardar Usman Atiq and Sardar Wajid Bin Arif who called on him here today.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the development funds would be distributed equally among the three

The PM said that he would very soon pay a detailed visit to Poonch division where he would meet people from all walks of life and listen to their griev-



people of Azad Kashmir.

He said that the people of the region $\,$ would start to reap the benefits of the policies the government has formulated during the past couple of months.

Regarding the inflated electricity The PM said that he was fully aware bills, the PM said that the government of the problems being faced by the has postponed additional charges on

electricity bills to provide relief to the common people.

The PM said that the government was introducing a policy under which no official or a state functionary can use free electricity.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Hag expressed

deep sorrow and grief over the loss of life and property in the terrible earthquake in Morocco.

At this hour of immense grief, we stand in solidarity with the people of Morocco and express our condolences for the loss of life in the earthquake",

Attention please

ISLAMABAD: A view of the over loaded truck travelling at Expressway during rainy weather early in the morning, which may have chance of an incident, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Nishtar Hospital-2 Project will be worked in day and night shifts: Amir Khattak

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak visited the construction site of Nishtar 2 and held a briefing. He ordered to increase the speed of work on Nishtar 2 and said that the work force should be increased to complete the hospital on time. Govt. Punjab is providing all the funds of Nishtar 2 on time. Nishtar 2 Hospital will provide ideal treatment and medical facilities to the people of South Punjab. Mega projects of health and infrastructure are going on at the cost of billions of rupees.

construction of the hospital will



reduce the burden of patients on the complete the hospital on the By Qurathospitals. On this occasion, Chief Engineer IDP Qasim Afzal said that Emergency, Radiology, Pathology Division Engineer Aamir Khattak have been activated by the end of The Nishtar-2 project will be this month. The work on the instalworked in day and night shifts. The lation of HCV has been started. Work is going on on an emergency basis to

visited the construction site of Nishtar 2 and held a briefing. He ordered to increase the speed of work on Nishtar 2 and said that the work force should

be increased to complete the hospital on time. Govt. Punjab is provid-Multan: Commissioner Multan ing all the funds of Nishtar 2 on time. Nishtar 2 Hospital will provide ideal treatment and medical facilities to the people of South Punjab. Mega projects of health and infrastructure are going on at the cost of billions of rupees.

Sindh College Library Association demands four-tier service structure for colleges

Qayoom Sirohi

HYDERABAD: The Sindh College Library Association (Scla) has demanded to fourtier service structure and the modernize the libraries of the colleges of sindh. The leaders have said that this is the last century of books. Now the libraries will become virtual. There are also teachers, they should be considered in the category of teachers. Sindh College Library Association (Scla) organized a seminar on the occasion of Silver Jubilee at Government Muslim Science College, Hyderabad, during which the Silver Jubilee of scla was celebrated with a cake cutting ceremony.



Sindh Prof. Shadab Hussain and the guest of honor was Director College Education Hyderabad Region Prof. Abdul Hameed Chanar, who could not attend due to various reasons. Shah

The chief guest of the seminar of Scla, Muslim Science College was Director General Colleges Principal Ghulam Mustafa Dahari, Library Automation Expert Liaquat Ali Raho, National Library Association President Sved Muzaffar Ali Shah, Additional Director HR Regional Directorate College Muhammad Baloch, founder Hyderabad Aftab Rajput and

first Chief Librarian (Retd.) that libraries have to be convert-Khalid Zafar was the guest of honour, while the librarians of various colleges of Sindh also participated. During the seminar, the successful office bearer of Scla for the year 2023 to 2025 were President Hira Yasin, Vice President Zulfiqar Ali Chana, Lady Vice President Shazia Qadir, Secretary General Munir Ahmed Memon, Joint Secretary Azhar Ali Laghari, Lady Joint Secretary Shihla Sheikh, Finance Secretary Abdul Qadir Abbasi and Press and Publicity Secretary Sarwan Mehraj took the oath.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Librarian of Government Boys Degree College Qasimabad Rustam Brohi said

ed into e-libraries now, this is the last century of books, now virtual libraries are running, in the future there will be fully e-libraries, he said. That without libraries we cannot know the secrets of the world, keeping in view the requirements of the modern era, libraries have to provide technology and modern facilities. Senior Librarian Government Girls Degree College Qasimabad Saima Abbasi said that now is the era of e-libraries, librarians will have to learn technical things, because librarians are also teachers of teachers, libraries have a large collection of books of world knowledge and they are all over the world.

Sui gas task force teams start crack down against gas illegal compressors

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the orders of Regional General Manager Sui Gas Multan Rashid Ishaq, task force teams seized 10 gas meters for using illegal compressors while cracking down in various cities including Multan. Four, in Mian Chanu, one in Muzaffargarh city and one in Shujaabad, disconnect-



ed the gas connection and seized the meter.

On this occasion, Regional General Manager Sui Gas Rashid Ishaq said that the use of compressors in gas meters is illegal and a large-scale operation has been launched and task force teams have been formed to crack down. Addressing said that the use of compressor can prove to be fatal, wherever a complaint is received, legal action will be taken by disconnecting the gas connection.

If Pakistan is to be saved then electricity theft to be stopped: Amjad Bhatti



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Superintendent Engineer Multan Circle Engineer Amjad Nawaz Bhatti has said that if Pakistan is to be saved then electricity theft has to be stopped. WAPDA has given us a lot. Today WAPDA needs us. It will have to be terminated and Hydro Union can play a full role in it. He expressed these views yesterday under the leadership of Circle Office Regional Vice Chairman Chaudhry Khalid, Rashid Yameen Zonal Chairman, Secretary Malik Tanveer, Zonal Vice Chairman Ilyas Sindhu and congratulated them.

On this occasion, Chaudhry Khalid, Rashid Yaman, Ilyas Sindhu, Malik Tanveer said that we will work day and night for the development of the department and end the theft of electricity. He further said that Engineer Amjad Nawaz Bhatti is a labor-friendly officer and together with him, Chaudhry Saleem, Imran Bashir, Naeem Ahmed, Rawaslam, Ansir Abbas, Ahsan Nandla, Asif Rashid, Ishrat Alvi, Amjad Dogar, Mukhtiar will end power theft. Ahmed Shahzad Ali, Chaudhry Shafaqat and other Chairman Vice Chairman and other officials attended and congratulated SE and fed sweets.

Multan Institute of Cardiology should be completed in December 2023: Sohail Ashraf

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Secretary C&W, COI Dep Sohail Ashraf visited Multan Development Schemes. Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak was also accompanied. He also gave orders about the cardiology hospital and said that the cardiology hospital and the residential part should be completed by



December. The construction of aSeptember 30 144-bed inn worth 20 crore rupees is being started in the cardiology hospital.

The tendering process will be completed by the end of next month and the work will be started. Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak said that special measures are being taken for the rehabilitation and upgrading of Nishtar Hospital. The rehabilitation of 17 wards of Nishtar Hospital has been completed, 14 wards have been upgraded. is going The Chief Minister of Punjab has given a deadline of September 30 for the completion of the cardiology hospital. Punjab government has a special focus on improving the health sector. A detailed briefing was also given by Axion Building Hyder Ali.

Two theaters were presented on the second day of the ongoing Pakistan Theatre Festival in Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi

KARACHI: "Pakistan Theatre Festival" by Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi is continuing in full swing, two plays were presented on the second day of the festival, in which the first one was Improvisation Theatre "Koi Tayyari Nahin!" and second one



was "Through The Waves" by US physical theatre group "uplift". "Koi Tayyari Nahin!" was directed by Muneeb ur Rahman, the highlight of Improvisation Theatre was the absence of a pre-set script in the play, with the performances of the students of the Theatre Academy of the Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, making the audience laugh. A large number of fans were entertained by the Improvisation Theatre. Students of Theatre Academy of Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi presented Theatre on the topics given by the audience. The second play, "Through the Waves" presented by the American physical theatre group Uplift. In "Through the Waves" the story of three women beautifully presented through music and acting without dialogue. It was highly appreciated by the fans. American theatre group members said that it was a great experience to perform in front of Pakistani Theatre audience.

Toi Khullah firing between two parties, three People killed & 4 injured: Police

Mazir

WANA: Saturday, police says, in Toi Khullagh area of South Waziristan Lower district, there was an exchange of fire between the families of Mashad Khan and Shamiran Dottani, in which 3 people were killed and 4 others were injured, including a passerby.





SERVICES **Namaz Timings** Maghrib

EMERGENCY

	_
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi	/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
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CBD Punjab and City Traffic Police Announces Traffic Diversion Plan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Saturday. September 9, 2023. Punjab Central Business District **Development Authority** (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has announced a comprehensive traffic diversion plan for the construction of Ghora Chowk flyover. This diversion plan has been developed in close collab-oration with the City Traffic Police (CTP) Lahore, to ensure the smooth flow of traffic during the construc tion phase.

Commuters traveling from Walton Road to destinations like Cavalry, Gulberg, and Firdous Market are advised to use Street No. 6, 5, and 2 Cavalry Ground as their route. Those heading from Gulberg and Firdous Market to Walton Road should follow the route via Khurshid Alam Chowk, turning left at RA Bazar, and continuing onto Ahmed Bakhsh Road for access to Cavalry under the Jinnah Flyover.

CBD Punjab and CTP are committed to minimizing disruptions and ensuring the safety of all road users. This traffic diversion plan will be in effect throughout the construction period, and commuters are urged to follow the designated routes and exercise caution while driving through the areas.

Armenia's so-called 'elections' in Garabagh region

Spokesman Report

The illegal activity under the false pretext of "presidential elections" by the puppet regime created as a result of the occupation by Armenia is a gross violation of the Constitution and legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as norms and principles of international law.

Only the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan form the legal basis for the expression of will through elections in the territory of the Republic of Azer-

The puppet separatist regime is the consequence of the aggression and ethnic cleansing policy that continued for nearly 30 years. The steps taken by this regime to continue its existence due to the military, political, financial and other types of support of Armenia, have no legal validity whatsoever.

The mentioned step is another element of the provocative and inflammatory activity of Armenia, which has deteriorated recently, and is a serious blow to the efforts of normalization in the region and reintegration of ethnic Armenian residents into the constitutional framework of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Holding the so-called "elections" once again clearly shows that Armenia and the puppet regime created by it, which have taken steps to maintain the status quo and continue its occupation policy, are not really interested in the peace process, on the contrary, have taken the path of provocation and escalating the situation.



Armenia should stop its futileattempts to deceive its people and the international community, put an end to the claims against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, constructively participate in the normalization process and comply with its international obliga-

Armenia's obstruction of the dialogue of Azerbaijan with the ethnic Armenians living in its sovereign territory is a gross interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, is an attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our

The Republic of Azerbaijan will resolutely counter threats to its sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internation-

ally recognized borders.

The only way to achieve peace and stability in the region is the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan and the disbandment of the puppet regime.

The Republic of Azerbaijan urges all members of the international community, in accordance with their obligations within international law, to make a correct political assessment on the steps directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, to take effective measures to prevent Armenia from taking steps that endanger the fragile normalization efforts in the region, and to strongly condemn the illegal activities named as "elections."

Regional energy trade for affordable energy security stressed

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Regional energy security can be achieved by building regional energy trade mechanisms and grid and increasing the share of renewable energy can ensure affordable energy for all, said energy experts at a regional policy dialogue titled "Energy Security in South Asia & Transition of Sustainable Sources". The event was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Pakistan (FNF).

Birgit Lamm, Director, Pakistan Office, FNF, remarked that 60% of South Asia's energy from the impacts of the ongo-urged Avishek Malla, Energy demand is imported, increasing vulnerability to external further derailed these counfor Integrated Mountain Develshocks like Russian-Ukrainian tries from the SDG7 targets", War and dollar exchange rate said Ubaid-ur-Rehman, Head fluctuations. Such factors affect of Energy Unit, SDPI. domestic energy prices and potentially fuel energy insecu-

diture choices between energy or development.

Regional energy challenges are common and collaborative, integrated approach for sustainable, equitable renewable energy transition is the way forward amid rising costs and socio-economic disparities which calls for amplifying efforts for regionally acceptable solutions, said Dr Hassan Daud Butt, Senior Advisor and Research Fellow, SDPI.

Reliance on imported energy sources has created vulnerability to energy supplies and ing regional turmoil. "This has Specialist, International Centre

Fellow (Renewable Enerrity, forcing governments and gy), SAARC Energy Centre that India's energy landscape is

Centre's study highlighted the untapped regional energy trade potential which must be leveraged to boost energy security through regional grid. Regional

trade of surplus electricity can

also increase revenue genera-

tion for economic growth, he stressed. Climate Change impacts disproportionately women, particularly in rural areas, who already shoulder an increasing labor burden due to increased migration trends. It is crucial to promote gender supportive energy poliprice fluctuations for South cies and technologies to allevi-Asian countries, as apparent ate sufferings of women labor,

opment (ICIMOD). Sunil Dahiya, Energy and Environmental Analyst, Centre Ahsan Javed, Research for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), remarked

public to make critical expen- referring to a SAARC Energy evolving as the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix has increased with renewables constituting about 30% of installed electricity capacity.

Harshani Abayawardhan, Energy and Environmental Officer, Centre for Environmental Justice, Sri Lanka apprised that by June 2016, about 98.7% of Sri Lanka's population had access to national grid electricity. However, 77% of the energy demand is met from petroleum

Dr Khalid Waleed, Lead Researcher, Energy Unit, SDPI discussed the energy profiles of South Asian Countries and charted the way forward for energy cooperation by overcoming political-economic barriers, removing tariffs, promoting energy networks, exploring joint financing avenues, joint platform for energy planners and sharing energy and water statistics.

Mehfil-e-Mushaira held at PAC in connection with Defence day

👺 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council in collaboration with Shahbazan-e-Adab Pakistan organized a Mehfil-e-Musharia in connection with Pakistan Defence Day. Mehfil-e-mushaira was presided over by famous poet and critic Dr. Waheed Ahmad, while Rehan Abbasi and Habiba Rathor was the host of the Event. Akhtar Usman, Ahmed Atta Allah, Shakeel Jazeb participated in the Mushaira as guests of honor. The organizers of the Mushaira included Nawai Sarosh Ahmed, Muhammad Munir



in his presidential address said down their lives for the defense of Defense Day warms hearts, raises of the country fought fearlessly

Qasim, Anjam Salimi and Nasir enthusiasm and refreshes faith. Ali Nasir. Dr. Waheed Ahmed We salute the martyrs who laid that the mention of Pakistan the motherland. The brave sons

against the enemy and created a bright chapter in history. In the war of 1965, the people fought alongside the Pakistan Army, we will not hesitate to make any sacrifice to defend our beloved motherland, to maintain its freedom and independence. In the end, Dr. Waheed Ahmed saluted the martyrs through his poetry. Mehboob Zafar, Saeed Raja, Afzal Khan, Dr. Sajid Rahim, Javed Jadoon, Nargis Jahanzeb, Fareeha Naqvi, Ayesha Shafaq, Waqasullah Waqas, Dr. Mehboob Kashmiri, Ijaz Naumani, Faza Batul, Mahosh Ahsan, Fida Shirazi, Dr. Faisal Shahzad

Serena Hotels and Nomad Art Gallery hosted Crafts Bazaar



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, in collaboration with Nomad Art Gallery, hosted a captivating cultural event that left audiences both inspired and enlightened. This event combined the vibrancy of a crafts bazaar with the profundity of two enlightening film screenings. The Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Frederico Silva inaugurated the event and emphasized on the importance of promoting art as means of attaining peace and tolerance. The bazaar featured a curated selection of exquisite handmade crafts from talented artisans, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the region. This unique exhibition provided attendees with an opportunity to appreciate and purchase exceptional artworks, textiles, jewelry, and more, directly from the artisans.

The exhibition reflects Nomad Art Gallery partners from allover Pakistan; community based artisans, young graduates and entrepreneurs. Rich hues of textiles from Sindh including silk and cotton Ajrak, block

printed textiles, totes, home accessories, Kashmiri embroidery and shawls, trendy ensemble, handmade toys by Granmani, exquisite silver jewellery by AmnaShariff and SS collection. Pottery by ShaziaZuberi, handpainted wooden cabinets, bowls and engraved slate items. Rakaposhi Naturals health foods, bright woven bags, cushions, accessories by Kimmy. Tribal Truck art products and furniture for gifts and self indulgence.

The first film screening of the evening, "Androon Lahore," is a powerful documentary that delves into the history of Lahore as seen through the lens of artist Nageen Hyat. The film captures the essence of Lahore's walled city, revealing its historical richness and the lives of its inhabitants both before and after its restoration. "Androon Lahore" offers a compelling look at the city's vibrant past and its continued relevance in contemporary times.

The second film, "PosheedaQadam," is a bold exploration of the pervasive issue of violence against women and youth, as well as discriminatory laws in South Asia. This thought-provoking film, directed by shines a spotlight on the patriarchal narrative that has long dominated the region. "PosheedaQadam" fearlessly examines draconian laws such as the Law of Evidence and the Hudood Ordinance, which violate fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. The film also addresses the effects of cyber bullying and harassment, as well as the distressing statistics of violence against women.

This event aims to not only showcase the beauty of indigenous crafts but also to stimulate meaningful discussions on crucial societal issues. Serena Hotels is committed to provide a platform for art, culture, and dialogue that can lead to positive change.



PARIS: Mr Shahid Rehman, Drector The Himalayan Literacy Network (THLN) with Ambassador of Pakistan to France Asim Iftikhar at Embassy. THLN won the UNESCO&39;s International Literacy Prize 2023.

Morocco earthquake: 'All Pakistani nationals are safe', confirms FO

The Foreign Office on Saturday confirmed that all Pakistani nationals are safe in Morocco following the deadly $6.8\,\rm magnitude$ earthquake that

hit the African nation the previous night. In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch shared that Pakistan embassy staff in Rabat has reached out to the Paki-

stani community to inquire about their safety and well-being. The spokesperson confirmed that all Pakistani nationals are safe in the North African nation following the deadly 6.8 magnitude earthquake. Expressing solidarity with the people of Morocco, Baloch said: "The people and Government of Pakistan stand in solidarity with the Kingdom of Morocco and express their heartfelt sympathies and condolences at the tragic loss of lives in yesterday's earthquake."

NBP to establish National Gender Responsive Unit to help women in policing

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Police Bureau is determined to reform and reshape police in Pakistan to make it inclusive responsive and accountable. One of the major initiatives to this and is establishment of National Gender Responsive Unit in the NPB. The unit will spearhead efforts to actively coordinate with various stakeholders, including police organizations, ministries, and international bodies, to ensure a seamless and effective execution of gender-responsive policing strate- academia and under-training ASPs gies. The Unit will conduct a comprehensive review of existing policies, legal frameworks, and organizational structures, formulate guidelines to address the unique challenges faced by female police officers, covering logistics, promotions, work environ-

ments, incentives, and gender-responsive budgeting.

Dr Ehsan Sadiq was speaking in the closing session of two days National Conference on Women in Policing organised by National Police Bureau in collaboration with UN Women. The conference was attended by the senior leadership from all Law Enforcement Agencies, female police officers, legal fraternity, government ministries representatives, parliamentarians, diplomatic community, international organizations, civil society, media, from the National Police Academy in Islamabad, consisted of a special working session to discuss and deliberate on recommendations to formulate a National Gender Responsive Policing

In his closing remarks, Dr. Ehsan

Sadiq, Director General of National Police Bureau, said: "As we jointly organize this conference, the National Police Bureau recognizes the imperative of gender parity in the realm of law

enforcement. Ms Sharmeela Rassool, UN Women Country Representative, in her closing remarks, said, "This conference represents a significant milestone in our journey toward inclusive policing.

I am pleased to see that today's discussion revolved around Article 25A of the Constitution, which states in no uncertain terms that everyone is equal before the law and should not be discriminated against on the basis of sex.

In his remarks, Jeroen Willem, Head of Cooperation of the European Union delegation to Pakistan, congratulated the National Police Bureau for holding a successful event and reaffirmed the

EU's commitment to strengthen the was the chief guest for today's session, rule of law and advance gender equality in Pakistan. He complimented the achievements of the Deliver Justice Project, particularly highlighting the 80% increase in women personnel in Balochistan Police and the creation of the AIG-Gender post in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Mr. Sultan Ali Khowaja, Inspector General of Police NH&MP, who ship within the policing sector.

commended the participants for coming up with innovative policy suggestions to advance gender responsive policing in Pakistan.

The two-day conference served as a dynamic platform for sharing success stories, addressing challenges, and shaping future strategies aimed at enhancing women's roles and leader-

Monday, September 10, 2023

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Regional cooperation for socio-economic prosperity of the region

e need to unleash the combined energy of Pakistan, Central Asia, West Asia and the Middle East for socio-economic prosperity of the region," said Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States. "This is one ecosystem," he continued, says a press release received here today from Washington DC.

Ambassador Masood Khan made these remarks while talking to a group of over thirty media persons of international correspondents committee of the National Press Club Washington DC, the most prestigious journalist body of press correspondents of the United States.

Masood Khan said that Pakistan is a great country. We have a great future. Pakistan is negotiating a transition. But "as a nation, we remain resolute and determined that we will resolve all our problems. We would emerge as one of the strongest and one of the most prosperous nations on

This is the designated objective for us," he continued. The Ambassador also lauded the leadership of Eileen O'Reilly, the 116th President of the National Press Club for promoting culture of inclusivity.

Briefing international correspondents, the Ambassador said that he had been associated with the United Nations in different capacities and he knew that the work of democracy, rule of law, human rights was never fully done.

"It is an ongoing and no country is an exception including Pakistan, he said.

'But, he continued, "we are committed to the foundational principles of our polity and we continue to pursue them and structure our politics and economy around these principles." Masood Khan said that Pakistan was faced with economic challenges. He said that efforts were afoot to bring macro-economic stability in the country.

'That is our strategic goal and priority," he said. He said that Pakistan needed support of the United States, International Financial Institution, the Bretton Woods Institutions for this transitional phase.

National Press Club in its report by Claudia Flisi quoted the Ambassador as saying that Pakistan was writing a new chapter in its relations with the United States.

The Ambassador highlighted climate change, renewable energy, green technologies, preparedness for pandemics, disease surveillance, counterterrorism, counter-narcotics, and stabilization of Afghanistan as the major areas where

"We want to be closely associated with the United States," said Pakistan's top envoy to the United States.

He called the current state of U. S.-Pakistani relations as "on track and on an even keel," the report said.

On regional situation, Masood Khan said that Pakistan needed a stable neighborhood and for stable neighborhood we needed stabilization of Afghanistan.

"We also need to have dialogue and diplomacy with India," he added.

Advancing Agricultural Excellence and Sustainability in AJK - I

Mumtaz Ahmed

he Department of Agriculture AJK, is reshaping agricultural development through a sequence of pioneering strides. From adaptive research trials that customize crops to local conditions, to innovative practices such as olive grafting and potato tissue culture, along with the empowering Monday meetings involving farmers, the department spearheads the drive toward a thriving and sustainable agricultural milieu. As AJK navigates the complexities of the contemporary era, its agricultural sector remains resilient, fortified by the forward-looking initiatives of its Department of Agriculture.

Olive grafting emerges as yet another noteworthy stride in AJK's agricultural revolution. Through the grafting of high-yield olive varieties onto robust rootstocks, the department is augmenting olive production in the region. This technique not only amplifies the yield of overarching economic prosperity of local communities.

As an acknowledgment of contemporary biotechnology, the potato tissue culture initiative within the department is creating a significant impact. This pioneering method facilitates the propagation of disease-free potato plants, consequently leading to more robust yields for farmers. This approach not only attends to crop health but also and medicinally important plants.

contributes to ensuring food security by safeguarding a fundamental food source.

Arguably one of the most remarkable aspects of the AJK Department of Agriculture's approach is its implementation of "Monday meetings" with farmers. These consistent gatherings establish a platform for candid dialogue, allowing farmers to exchange their insights, challenges, and experiences. Through attentive consideration of the perspectives of these cultivators, the department ensures that its policies and strategies remain firmly rooted in the practicalities of the agricultural community.

These Monday meetings additionally function as a conduit for the transfer of knowledge. Farmers are exposed to novel techniques, sustainable practices, and state-of-the-art technologies that have the potential to augment both their yields and income. This bidirectional dissemination and exchange of information nurture a feeling of ownership and collaboration, propelling agricultural development from its very foundation. It is projected that gearing up the these precious trees but also fosters the research experiments on other important crops, especially maize, tomato, off-season vegetables, tunnel farming, and fruit orchards, will pave the way forward to sustainable agriculture production and enhance economic activities among rural communities across AJK. The use of modern crop production techniques and technologies is highly recommended for the improved and increased production of major cereals, vegetables, fruits,

ment has been discreetly spearheading a revolution in agricultural development. Through a combination of innovative practices and a commitment to engaging with local farmers, the department is paving the way for a thriving agricultural future in the region.

At the core of this transformation lie adaptive research trials, a pioneering approach that harmonizes agricultural practices with the distinctive needs of the region. Through these trials, the department scrupulously tests novel wheat varieties, evaluating their suitability to AJK's precise climate and soil conditions. This practical experimentation ensures that farmers are furnished with crops capable of enduring the challenges presented by shifting weather patterns. The adaptation trial of promising, early maturing, and high-yielding wheat varieties at ADR Farm Garhi Dupatta, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), is a significant research initiative aimed at evaluating the performance and suitability of various wheat varieties within the specific agro-climatic conditions of the farm. These trials aim to identify wheat varieties that thrive in the local environment and have the potential to deliver higher yields in a shorter growing season.

First step involved in the varietal trial isselection of twelve wheat varieties brought from National Agriculture Research Center (NARC) and Ayoub Agriculture Research Institute Faisalabad, with attributes such as disease

In the tranquil landscapes of Azad resistance, yield potential, maturity Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), the Depart-period, and suitability to local environperiod, and suitability to local environmental conditions, have been meticulously chosen based on prior research, available data, and expert consultation. To minimize biasness and variability, a randomized complete block design (RCBD) is used. The farm is divided into 36 subplots, and each wheat variety is randomly allocated to 3 replications, ensuring statistically reliable and representative outcomes. These selected wheat varieties are sown according to recommended agronomic practices. Data collection spans the growing season and includes parameters like days to 50% germination, number of tillers per plant, plant height, days to heading, spike length, number of grains per spike, disease incidence, and the most impor-

tant parameter, the grain yield. These trials are regularly monitored for signs of diseases, pests, or agronomic concerns. Adequate management practices, such as fertilization and pest control, are employed as required to optimize plant growth.

Wheat, a staple crop feeding millions. embodies remarkable diversity in its varieties, each possessing distinct attributes that contribute to its growth, yield, and resilience. This report embarks on a thorough examination of twelve wheat varieties: Akbar 2019, Urooj 2022, Dilkash 2020, Anaj 2017, Deuram 2021, MH 2021, Azrec Derra, NARC Super, Pak 2013, Markaz 2019, Borlaug 2016, and

To be continued



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

The Antidote for Reviving as a Powerful Nation - I

and unity are paramount, the 259th Corps Commanders' Conference recently convened, bringing together the country's top military leaders to reaffirm their steadfast commitment to safeguarding national security and advancing economic prosperity. General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), presided over this crucial gathering, setting the stage for a comprehensive discussion on a range of critical issues.

The conference commenced with a solemn tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Pakistan's heroes - the Shuhadas. These brave men and women, including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and devoted citizens, laid down their lives to ensure the safety, security, and territorial integrity of our beloved country. Fateha, a heartfelt prayer, was offered in their memory, reiterating Pakistan's enduring respect and dignity for these fallen heroes. This poignant moment underscored the conference's first item on the agenda - a poignant reminder of the profound significance of preserving the dignity, honor, and respect of our Shaheeds.

The second major pledge emanating from the conference focused on the unwavering commitment to defend Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It emphasized the critical need to thwart 'inimical propagandists' whose desperate attempts seek to sow discord

public. These efforts, indicative of mounting desperation, were recognized for what they are – potential sources of humiliation for those seeking to undermine the nation's

While the conference did not explicitly name these 'inimical propagandists, reading between the ished. It was a resounding message lines suggests they could be of vari- to the propagandists: desist from ous backgrounds,

including a few serving and retired army officers and their close relatives. It's worth noting that the army has already undertaken stringent accountability measures, purging

elements detrimental to the unity between the public and the armed

Qamar Bashir

In addition to internal accountability, state institutions have been actively pursuing politicians, particularly those affiliated with the PTI, who have sought to create divisions. Properties have been attached, individuals have been declared proclaimed offenders, and legal actions have been initiated against those responsible. This conference sent a clear message that such pursuits will continue, and those involved can anticipate

further repercussions.

n a nation where resilience between state institutions and the lous elements propagating relentless, false, and fabricated narratives against the armed forces. Through various media outlets, both conventional and social, these elements have sought to tarnish the reputation of Pakistan's armed forces. The conference unequivocally asserted that such actions will not go unpun-

> creating sions between the public and the armed forces, or be prepared to face the consequences. The third agen-

> > da item tackled the

pressing issue of

countering terror-

ism, particularly threats emanating from Afghanistan, specifically from Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). This terrorist organization, known for its ruthless tactics and anti-government stance, has found sanctuary across the border in Afghanistan. It continues to launch lethal attacks on Pakistan's security forces and innocent

citizens with impunity. Despite this provocation, Pakistan's security forces have displayed considerable restraint due to strategic considerations, seeking to avoid an escalation of hostility with the Afghan government. However, the conference made it abundantly The conference also delivered a clear that this restraint should not be stern warning to those unscrupu- misconstrued as weakness.

The security forces pledged to counter the terrorist threat comprehensively. This includes launching relentless intelligence-based operations to eliminate TTP's sleeper cells, abettors, and facilitators within Pakistan. Additionally, border vigilance along the 2,500-kilometer-long porous borders will be strengthened, and rapid security force units will be deployed to neutralize threats swiftly. The conference also emphasized the importance of safeguarding strategic national and public assets.

The conference recognized that addressing the TTP menace requires two-pronged approach. First, kinetic power must be employed to counterimmediate threats. Second, a long-term strategy is essential, involving education, job opportunities, and socioeconomic development in areas vulnerable to TTP recruitment.

Negotiation attempts have proved futile, leading to a clear understanding that decisive action is necessary. Pakistan's armed forces are spearheading efforts to prevent violent extremism by empowering local communities and their partners at the grassroots level. This approach includes sharing information about the threat of radicalization, strengthening cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, and helping communities protect themselves against extremist propaganda, particularly online.

To be continued

Destruction of Law Education, Credit to Zakariya University Administration - I

ber 2019 due to incompetence and fake

ed the limit and enrolled more students for LLB part-1 (threeyear course) session 2018. The colleges were to enroll 4,100 students as they were allotted 100 seats each but they had admitted 14,000 aspirants. Although in the year 2018 the Supreme Court of Pakistan banned Zakriya University from the admissions of the

3-year LLB programme. But the administration on schedule. The date of admission after this of private law colleges managed to register thousands of students with the help of the university's registration branch and examination department. On this the Judges of the Supreme Court took action on this fraud and ordered to Director FIA to investigate and submit a comprehensive and detailed report to the Apex Court. The JIT committee probe into the matter and present findings. After investigation and initial inquiry of the JIT these irregularities came to light. it surfaced that date of 11396 students of Registration Branch BZU was shared with Controller Examination for taking LL. B Part-I Second Annual 2019exma. Out of them 6227 students were allowed to participate in exam while 5169 students were barred by the controller examination to appear in the exams due to different reasons. These students found non-genuine as

n 2018, the Supreme Court had well as JIT also found these student deficient ordered to phase out the LLB (three- and lacing in different aspects. These students year) programme and a five-year LLB show that how this scam was going on with the programme was introduced in Septem- connivance of Registration Branch of BZU. The JIT also has so far identified 470 students on the degree holders were being exposed in the legal basis of shortcomings / irregularities. The JIT profession. The law colleges were barred from members found that multiple students against admitting students to the three-year programme one Registration Number, students whose date after December 31, 2018. BZU syndicate allowed not found in enrollment record for Law session 100 seats per college but the 41 colleges exceed- 2016-19, 2017-20 and 2018-20, some students

came out whose admission date was not found, many student's registration cards issuance date was not present. The JIT found 46 candidates whose admission date was after 02-04-2019. All the students who appeared in the 2nd Annual exam should have been enrolled on or before 02-04-2019 because it was the last date of admission available

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid date shows the mala fide and ill will of the colleges as well as BZU administration. When checked the attendance of the students mandatory was 75%, it revealed that there are students who are Govt. servants and many of them are posted and residing in other districts. In this way it is not possible for them to attend the law college. The owners of private law colleges sub mitted fake fee vouchers like Muhammadan Law College, Multan and Pakistan Law College, Pakpattan were fake in million bearing fake and fabricated stamps of banks. When JIT visited few law colleges and found out 26 ghosts Law College. On date 09-07-2023 JIT recommends registering the case against the delinquent BZU officials

To be continued

Chinese firm launches satellite with AI powered brain

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

A Chinese company has sent off a satellite that has strong man-made brainpower at its center, with the last point of making a self-controlled spaceship.

The WonderJourney-1A, or WJ-1A, which blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Inner Mongolia earlier this month, has an onboard intelligent processing unit known as the String Edge AI Platform.

"String serves as the satellite's brain, allowing real-time observation and processing. Traditionally, data has to be sent back to a ground control centre for analysis and instructions. But WJ-1A can handle it on the fly.

"WJ-1A is China's first satellite with artificial intelligence (AI) at its core, featuring a smart operating system, and it will soon be put into operation," the company's co-founder and chief technology officer Wang Chunhui told Zhejiang Daily last week. Currently the satellite's main task is system testing, and various intelligent applications will and VR panoramic cameras, allow-



efficiency in orbit. These applications smart cars and drones to monitoring and evaluating environmental conditions such as forest fire locations, soil moisture and pest disease monitoring. using AI model from China

"WJ-1A is equipped with high-resolution cameras, near-infrared cameras

be run and validated, assessing their ing for various image processing tasks. Through image semantic underrange from connections with future standing, it can recognise forests and oceans. It is also capable of target identification, lossless compression, and data cleaning. In practical terms, the company says the satellite can analyse an area of 10,000 sq km (3,860 square miles) and realise dynamic object tracking in just a few hours, while traditional satellites typical-

ly require about 180 days for similar tasks. The satellite maintains communication with the ground and more functions are being uploaded.

"String" aims to become an "AI assistant in space". Users on the ground will be able to talk to it in the same way people can with AI programs such as ChatGPT."The goal is to enable human interaction with spacecraft, allowing the satellite to autonomously warn about situations that can't be analysed from the Earth's surface and continue learning without sending vast amounts of data back to Earth."

The company was working with partners including the Rwandan Space Agency and the Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, "exploring new possibilities on applicable algorithms and helping them train talent in the AI field. Plans are in place to expand the WonderJourney constellation to 20 satellites by the end of 2024 in cooperation with the company's partners, increasing coverage and communication efficiency.

Myanmar exports over 220,000 tons of green grams in April-August

👺 Xinhua

YANGON: Myanmar exported about 222,600 tons of green grams in the first five months of the current fiscal year 2023-24 through next March, earning more than 149 million U.S. dollars, the Ministry of Commerce said on Saturday.

Over 170,600 tons of the green gram exports were shipped by sea and over 52,000 tons were sold through border trade during

period, the ministry said.

According to the ministry figures, the export of green grams dropped in

the five-month period from over 308,300 tons recorded a year

The Southeast Asian country made over 586 million dollars from the export of over 720,900 tons of beans and pulses in April-August this year, showed the ministry figures.

According to the ministry, beans and pulses are Myanmar's second-most cultivated crops after rice, and account for over 30 percent of the total agricultural production.

Myanmar exports beans and pulses mainly to China, India and European countries.

Qaiser Nawab, President, BRISD calls on First Lady of Botswana

News Desk

GABORONE: In a momentous meeting, Mr. Qaiser Nawab, a renowned Pakistani youth leader and President of the Belt and Road Initiative for Sustainable Development (BRISD), called on Her Excellency Mrs. Neo Jane Masisi, the esteemed First Lady of Botswana. This significant encounter serves as a testament to the strengthening of international bonds and mutual growth.

During this remarkable visit, Mr. Qaiser Nawab had the privilege of experiencing the warmth and hospitality of Botswana. His stay in this beautiful country has been nothing short of extraordinary, and he's been deeply impressed by the nation's She has long been dedicatunique attributes. Botswa- ed to advancing the cause of na's rich cultural heritage, girls and women in Botswa- insights into Botswana's rich centrality within South- those in vulnerable positions, shedding light on the nation's ern Africa has left a lasting showcasing her unwayering unique strengths and strateimpression.

Her Excellency Mrs. Neo Jane Masisi, the First Lady of President Mokgweetsi



role as the UNAIDS Special Ambassador for the Empowerment and Engagement of Young People in Botswana. commitment to social prog-

During their meeting, Mr. of Botswana and the wife Qaiser Nawab and First Lady expresses his deep gratitude Masisi engaged in discus-Masisi, holds a prominent sions on a range of topics hospitality he has received in

of mutual interest. They fondly recalled their previous encounter in 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Mrs. Masisi shared valuable gic positioning within South-

for the warm reception and

Botswana and looks forward to continued engagement and cooperation between the two nations. Both parties explored the potential opportunities for promoting bilateral relations and facilitating coupled with its strategic na, with a special focus on cultural and social history, people-to-people contacts to harness the mutual benefits of both Pakistan and Botswana. This meeting signifies a significant step Mr. Qaiser Nawab forward in strengthening diplomatic ties and fostering collaboration between

From Beijing to Hangzhou, Asiad mascots mirror China's transformation

👺 Xinhua

HANGZHOU: Wang Wenjuan, who hails from Beijing, is eagerly anticipating the opening ceremony of the upcoming 19th Asiad, scheduled from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8 in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province.

According to the 34-yearold, she shares a special connection with the sports gala because her nickname is "Panpan." "Panpan" was the name of the mascot of the 11th Asian Games held in Beijing, the first time China hosted a comprehensive international sporting event.

From "Panpan" to the trio of robotic mascots of the Hangzhou Asian Games, she believes these sporting symbols are a reflection of China's evolving landscape.

Wenjuan's father, Wang Long, still vividly recalls the excitement he felt upon hearing the news that China would host the Asian Games. The name of the mascot was different occasions," Wang said, adding that when his daughter was born in 1989, a year before the Beijing Asiad, he decided to name her



"Panpan."

The adorable panda mascot, "Panpan," holding a gold medal, quickly became a widely recognized and beloved symbol seen everywhere in China at the time. The name literally means "expectation," which aptly captured the sentiment of the Chinese people during that era of reform and

When asked what his expectations were at that time, the 61-year-old Wang replied instantly: "A better life."

Back then he was living in Shenzhen, located in south China's Guangdong Province, a city that has evolved aganza was a collection of five Games on television, his from a small fishing village into frequently mentioned on the country's first and most A Ru, A Yi and Le Yangyang. to witness the embrace of successful special economic

In 1990, Wang purchased harmony and happiness. his first color television, a Panasonic brand. Howev-

er, due to his busy work life, he only had the opportunity to watch the Asiad competitions occasionally.

But the event impressed him deeply. "Before the Beijing Asiad, I seldom saw foreign people," he said. "It attracted them to come and learn about the real China. After that, our life improved greatly." Twenty years later, China

hosted the Asian Games for the second time. This event took place in the thriving city of Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong, and it was dubbed "City of Goats." The mascot of the sporting extravgoats named A Xiang, A He. In Cantonese, these names symbolized auspiciousness,

In 2010, China overtook Japan to become the world's

second-largest economy. According to Zhang Wen, a teacher at the China Academy of Art, the mascots — a large goat leading four smaller ones - represented order and rationality following a period of rapid growth. "China has made great achievements in economic and social development, and people attached more importance to harmony," he said. Zhang is the chief designer of the mascots for the forthcoming Hangzhou Asian Games. The design, named "Jiangnanyi" or "Memories of Jiangnan," is based on a famous poem about Hangzhou, and it was chosen from among 4,633 proposals. The mascots drew inspiration from Hangzhou's three World Heritage sites: the Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu Culture, West Lake and the Grand

While Wang Long, now retired, is eagerly waiting to watch the Hangzhou Asian daughter Weniuan hopes Chinese culture, as portrayed during the event, by a wider audience. "I also hope that our technology can bring some changes to the world," she said.

Rescue on The Sea

跨 Zeenat Iqbal Hakimjee

ery little has been written about the ancient coastal people of Lyari the irrepressible Makranis - who take their name from the Makran coast of Sindh and, Balochistan, which also indicates a common history of the two provinces; the Makran coast constitutes the South-East of Iran and the South-West of Pakistan; a 1,000 km stretch along the Gulf of Oman from RA's (cape) Al-Kuh, Iran (West of Jask), to the Lasbela District of Pakistan (near Karachi). The Makran coast is on the Arabian Sea, to the North-West of Quetta in Balochistan.

The following is a story of one such coastal village:

Children on bare-back camels, even beyond the grasp of their eyes. Fishermen on the beach watch the sky, like the city dwellers read their newspapers first thing in the morning. Through the knots of their nets hanging on the line, they seem to predict the weather. This exercise determines whether they should take a boat out or not on the deep sea, for their daily expedition to catch fish. The air is filled with the smell of rancid water that is due to the deposits of oil, resulting in decayed and dead sea-life. Music, which is a part of their lives, plays in the background. The sounds are a Middle East, Indo-Pakistan and Afri-

The shells on the beach look like the abandoned toenails of the old fishermen, and they are more beautiful there, than on the foot. The broken wings, the sand-logged crabs, a damaged beyond recognition, the his wall, all alone. A cool wind suddenplank or sail from a doomed boat, all lay sprawled on the beach, each with a story behind it, cleansed and sterillight from the tower was but a spot searched the distance. He hobbled to



spectacular cliffs.

The weather-beaten villager's munching dates from the interiwhile watching holidaymakwatch the sea, its vastness spanning ers trying to teach their children to swim, like fish to water, amidst the shouts and screams of the children who are already submerged in the waters. The steps of the ladies faltered as they approached the sea, clad in salwar kameezes filled with the wind, the Shalwar Kameez itself a deterrent for swimming.

The story told here is that of a villager who, because of his sharp sense of hearing, helped in the rescue of a drowning man. The villager was alone and as he had no family to fend for, hence he had no responsibilities to drain his energy. Somehow he had also fusion of musical cultures from the preserved his youth, which he owed to mother nature. Religion that usually comes into the house with the presence of a woman was lacking in his and he was quite oblivious of it.

One evening when it was well after ten and the moon was full with black clouds scudding in ordered masses woman's lonely shoe, a rusty toy across the sky, he was still sitting on ly sighed from an unexpected quarter and in its wake was a noise like that from a distant cavalry charge. ized by the salt and iodine in the great His razor sharp ears picked up the hospital of the sea. In the night, the sound. His brow creased up as his eyes

against the background of the sky and his neighbours house and banged on the door of his traditional mud-hut - the two men, though natural lifeguards, knew thoroughly all that was written in the books about rescue on the seas. The coastal blacks were descendants of imported slaves - the fishermen being known as the Meds and the seamen as the Koras - when there was no response; he banged on the door again. A groggy fellow soon appeared. He pointed towards the horizon and mumbled something in the Makranic dialect. The man's eyes tried to see beyond the direction of the location being pointed at. A boat in trouble, he thought aloud. Without wasting any time they woke the other men.

A rule of the sea states that half the purchase price of the vessel of the sea is given to the rescue party. This prize money was quite a temptation, but since it was always dangerous the case required to be argued, all hands knew that the proposed journey was perilous.

The village women, all having gathered on the beach, saw their men disappear, reappear, disappear, reappear and finally disappear into the darkness. They were now a tiny speck in the vast vista of the sea - the ocean that is open to all and merciful to none, that which threatens even when it seems to yield, pitiless always

Many of the Makrani women now worked as domestic servants in Karachi; they were also experts in the art of massaging any mother and child after birth. Their traditional long dresses with hand-woven

Embroidery gave them a distinct 'folk' touch, separating them from the typical Karachiites. The skirt-like look, with its wide circumference, and the loose shalwar could be compared to the costumes of the pathan and Kabuli women.

The men in the rescue boat changed sides, so as not to tip the balance of the boat as the surf sprayed them from head to toe. The taste of salt lingered in their mouths during the voyage. They were not bothered by their appearance. On the contrary, they felt no different from when they started out

Suddenly, a dark object was thrown at them on the crest of a wave. It was a man. They held on to the poor fellow and eventually succeeded in dragging him aboard. Nobody felt sorry that this time, there was no prize. They rowed back to their village.

Couples fought with each other to offer hospitality to this half dead man; and they almost came to blows in their struggle for this visa to heaven.

They fetched a doctor from a nearby village, while the women sat all around him wearing their beads. The doctor was a Karachiite who had been sent to the village to serve them. The doctor prompted the man to speak. The man said, "Mahganj" very faintly. Repeated attempts, received the same response. The diagnosis stated that he was a victim of a traumatic shock and was suffering from amnesia, which meant a loss of memory, if only temporarily.

The Priest, who was also a member of the village council, was also summoned, as was the case in other similar incidents. "What's going on here?" he asked one of the ladies. "A miracle" said all the ladies together. The Makrani women are predomi-

nantly Muslim. The Priest was briefed about the



rescue and what followed. Being

an elderly fellow, he recalled that a girl by the name of 'Mahganj' had been registered in the mosque some eighteen years ago.

Now, it was easy to put two and two together. The man they found was associated with Mahganj and was discovered as belonging to the same village as her's. He was also supposed to marry her.

Mahganj was the granddaughter of the village tailor. Thus it was decided married life.

that the man be taken back to the same village that he originated from. Similar surroundings would help to revive his memory, it was hoped.

A therapist was hired from the city and surely, slowly though, his memory came back in bits and pieces. Mahganj's presence always evoked a response in the man, so strong was the bond of love. His memory did eventually return, which in turn led to their marriage. They led a happy

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
46,013.48	45,757.23			
Day's High	Day's Low:			
46,077.38	45,728.89			
Index Value	Change			
4,507,334,906	+256.25			
Percentage	Time			
+0.56%	8 Sept, 2023 5:00 pm			
Europe: FT	SE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
7,478.19	+36.47			
Percentage	Time			
+0.49%	8 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
34,587.64	+86.91			
Percentage	Time			
+0.25%	8 Sept, 12:57 pm GMT-4			
Asia Pacific: Nikl	kei Stocks Averag			
Index Value	Change			

– 1.16%	6 Sept, 3.15 pm GMT+9	
Onen Mauliet Favor Detec		

-384.24

Time

8 Sept, 3:15 pm

32.606.84

Percentage

Open Market	Forex	Rates
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198	200
Bahrain Dinar	816.3	824.3
Canadian Dollar	228.8	230
China Yuan	41.79	42.19
Danish Krone	44.04	44.44
Euro	323.8	327
Hong Kong Dollar	39.15	39.5
Indian Rupee	3.69	3.8
Japanese Yen	2.2	2.29
Kuwaiti Dinar	995.05	1004.05
Malaysian Ringgit	65.72	66.32
NewZealand \$	180.54	182.54
Norwegians Krone	28.83	29.13
Omani Riyal	798.42	806.42
Qatari Riyal	83.54	84.24
Saudi Riyal	80.7	81.5
Singapore Dollar	220	223
Swedish Korona	28.16	28.46
Swiss Franc	343.8	346.3
Thai Bhat	8.63	8.78
U.A.E Dirham	85.5	86.3
UK Pound Sterling	379.5	383.3
US Dollar	302	305

Progressive Group for Effective Track & Trace System in Sugar Sector

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Welcoming the steps being taken by the government to discourage the smuggling of sugar, the Progressive Group in the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has asked the government to re-introduce "track and trace" system in the sugar mills to permanently resolve the issue of black-marketing and unjustifiable profiteering.

In a statement issued here on Friday, Progressive Group's Central Leader and LCCI Executive Committee Member Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer said that if this system is still operating in the mills, then there is a need to make it more effective and accurate to ascertain the production of the sweetener in the country and its sale to genuine industrial and domestic consumers at affordable rates.

Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer said this method could help arrest the sudden upward surge in the sugar prices, formation of cartels and pushing the rates beyond the purchasing power of the common man. Likewise, it could also help the confectionary, beverages, bakeries and other industries to access cheaper sugar to keep their products' prices within the reach of the common users.

He said no doubt it was a business and the sugar industry should earn justifiable profits but the race of earning more should not make life miserable for the household consumers and the industrial sectors.

"A track and trace system will also promote transparency in the sugar supply chain. It allows stakeholders, including producers, distributors, and consumers, to access information about the product's journey from farm to table. This transparency can build trust and confidence among consumers, especially those concerned about product origins and ethical sourcing," Ejaz added.

He said at the same time implementing a track and trace system in the sugar industry can lead to improved quality control, food safety, supply chain transparency, compliance with regulations, and various other benefits that can positively impact the industry's reputation and prof-

M/o Education hosts Huawei Seeds for the Future 2023 Qatar Week Finale



Spokesman Report

DOHA, QATAR: The Ministry of Education and Higher Education hosted the final ceremony of Huawei's Seeds for the Future program 2023, honoring the winners of the first phase of the program at its headquarters on September 9. Held under the patronage of Qatar's Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), the regional event aims to develop local talent, share knowledge, increase the ICT sector awareness, and foster a digital community for young ICT talents.

A total of 175 students from elite universities across 15 Middle East and Central Asia (ME &CA) countries participated in the first phase of the Seeds for the Future program in Doha. This included Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Oman, Uzbekistan, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, and Kyrgyzstan. 16 Qatari students participated in the program, hailing from renowned educational universities in Qatar, including Qatar University, Hamad bin Khalifa University, Qatar Community College, and the University of Doha for Science and Technology.

The first phase of the Tech4Good regional competition, aimed at empowering and engaging the youth in driving positive change with-

in their communities, was also held in paral- Aspire Zone and all other partners who made continuous efforts in nurturing youth talent lel. Participating students presented their Tech4Good projects to the judges, and seven outstanding teams of 40 students were selected to move on to the second phase of the Tech-4Good program, which will be held in Dubai, UAE, from 10-16 September 2023. These teams represent Qatar, UAE, Jordan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan.

Two mentors, Ammar Khalid Mohammed Al-Siyabi from Oman and Zomurd Ahmed Alhamdani from Iraq were selected as favorites. Ammar was chosen for his strong leadership skills, unwavering belief in the vision, effective communication, and high energy. Meanwhile, Zomurd was recognized for his resilience, quiet yet impactful leadership style, adept handling of complex situations, and his positive influence on the team's dynamics.

Alex Zhang, CEO of Huawei Technologies LLC, said: "Qatar has been a fabulous host for the first phase of the Middle East and Central Asia leg of the Seeds for the Future program and Tech4Good competition and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsor, Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) and all our valuable partners - Qatar's Ministry of Education and Higher Education,

this event happen. We are confident this gathering was a milestone in nurturing ICT talent and harnessing the youth power to drive digital innovation and shape the sustainable future of the Middle East and Central Asia region."

Dr. Salem Al-Naemi, President of the University of Doha for Sciences and Technology and representative of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, stated: "Developing ICT learning and digital skills in the education field has become an integral part of strategic planning in Qatar. In an era of digital transformation, we aim to nurture young talents with the necessary skills and knowledge to advance and lead in their careers. Huawei's Seeds for the Future program provides one of the best training grounds for all future ICT practitioners and enhances international knowledge transfer among participants.

Eng. Hussain Salatt, Public Relations and Communication Unit Manager, CRA, said: "We are pleased to attend the closing ceremony of the "Seeds for the Future" program and the successful completion of its first phase, which hosted exceptional talents from 15 countries representing the Middle East and Central Asia region. I would like to extend my thanks to all the entities that supported the program and Qatar Tourism, Qatar Foundation, Vodafone, express my appreciation to Huawei for their of states.

in the ICT field and promoting innovation."

Following the second phase of Tech4Good regional competition in Dubai, UAE, the winners will then qualify to compete in the final global competition in China against other teams from around the world. The students will jointly explore ICT's huge potential to drive sustainable development. Winners from the Tech4Good Global Competition will be invited to the Tech4Good Startup Sprint in China, where they will visit Shenzhen, Beijing, and other cities to experience real-world entrepreneurial environments and compete for a startup support fund of US\$100,000.

Huawei's Seeds for the Future program is the company's flagship CSR program that aims to develop ICT talents globally. With an ever-increasing emphasis on innovation and technological advancements, this competition offers a unique platform where these young minds can exchange ideas, network with international peers, and gain valuable insights into the ICT sector that will shape their future and promote their participation in the digital community. Since its launch in 2008, more than 15,000 students have participated from 139 countries worldwide. The program has been endorsed by more than 450 senior officials and heads

Invest in Pakistan Conference

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif addressing 'Invest in Pakistan Conference' on Saturday,



IESCO assures to resolve electricity related issues of business community

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that open and hanging electric wires in the markets always pose great danger to the shopkeepers, while fire incidents due to short circuit of electricity cause loss of millions of rupees to the plaza owners as well as the shopkeepers. Therefore, IESCO should address this issue on priority to save the traders from further losses. He said that 5,000 traders are doing business in the Blue Area, but there have been fire incidents 6 to 7 times due to the short circuit of electricity in this biggest commercial center of Islamabad, which have caused huge losses to the business community, so ISCO should develop its infrastructure on modern lines besides improving the wiring system in all markets. He said this while talking to while talking to Abdul Rasheed Sarki, XEN, F-6 Division of IESCO during

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that when a transformer burns in a market, there is no back up for it and repair of burnt transformer takes many days. Due to this situation, the perishable items get spoiled causing losses to the traders. He stressed that IESCO should come up with a better solution to this problem to save the traders from



further losses. He said that the repair charges of commercial transformers are too high and should be reviewed.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI highlighted the issues of MDI meters and net metering faced by the business community and proposed their better

Abdul Rasheed Sarki, XEN, ISCO's F-6ix Division, speaking on the occasion, said that every possible effort would be made to solve the issues highlighted by the business community. He said that if any person visits markets or shops for inspection, he should be handed over to the police as ISCO has not assigned this responsibility to anyone.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan Zafar Bakhtawari said that last year the total revenue of Pakistan was PKR 7500 billion while the total revenue of the electricity companies was PKR 12000 billion but still many electricity companies are incurring losses, which should be a cause of concern the govern-

Asad Aziz President of F-7 Markaz Jinnah Supermarket, Yusuf Rajput, former President Blue Area, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, Khalid Chaudhry, Faseehullah Khan, Nasir Chaudhry and representatives of other markets also highlighted the electricity related issues of their respective areas and stressed for their early solutions.

Today's market analysis on behalf of Rania Gule Market Analyst at XS.com

ISLAMABAD: The Euro to US Dollar exchange rates are trending lower today, with the dollar continuing its path to achieve its longest weekly winning streak in nine years during Friday's trading. Meanwhile, the Euro faces eight consecutive weeks of

I can say that strong economic data has recently supported the strength of the US dollar. As a result, investors are questioning the Federal Reserve's future strategy for raising interest rates. In my opinion, the current focus in currency markets has returned to the relative difference between the US and European economies, thus ruling out a near and medium-term scenario of a decline in the US dollar

the US services sector for August, while the United according to forecasts.

States recorded its lowest jobless claims since Februarv. In contrast, July saw a slightly larger-than-expected decline in industrial production in Germany, Europe's largest economy, which has weakened the Euro to Dollar exchange rate recently.

In my view, as the US economy continues to demonstrate its strength, the European economy appears to be in a relatively stable state. The US dollar typically performs well when the United States outperforms its counterparts, as is happening now. Expectations are also growing among most economists that the European Central Bank will maintain interest rates on September 14 and temporarily keep them at their current levels. Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates by 25 Data this week revealed basis points later this year unexpected growth in to combat stubbornly high inflation, with a 40% chance,

CAP writes to ministers; opposes early markets' shut; proposes measures to save energy

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chain stores in the country, while opposing the government's decision of early closure of markets, has proposed the alternative measures to ensure balanced energy conservation, as the reduction in retail peak hours will reduce revenue by 30%, resulting in sale loss of Rs3.5 trillion, besides total GST and Income Tax collection loss of about Rs300 billion against electric saving of less than Rs62 billion annually.

In a letter, written simultaneously to Federal Minister for Energy & Power Muhammad Ali, Federal Commerce

Minister Gohar Ijaz and Provincial Industries Minister S. M Tanveer, Chairman of the Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) Tariq Mehboob Rana stated that recently announced decision by the government is based on an unfounded claim of annual savings of Rs62 billion. Rather, this measure will counter productively cause a significant plunge in revenues of up to 30 percent for retail businesses of which 'Tier-1 retailers' are connected with the FBR-POS system. Such a sharp dip in sales will amount to several hundred billion of rupees of national economic loss across the domestic economy.

Australia pip Pakistan to top ODI Rankings by thrashing South Africa

Sports Desk

David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne scored centuries as Australia thumped South Africa by 123 runs in the second ODI and dethroned Pakistan from the top of the ICC ODI Rankings.

David Warner made 106 and Labuschagne 124 in an Australian total of 392 for eight after the tourists were sent in.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa took four for 48 as South Africa were bowled out for 269 in the 42nd over.

Quinton de Kock (45) and skipper Temba Bavuma (46) put on 81 in nine overs to get South Africa off to a quick start before De Kock was caught and bowled by Nathan Ellis.

Zampa struck twice in successive overs to dismiss Bavuma and Aiden Markram and South Africa were unable to mount a serious challenge, although Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller both made 49.

"Our intent and execution tonight was as good as it gets," said Australian captain Mitchell Marsh.



Warner and Travis Head dominated South Africa's fast bowlers during an opening partnership of 109 off 72 balls, with Head thrashing 64 off 36 balls with nine fours and three sixes.

There was a brief respite for South Afri-

ca when left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi dismissed Head and Marsh off successive deliveries.

But Labuschagne followed up his match-winning 80 not out in the first match at the same venue on Thurs-

day -- when he came into the team as a concussion substitute for Cameron Green -- with another player of the match performance. David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne put on 151 for the third wicket off 124 balls, with Warner going to his 20th one-day international century off 85 deliveries.

Labuschagne was even quicker, reaching his second one-day international century off 80 balls.

Both his hundreds have been made in the country of his birth. He hit 108 in Potchefstroom in March 2020.

"The boys at the top got us off to a lightning start and put pressure on the bowlers," said Labuschagne, who said the fact that he had not been selected for the World Cup was "not in my control - I am concentrating on enjoying my cricket and playing as well as I can.'

It was Australia's third-highest total in the 50-overs format and the fourth-highest conceded by South Africa.

"They were on top of us from ball one," admitted Bavuma.

Messi winner gets Argentina under way in World Cup qualifying

Sports Desk

Colombia beat Venezuela 1-0 while 10-man Peru held on for a 0-0 draw at Paraguay as the long journey of South American qualifying for the 2026 World Cup got underway.

Lionel Messi, who led Argentina to their third World Cup triumph in Qatar in December, has yet to confirm whether he will continue with his national side all the way to 2026, but he showed his importance yet again with the breakthrough in what had threatened to be a frustrating night for Lionel Scaloni's team.

Lautaro Martinez won a free-kick in a central area in the 78th minute, just outside the Ecuador penalty area and Lionel Messi executed to perfection with his effort floating over the wall and dipping perfectly to beat the stationary Hernan Galindez.

With the goal, Messi drew level with former Barcelona teammate Luis Suarez of Uruguay as the all-time leading scorers in the South American qualifiers, both with 29 goals.

sion against an Ecuador side which defended in numbers and limited their dealt with by Galindez. attacks to the occasional break on the

The first opening of the game fell to



Lionel Messi in the 16th minute when he was found on the edge of the box but put his side-foot effort wide of the post.

Just before the break, Lautaro Martinez went closer when he slid in to meet Rodrigo De Paul and his shot struck the post.

Lionel Messi worked himself an open-The Albiceleste had dominated possesing in the 69th minute but his low shot blast at the near post. was weakly struck and was comfortably

> But the 80,000 crowd in the Estadio Monumental were brought to their feet by Messi's goal and from then on it was

smooth sailing for Argentina. De Paul, who was excellent throughout,

dribbled across from the right setting up substitute Angel Di Maria but his effort was just wide. Then De Paul brought a fine save out of yellow card.

Galindez near the end with a close-range

"Ecuador showed they have very good players, that they are physically strong expanded 48-team World Cup, to be held and that they are clear about what they do," Messi said.

"We know that in every game we have

to give one hundred percent to pull it off. But we showed...that this group will not relax beyond what they achieved, which is something historic and extraordinary," he added.

We have to be aware that we enjoyed everything a lot, but what we did is over. We have to look ahead," said the seventimes Ballon d'Or winner.

A 46th-minute header from Rafael Santos Borre, from a pinpoint Jhon Arias cross, was enough to earn three points for

Colombia in Barranquilla. The victory ensured a winning start for the new Colombia coach, Argentine Nestor Lorenzo, who was taking charge

of his first competitive game. Colombia failed to qualify for last year's World Cup in Qatar while Venezuela are

hoping to earn their first-ever appearance in a World Cup finals. Peru's difficult task in Ciudad del Este became harder after they lost defender Luis Advincula on the stroke of half-

But they held on for a point in what was a pulsating, high-tempo encounter.

time when he was dismissed for a second

The qualification process for the in the United States, Canada and Mexico, offers two extra places for South America with six teams qualifying directly.

Shubman Gill heaps praise on Babar Azam ahead of Asia Cup clash



№ A Sports

COLOMBO: Indian opener Shubman Gill heaped praise on Pakistan skipper Babar Azam ahead of the high-octane Pakistan vs India Super 4 clash in the ongoing Asia Cup 2023 on

Describing Babar Azam, who is the No.1 ranked ODI batter currently, as a "world-class" batter, Shubman Gill said they follow his batting style and admire him.

Yes, definitely we follow him. When a player is doing well. Everyone watches him to find out why they are doing so good, what their specialty is. The same thing goes for Babar. He is a world-class player and we all do admire him," the right-handed batter told reporters on the eve of the Pakistan vs India Super 4 match in Colombo.

Babar Azam began the Asia Cup 2023 campaign with a 151 against Nepal in the group stage in Multan. He did not get to bat against India after which he got out against Bangladesh in Lahore in a Super Fours match which Pakistan won

Babar has been leading Pakistan well in Asia Cup 2023 and the former champions are considered one of the favourites to win the continental tournament.

Babar is the No. 1 batter in ICC Men's ODI rankings and the right-hander has been in fine form in the lead-up to the ODI World Cup in India.

Having scored over 5300 runs, including 19 ODI hundreds, in just 106 matches, Babar has established himself as one of the modern-day greats in the limited-overs format of the game with an average of 59 in ODIs.

'Quality bowling attack'

Meanwhile, Shubman Gill also spoke highly of the Pakistan pace-bowling attack, highlighting that India batters needed time to get used to the left-arm pace.

Notably, the top-order failed in the Group A match against Pakistan as Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were out early to Shaheen Shah Afridi, who got the ball moving both ways. Shubman Gill struggled for his 32-ball 10 before he was castled

Asked about India's troubles dealing with the strong Pakistan pace attack, Gill said it has a lot to do with the unfamiljarity factor.

When you are playing at this level, you play left-armer pacers previously at some point in your career. We do not play Pakistan that much as compared to the other sides. They have a quality bowling attack. When you do not face such a bowling attack frequently and are not used to it, it makes a difference," he said.

Gill then explained why the Pakistan fast bowlers are making such an impact.

"They are very different fast bowlers and they have their own specialities. Shaheen Shah gets the ball to swing a lot. Naseem shah is all about pace and likes help from the wicket. They present different challenges in different conditions," said Gill.

Gill said that Indian batters will have to dominate, unlike last time when the top order was blown away for 66. "As openers, we need to make a good start and dominate them from the beginning," Gill said.

Neymar breaks Pele's record as Brazil crush Bolivia 5-1 in World Cup qualifiers

Sports Desk

Nevmar surpassed Pele as Brazil's all-time top scorer with two secondhalf goals in a 5-1 win over Bolivia in South America's 2026 World Cup qualifiers on Friday.

The 31-year-old striker went into the game level with Pele on 77 goals and had a golden opportunity to break the record in the 17th minute when Brazil were awarded a penalty.

But he looked distraught after his the scores goalless.

front when Rodrygo reacted quickly to hands and his gaze to the skies.

slot home after a shot from Raphinha was parried out by Viscarra.

Brazil doubled their lead just after the break when Raphinha cut in from the left and his low shot took a slight deflection as it flew into the bottom

Neymar had a hand in Brazil's third, with a clever chipped pass that was flicked on by Bruno Guimaraes into the path of Rodrygo who confidently drilled home.

Then came Neymar's moment to soft spot-kick was easily saved by Boliventer the history books as he pounced ia keeper Guillermo Viscarra to keep on a loose ball inside the box and tucked away his 78th goal in his 125th Seven minutes later, Brazil got in game for his country - raising his

Victor Abrego pulled a goal back for from predecessor Tite in the wake of Bolivia, bustling through a disorganized Brazil backline before blasting an unstoppable shot past Ederson.

But there was still time for Neymar to extend his record tally, connecting with a low ball from Raphinha in stoppage time to complete the victory and a memorable night for the forward.

The 31-year-old former Barcelona striker Nevmar recently moved from Paris Saint-Germain to Saudi Arabi-Pele, who died in December aged 82,

ances between 1957 and 1971. The win was the perfect start for new coach Fernando Diniz, who took over

scored 77 goals for Brazil in 92 appear-

the Selecao's World Cup quarter-final exit last year. Diniz paid tribute to Neymar, whose

role in the squad has been under scru-"Many did not know what he would

come to do, and he came to do what he did: have fun, score two goals and break the record," he said.

"He is a very big idol, people must recognize him and accept him," he

In Friday's other game, Uruguay turned on the style, under new coach Marcelo Bielsa, as they beat Chile 3-1.

The qualification process for the expanded 48-team World Cup, to be



held in the United States, Canada and off. Mexico in 2026, offers two extra places for South America with six teams qual-The seventh out of the 10 nations

will head to an inter-continental play-

The opening games on Thursday saw Argentina beat Ecuador 1-0 with a goal from Lionel Messi while Peru drew 0-0 at Paraguay and Colombia beat Venezuela 1-0.

Sri Lanka edge Bangladesh to register first Super 4s win in Asia Cup 2023

A Sports

COLOMBO: Sadeera Samarawickrama's blistering 93-run knock, followed by a combined bowling effort led Sri Lanka to a 21-run victory over Bangladesh in the eighth match of the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2023 on

Set to chase 258, Bangladesh could accumulate 236 runs before being bundled out in the penultimate over despite Towhid Hridoys's gutsy 82.

Bangladesh openers Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Mohammad Naim laid a solid foundation for the run chase with a brisk 55-run partnership but Dasun Shanaka struck twice in his successive overs to script Sri Lanka's comeback as Bangladesh slipped to

Miraz scored a 29-ball 28

21-run knock in 46 deliveries.

Bangladesh then coped two more blows to their run chase after experienced batter Litton Das (15) and skipper Shakib Al Hasan (3) perished cheaply.

With the visitors reeling at 83/4 in 18.5 overs, Hridoy put together an anchoring 72-run partnership with wicketkeeper batter Mushfigur Rahim. The pair had stabilized Bang-

ladesh's innings before Dasun Shanaka once again drew an important breakthrough, dismissing Mushfiqur in the 38th over. He scored 29 off 48

Hridov then stitched brief partnerships with Shamim Hossain and Nasum Ahmed before finally perishing in the 44th over when Bangladesh needed a further 61 runs.

Towhid Hridoy remained the while Naim played a cautious top-scorer for Bangladesh in not enough to guide their side



their must-win Asia Cup 2023 fixture with a 97-ball 82 which featured seven boundaries and

Following his dismissal, Nasum and Hasan Mahmud kept Bangladesh in the hunt by scoring valuable runs at the backend but their heroics were

Nasum scored a run-a-ball 15 while Mahmud scored 10 not out off seven deliveries.

For Sri Lanka, Dasun Shanaka, Maheesh Theekshana and Matheesha Pathirana bagged three wickets each while Dunith Wellalage made one scalp.

The 21-run victory over Bang-

ladesh not only marked Sri over. Lanka's first win in the Super 4s stage of the Asia Cup 2023 but also extended their unbeaten streak in the ODIs.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, are now on the verge of elimination and would need a as Sri Lanka slipped to 117/3 in miracle to make it to the final.

Put into bat first, Sri Lanka managed to put a commendable total on the board, courtesy of Sadeera Samarawickrama's late fireworks and Kusal Mendis's anchoring half-century.

The home side had a shaky start to their innings as they lost their opener Dimuth Karunaratne (18) cheaply with 34 runs on the board in 5.3 overs.

Mendis then joined opening batter Pathum Nissanka in the middle and the pair anchored the innings with a sensible 74-run partnership which lasted with Nissanka's dismissal in the 24th

Nissanka fell 10 runs short of his half-century, scoring 40 off 50 deliveries and hit five bound-

Mendis also followed Nissanka back to the hut two overs later

Sri Lanka then lost two more wickets in quick successions as Charith Asalanka (10) and Dhananjaya de Silva (six) walked back after making modest contri-

With the home side reeling at 164/5 in the 38th over, Sadeera Samarawickrama was joined by his captain Dasun Shanaka and the pair scripted an astounding recovery by knitting a crucial 60-run partnership.

The duo frustrated Bangladesh bowlers in their must-win Asia Cup 2023 game by scoring at a rapid pace before young

pacer Hasan Mahmud provided a much-needed breakthrough in the form of Shanaka's dismissal. The Sri Lankan captain scored

a cautious 32-ball 24, which featured a boundary. Following his dismissal,

Samarawickrama stood his ground firm and ticked the scoreboard single-handedly while losing partners at the other end before finally perishing on the final delivery of the innings, seven short of his well-deserved century.

Sadeera Samarawickrama smashed eight boundaries and two sixes on his way to top score for Sri Lanka with a 72-ball 93.

Right-arm pacers Hasan Mahmud and Taskin Ahmed led the bowling attack for Bangladesh in their must-win Asia Cup 2023 fixture with three wickets each, followed by Shoriful Islam's