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Launching ceremony of Pakistan Navy offshore patrol vessel held at Romania

Launching Ceremony of state-of-the-art Offshore Patrol Vessel, PNS HUNAIN (Design) being built for Pakistan Navy was held at M/s DAMEN Shipyard Galati, Romania. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He highlighted the importance of maritime security under the prevailing conventional and non-conventional maritime threats to energy and trade highways... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Called On

NEWS DESK: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir meets Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during his official visit to brotherly country.



Photo: ISPR

Pakistan Army chief visits Türkiye on high-level visit to boost military ties

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), COAS is on an official visit to the Republic of Türkiye. The visit is part of the high level mutual visits by both the brotherly countries to enhance the historic diplomatic and military ties. During the visit COAS called on H. E Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Republic of Türkiye, Foreign and Defense Ministers, Commander of Turkish General Staff and Commanders of Turkish Land and Air forces. During the meetings, COAS emphasized on enhancing defence collaboration and training cooperation. COAS appreciated Turkish Military's efforts for maintaining peace and stability in the region and also praised the standards of operational readiness of Turkish Armed Forces. Turkish leaders acknowledged the efforts extended by Pakistan Army Engineers who worked along NDMA Teams during the unfortunate earthquake that hit Türkiye in February

this year. COAS visited the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in Ankara to pay homage to the great leader and laid floral wreath in his honour. COAS later visited the Turkish Land Forces Headquarters, where on his arrival he was given a warm welcome and was presented with the Guard of Honour. COAS was also conferred with the Legion of Merit by the Minister of Defense and Commander Turkish Land Forces in recognition of his services towards promoting defence relations between two countries. During the ceremony COAS highlighted that, "Pakistan and Türkiye have strong brotherly relations which have always stood the test of times. Pakistan Army is always willing to extend full support to the Turkish Land Forces in multiple domains. Pakistan has always stood with their Turkish brothers in times of calamity and moments of triumph and shall continue to strengthen the fraternal ties amongst the two nations."

Pakistani president highlights strengthened cooperation with China under CPEC

Xinhua

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani President Arif Alvi stressed the need to strengthen cooperation with China in multiple fields under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the President House Media Wing said on Tuesday.

At a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Tuesday, the president appreciated China's long-term support for Pakistan's development, saying that the China-Pakistan friendship has been unique and deeply rooted in the hearts of the people for decades.

Alvi said Pakistan wants to maintain close exchanges with China and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, in particular, to learn from China's development experience.

The president said Pakistan will actively promote the construction of CPEC, and expand cooperation



in agriculture, mining, information technology to benefit the two peoples. Jiang said that under the strategic guidance of the leaderships of the two countries, China-Pakistan relations have maintained high-level development, all-round, in-depth cooperation has been carried out, and the construction of CPEC has moved toward high-quality development.

The ambassador said he would fulfill his duties, implement high-level consensus between the two countries, and make active efforts to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Jiang, who arrived in Pakistan on Sept. 5 to take up his new post, presented his credentials to the president before the meeting. Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

PM Kakar promises peace, economic revival in Gilgit visit



Saif ur Rehman

GILGIT: The Caretaker Prime Minister on Wednesday stated that no foreign organization would be permitted to interfere in the country's internal affairs.

While addressing to media – at an inauguration ceremony of a heart disease hospital in Gilgit – the caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar stated that "No foreign organization is allowed to interfere in the country's affairs."

The caretaker PM also expressed a firm belief in the

country's law enforcers, stating, "The implementation of the law will solve the problems of our country."

During his visit to the region, the caretaker prime minister inaugurated a 50-bed OPD at Cardiology Hospital in Gilgit.

The caretaker Prime Minister Anwar Haq Kakar acknowledged the warm and heartfelt welcome from the people of Gilgit and emphasized the importance of unity amidst diversity, noting that "living together on the basis of differences is the eminence of humanity."

President Arif Alvi suggests election date in letter to CEC

صدر مملکت ناکار عارف علوی کا چیف الیکشن کمشنر، مسکندر سلطان راجہ کے نام خط

صدر مملکت نے 9 اگست کو وزیر اعظم کے مشورے پر فوری اسمبلی کو تحلیل کیا، صدر مملکت PIC.TWITTER.COM/5W880KX62

— THE PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN (@PRESOFPAKISTAN) SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Wednesday suggested November 6, 2023 as the date for general elections in Pakistan.

In a letter addressed to Chief Election Commissioner, President Arif Alvi noted that the National Assembly was dissolved on Prime Minister's advice on August 9, 2023 and the Constitution of Pakistan empowers the president to announce a date for general election "not later than ninety days from the date of the dissolution (of assembly)" so elec-

Justice Isa to take oath as chief justice on this date

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Justice Qazi Faez Isa, a senior puisne judge of the Supreme Court, is all set to take oath as next chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) while Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial has vacated his official residence ahead of time.

According to details, the oath-taking ceremony of Justice Qazi Faez Isa will take place at Aiwan-e-Sadar in Islamabad on September 17 (Sunday). President Dr Arif Alvi will administer oath to the nominated chief justice.

The oath-taking ceremony will be attended by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, Federal Ministers and military leadership.

Sources told ARY News that the President will hold a one-on-one meeting with the new chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) after administering oath.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial vacated his official residence more than two days before his service ends.

PKR continues its upward trend against USD

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee (PKR) continued to post gains against the greenback (USD) on Wednesday and closed at Rs298.82.

Pakistani Rupee gained Rs1.06 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs298.82 against the previous day's closing of Rs299.88.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs297 and Rs300 respectively. Analysts said that the dollar price was reduced after ongoing crackdowns across the country to curb currency smuggling.

On September 11, the US dollar (USD) went down below the interbank rate in the open market. USD was dropped by 4.00 rupees in open market and traded at 298 rupees till evening.

"The greenback rate dropped by 2.35 rupees in interbank and trading at 300.60 Pakistani rupees," the forex dealers said.

PTI chairman, Shah Mahmood Qureshi's remand extended in cipher case

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A special court on Wednesday extended the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and party's Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi's judicial remand till September 26 in the cipher case.

Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, who heard the case at the Attock District Jail under the Official Secrets Act 2023, extended the judicial remand of Imran Khan in the missing cipher case, a classified state document.

Hearing of the case took place at the Attock Jail following approval by the Law Ministry amid security concerns expressed by the Interior Ministry.

The PTI Chairman Imran Khan was sent to jail on August 5 following his conviction in the Toshakhana case. On August 29, the IHC had suspended his sentence.

Election date: ECP reacts to President Alvi's letter

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has reacted to President Arif Alvi's letter regarding the election date. According to sources within ECP, the commission will respond to the letter regarding the election date after analyzing the content of letter.

Sources said that they would respond according to the constitution of Pakistan as it did to the previous letter.

Furthermore, the ECP holds the constitutional right to announce the election date and the election schedule will be announced after the completion of delimitation process which is set to complete on November 30, sources added.

Azerbaijan envoy meets CAS, express interest in upcoming multi-national aerial exercise

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov called on the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here on Wednesday and expressed great interest in the upcoming multi-national aerial exercise that would incorporate all domains of airpower.

The meeting covered a wide array of topics, including matters of mutual interest, regional developments, and the evolving geopolitical landscape, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said. Amidst the discussions, the Air Chief shared his strategic vision for the Pakistan Air Force and reiterated his unwavering commitment to modernize its capabilities across the realms



of air, space, cyber, and electronic warfare. The discussion primarily focused on the areas of joint operational training and comprehensive cooperation in cross-domain, multi-spectrum operations. Emphasizing the historical friendship between the two nations, the Air Chief stated, "The relationship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan has a myriad of reasons, deeply rooted in mutual experiences, enduring religious, cultural and historical bonds, all underpinned by a shared commitment to regional peace, security, and stability."

Launching Ceremony

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi addressing the officials of Pakistan and M/s DAMEN Shipyard during launching ceremony of Offshore Patrol Vessel PNS Hunain at M/s DAMEN Shipyard Galati, Romania.



Photo: ISPR

Launching ceremony of Pakistan Navy offshore patrol vessel held at Romania

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Launching Ceremony of state-of-the-art Offshore Patrol Vessel, PNS HUNAIN (Desig) being built for Pakistan Navy was held at M/s DAMEN Shipyard Galati, Romania. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff highlighted the importance of maritime security under the prevailing conventional and non-conventional maritime threats to energy and trade highways passing through Indian Ocean Region. In this context, he underscored that Pakistan Navy has tremendous contribution in successfully providing a secure sea environment for maritime trade since 2004. The Admiral expressed his confidence that induction of these multipurpose and highly adaptive

platforms; equipped with state-of-the-art weapons/ sensors suite, will further strengthen combat capability of PN Fleet in safeguarding maritime frontiers while ensuring Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region, especially in the Arabian Sea.

Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi also commended the exceptional professionalism and dedication of DAMEN Shipyard in putting steel into a warship in short span of time, while underscoring the trust and confidence of Pakistan Navy in M/s DAMEN. M/s DAMEN has earned this trust after induction and good performance of first Batch of OPVs i.e. PNS YARMOOK and PNS TABUK in Pakistan Navy.

The launching ceremony was attended by high ranking officials from Romanian Government and Navy, Pakistan Navy, M/s DAMEN and notables from Pakistani community in Romania.

President for implementation of job quota for persons with disabilities

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has underscored the need for the implementation of job quota for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) by the public and private sectors. He said that the 10-12% population of the country was facing various forms of disabilities and it was the responsibility of government and private sectors to employ PWDs, as per their skills and qualifications, so that to empower them financially.

The President made these remarks during a follow-up meeting on the framework for classification of disabilities, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Human Rights, Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), NADRA, NAVTTC, represen-



tatives from the four provincial governments, Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK, and a representative from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Ministry of Human Rights briefed the meeting on the progress made so far with regard to implementation of disability employment quota. It was informed that the ministry was actively pursuing with the government organizations to implement job quota for persons with

disabilities in letter and spirit. The Ministry highlighted that 98 Differently-abled-Persons (DAPs) had been provided jobs by the government organizations since March 2023. The Ministry further informed that a master list of potential employers was being prepared to seek their support in providing jobs to PWDs. NAVTTC apprised the meeting that 1500 PWDs had been trained for job placement.

The meeting was apprised

that presently DAPs availed the job quota only from BPS 1-15 while no specific quota had been reserved for them against the gazetted positions. The President stressed the importance of amending the existing recruitment rules to reserve quota for PWDs in gazetted jobs. He underlined the need for imparting skill-based education to PWDs to enhance their employability and ensure their active participation in mainstream economic activities. The President also highlighted the importance of close coordination among the stakeholders to address issues related to the registration of PWDs at federal and provincial levels. He also appreciated the efforts made by NAVTTC by training 1500 PWDs as well as the role of Ministry of Human Rights for helping DAPs in getting jobs.

The Officials from provincial governments updated the meeting about the measures taken by them for the facilitation and training of PWDs. Later, a delegation, led by the Director and CEO of Tang Chinese International Education and Technology (Pvt) Ltd, Mr. Song Jianying held a meeting with the President, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Mr. Song gave presentation on the technical and skilled education for Pakistani youth. The CEO informed that Tang Chinese International Education and Technology (Pvt) Ltd had sent 150 Pakistanis to China for getting advance skilled education. He further informed that his institute would send more Pakistani youth to China on scholarship basis for getting advance skilled education. The President lauded the services of the organization for imparting skilled education to Pakistani youth.

PM House's unpaid electricity bill is Rs9819

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: While the public is grappling with hefty electricity bills, the residence of the caretaker prime minister is also in default of Rs 9,819 in terms of electricity bills.

As per the details, the Pakistani public is reeling under the weight of exorbitant electricity bills and unable to pay the bills on time, while the Power bill of Prime Minister's residence received an astonishingly low.

On the other hand, various ministries, divisions, and government departments are grappling with staggering Power bills, with several ministries having unpaid bills amounting to millions.

Sources have revealed that the Foreign Office has unpaid bills of over Rs. 143.281 million, while various ministries owe over Rs. 98.367 million, the Cabinet Division has unpaid bills exceeding Rs. 49.720 million, and the Finance Division and other departments have outstanding bills of over Rs. 49.972 million.

It has also been reported that the Sindh House has unpaid bills exceeding Rs. 6.653 million, while the Punjab House has electricity bills of over Rs. 5.120 million.

The Foreign Service Academy is responsible for unpaid bills amounting to over Rs. 4.136 million, and the National Library has Power bills exceeding Rs. 1.290 million.

Govt has not nominated anyone for 'beauty contest': Solangi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said the government had not nominated anyone to represent Pakistan at a beauty contest of "Miss Universe". The minister was responding to a senior journalist's post on the social media platform 'X', who had questioned as to who in the government had given permission to five persons for the contest.

"The Government and the State of Pakistan are represented by the state and government institutions.



Our government has not nominated any non-state or non-governmental person or institution for any such activity, nor any such person or institution can represent the state or government. Period," the minister said in his post on 'X'.

PM Kakar says its ECP's prerogative to announce election date

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that general elections could be held in mid-January or by the end of January, however its ECP's prerogative to announce the election date.

Expressing his views during a talk show of a private TV channel, the caretaker prime minister said that the caretaker set up was ready to assist the electoral process, look after the law and order and financial matters related to holding elections.

The delimitation was a due and constitutional process, the

president had also advised the ECP in this regard, and the ECP would hold deliberations, he added.

He said that they had identified the officials and political personalities, at the federal and provincial levels, who were involved in smuggling and illegal trade activities.

The relevant authorities were also securing evidences against them which would be produced before the courts of law, leading to their conviction, he said and assured that a stern action would be taken against all those involved in such activities.

PM Kakar further elaborated that the US dollars were



converted into different currencies and parked across the region, leading to a vicious cycle that was functioning for the last one and one half year which was now being smashed

through physical crackdown and border management laws. He said an artificial inflation was created through hoarding and smuggling, adding that ongoing operations were yield-

ing tangible result and positive outcome, and cited the reduction in price of sugar etc.

The caretaker prime minister, to another question regarding economic revival, lauded the incumbent chief of army staff for contributing towards the national economy.

The caretaker prime minister, responding to a question about trials of PTI chief Imran Khan, said that such matters should be left to the courts to decide.

On Shah Mahmood Qureshi's arrest, he observed that it was upto the law enforcement agencies to decide whether laws permitted someone to be handcuffed or not.

Postage stamp commemorating 75-yr of Pak-Turkiye diplomatic ties unveiled

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi and the Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Dr. Mehmet Pacaci on Wednesday jointly unveiled a postage stamp commemorating 75 years of establishment of Pakistan and Turkiye diplomatic ties, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. <https://x.com/ForeignOfficePk/status/1701997964137496915?s=20> "The event showcased enduring bonds of brotherhood and fraternity between two nations & people," Foreign Office Spokesperson posted on her X handle.

Crackdown intensifies against electricity theft

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Shah Fahad, chaired a meeting on Wednesday to accelerate the crackdown on electricity theft and the recovery of overdue electricity bills. Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Shah Fahad, in a meeting, was convened in the provincial capital to address the issue of cracking down on the kunda mafia and arrears collection. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sania Safi, administrative officials, WAPDA authorities, TMA officers, local government representatives, and police officials. During the meeting, a detailed discussions were held regarding the prevention of electricity theft, actions against the kunda mafia, and revenue collection in Peshawar. It was emphasized that an effective operation against the kunda mafia is currently underway under the district administration's supervision.

SECP witnesses 21% growth in August incorporations

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,847 new companies in the month of August 2023, taking the total number of registered companies in the country to 200,629.

The incorporations recorded 20.6% increase as compared to the same period last year and 99.7% were registered online. The total capitalization of these companies was recorded at Rs. 3.5 billion. Moreover, as a result of integration of SECP's registration system with FBR and various provincial departments, 2,776 companies were registered with FBR for registration of NTN, 83 companies with EOBI, 46 companies with PESSI/SESSI, and 49 companies with excise and taxation department.

SC adjourns Gun & Country Club case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday adjourned the hearing of case pertaining to the Gun and Country Club without any proceedings on the request of the respondents' lawyers. The three-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial heard the case.

At the outset of hearing, the chief justice asked whether the lawyers of other respondents were not informed about today's hearing. It was an interesting case and he enjoyed hearing it, he added. The CJ said now a new bench would be formed to resume further hearing on next date. The court then adjourned the case.

FM Jilani emphasises youth empowerment to tackle climate change challenge

Shakeel Anjum

LONDON: Interim Minister for Foreign Affairs Jalil Abbas Jilani on Wednesday stressed the need to empower youth of the Commonwealth nations to tackle the challenge of climate change. The foreign minister, chairing a meeting on climate change under the 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Meeting, said the Commonwealth nations should learn from the experiences of the Climate Change Program. The meeting highlighted the important role of the youth to overcome



the challenge of climate change. The foreign minister said that Pakistan was among a few countries facing the catastrophic impacts of climate change. He also appealed to the Commonwealth nations to put in their concerted efforts to deal with the climate change impacts.

Ambassador Anna Baloch presents credentials to King of Belgium

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Anna Baloch on Wednesday presented her credentials to King of Belgium, Philippe Leopold Louis Marie, in a graceful ceremony held at the Royal Palace in Brussels. The ambassador conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the President and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the King, a press release said. Reaffirming the importance Pakistan attached to friendly relations with



Belgium, the ambassador expressed her determination towards building a stronger, vibrant, and diverse partnership between the two countries. The King of Belgium warmly reciprocated the greetings and extended his heartfelt best wishes for the well-being and prosperity of the people of Pakistan.

PPP to Win the incoming General Election: Bilwal

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN/MUZAFFARGARH: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing party workers in Muzaffargarh said that he has come to offer condolences to Mehr Irshad Ahmed Sial on the passing of his brother. Chairman Bilawal prayed to Allah Almighty to grant strength and fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this loss with equanimity. He also expressed that the PPP, as a party stands with its representative during this painful ordeal.

Chairman Bilawal said that the people of Muzaffargarh have stood with the PPP during adverse times. The people of Muzaffargarh offered unwavering support to Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and then Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. They have never disappointed the party. During the 2018 elections, despite the pressure of the state, three of our National Assembly representatives emerged triumphant due to the people of Muzaffargarh. It is hoped that Muzaffargarh would give us five victorious National Assembly members in the upcoming elections.

Chairman Bilawal said that the PPP's relation with Muzaffargarh dates back three generations. We have combated anti-democratic entities together in every era, be it that of General Zia, General Musharraf or the recent selected rule. He said that the people of Muzaffargarh supported the party as it initiated the no-confidence movement and participated in the long march to reach Islamabad, which made it possible for



us to succeed in a feat that was perceived as impossible to achieve. We were able to oust a puppet PM from office who had not only paved the way for political, economic or constitutional crises but also left us in a quagmire when it came to foreign affairs. Today, Pakistan is riddled with a plethora of issues. As I have been travelling by road, I have been apprised of the problems of the people through them directly, and their issues range from the ever-increasing inflation to meeting basic needs such as food, health and education, Chairman Bilawal said.

Responding to questions, Chairman Bilawal said that the upcoming manifesto of the PPP will include many programmes such as that of the BISP. He said that the PPP will devise its strategy regarding the elections in its CEC meeting tomorrow. No one knows when the elections are supposed to be held, not me, or the Chief Election Commission-

er, but a certain party already has the information. This is the reason I talk about level playing field. He said that the previous government was run by an alliance of the PDM and the PPP, each are answerable for their own ministerial performances. He said that the problems of the country are such that one party cannot claim that it alone will be able to handle everything, we have to move forward with a united approach. It is unfortunate that political polarisation has turned us into enemies instead of political opponents. We would need to create an equilibrium which allows for all political parties to operate independently but work unitedly for the country. As far as delimitations are concerned, if they are to take place, they could be done in 90 days as per the Constitution. If they are to be delayed, then the ECP can see to it that at least the date is given. He said that the CEC of the party will decide the election strategy but it is his personal

wish for every constituency to be won by the arrow of the PPP. The PDM does not seem interested in the Charter of Economy anymore, it used to be. We had also wished for a second CoD to take place. It is very difficult for us to engage those who were directly involved in anti-nation acts such as the perpetrators of May 9, but the rest, regardless of their political affiliation are all citizens of Pakistan and we are willing to work with them for the sake of the country.

Earlier, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari distributed certificates to the winners of a declamation contest on the topic "Pakistan's International Obligations" at the NFC Institute of Engineering and Technology Multan.

He also inaugurated two blocks at the Institute named after Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. They both believed in providing education opportunities to the youth especially higher education, Chairman PPP said. This is why the PPP focuses on providing opportunities to the students from less developed areas. It is commendable that this institute did not increase the fee for students since 2012. The philosophy of the PPP is that there should be no hurdles in providing education and health. Institutions like these prove that public institutions can deliver education of a high standard. He also thanked the Institute for extending help during the floods last year.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said People's Party won the incoming general election and formed a people's government.

PM hails Pakistan Army for helping Azad Kashmir in times of need



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Apex Committees meeting of Azad Jammu and Kashmir was held here today with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq in chair. The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, General Officer Commanding 12 Division, Inspector General of Police, Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Inspector General of Police and representatives of security agencies. The meeting thoroughly reviewed the progress regarding the decisions that were taken during the 9th meeting of the committee, which was held last year. The participants of the meeting also gave their valuable input and proposed suggestions to ensure full implementation of the National Action Plan in AJ&K. Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq, while expressing satisfaction over the security situation in the region, said that the future of our country was in safe and strong hands. The Pakistan Army, he said, was the guarantor of the security and stability of our country. The PM appreciated the Pakistan Army for always helping the civil administration and institutions of Azad Kashmir in line with constitutional requirements in times of difficulty. Referring to the Apex Committee's contribution and role, the Prime Minister said that the forum has been instrumental in devising a comprehensive strategy to ensure peace and harmony within society. He said that decisions were being taken by the committee unanimously after holding threadbare discussions on national issues so that lasting peace can be established in society. The PM said that coordination between all security agencies and police should be further enhanced to ensure the implementation of NAP in the region. The Prime Minister directed the concerned authorities to redouble their efforts and take stern action against those involved in hoarding and Hundi business. It was also decided in the meeting that the state administration should keep a close watch on the elements who were hell bent on spreading communal hatred in the region. The meeting also agreed to monitor social media to prevent anti-state elements' propaganda against the state. The Prime Minister also directed the concerned authorities to ensure that the Paigam e Pakistan message was conveyed effectively to the younger generation, especially the students studying in schools and colleges.

Beautiful

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the green belt of Constitution Avenue as pigeons are feeding and flying, in Federal Capital.

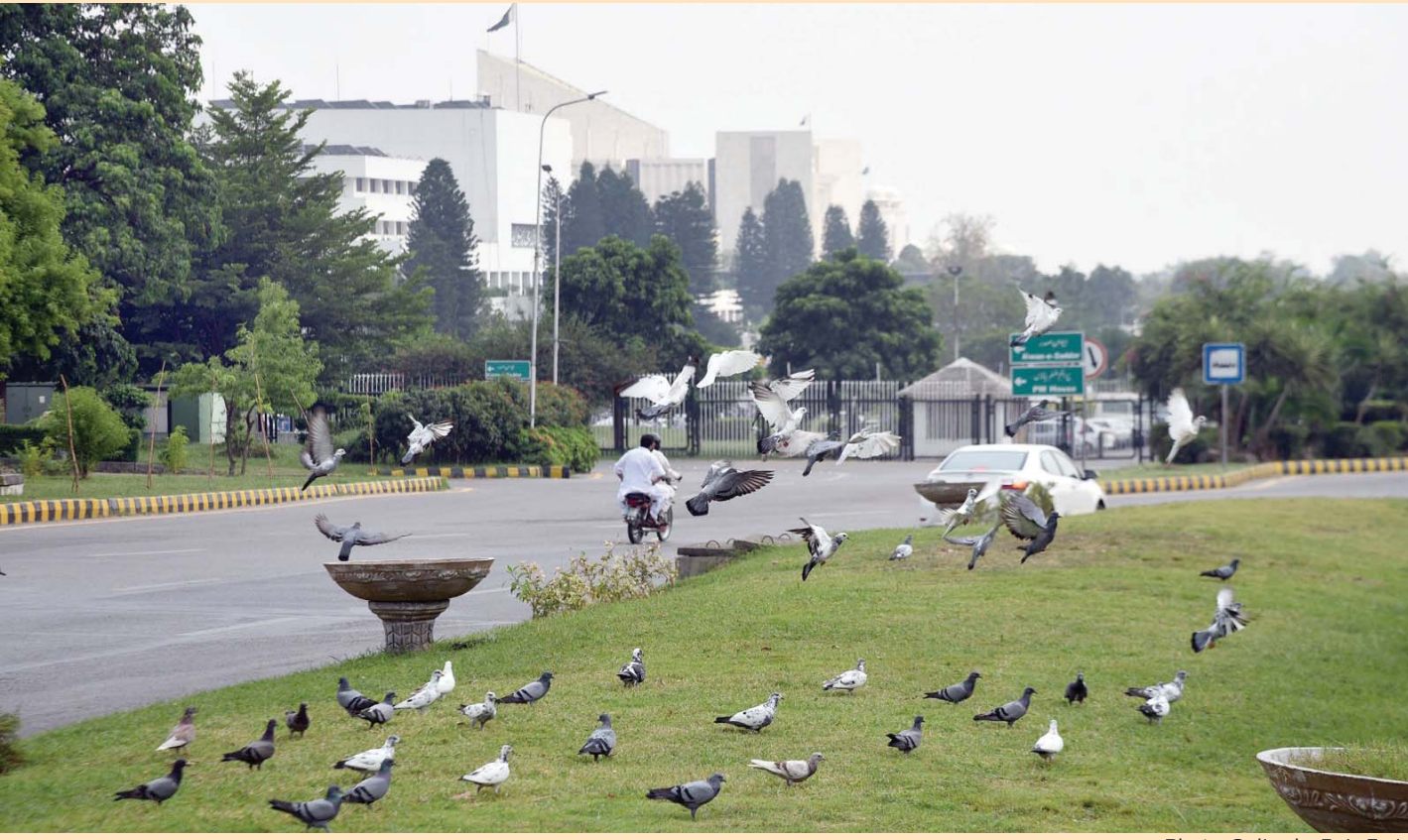


Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Kashmiri to stage anti India protest in New York on Sept 26



Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that Kashmiri diaspora community would hold an anti India protest demonstration in front of the UN office in New York on September 26 when Indian premier Narendra Modi will be addressing the UN General Assembly. The anti India protest, he said, would be attended and addressed by the representatives of the Kashmiri expatriate community hailing from different parts of the world. He said that the protest demonstration being staged in front of the UN General Assembly was meant to expose India's nefarious designs in the region besides seeking the global community's attention towards the fast deteriorating political and human rights situation in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Urging the Kashmiri expatriate community settled in America and other parts of the world to make it a success, the AJK president said that arrangements for this demonstration have been finalized. The president said that he asked some friends in New York to mobilize the Indian minorities living in the US to join this protest or hold separate protests on the day. Meanwhile, Barrister Karamat Hussain, President of Kashmir Peace Forum International UK, called on President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry. On this occasion, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, directed the President of Kashmir Peace Forum International to redouble his efforts to expose atrocities unleashed upon Kashmiris by the Indian occupation forces in the occupied Kashmir. Referring to the international community's legal and moral obligations towards resolving the Kashmir dispute, he said that it was high time that the international community should play its much needed role to help resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute peacefully in accordance with the UNSC resolutions.

Farmers and public immediately pay dues and running bills: Leghari



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Mepco Board of Directors Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari and Chief Executive Officer Mepco Engineer Mehruallah Yar Bharwana were met by leaders of Kisan Etilah at Mepco headquarters in connection with the ongoing operation against defaulters in Vehari, Burewala and Mailsi. It was discussed. SP Investigation Vehari Feroze Anwar, Kisan Ittehad leader Akhtar Chadhar, Muhammad Iftikhar Advocate and Muhammad Ajmal Chatta were also present in the meeting. Chairman Mepco Board said that on the instructions of the federal government, an operation is being conducted against defaulters in which transformers are being disconnected by disconnecting connections for non-payment of dues/arrears and running bills.

Farmers should immediately pay their due arrears and running bills. In case of non-payment, the electricity supply will be stopped. Chief Executive Officer Mepco said that 1124 defaulters in Mepco Vehari circle have arrears of Rs. In Vehari division, 193 agricultural defaulters with debts of more than 5 lakh to 20 lakh rupees owe 17 crore 7 lakh rupees, 864 defaulters in Borewala division owe 1 billion 2 crore 29 lakh rupees and 67 agricultural defaulters in Mailsi division owe 4 crore 85 lakh rupees.

In total, 23057 students appear for Intermediate Part II exam in Mirpur



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Mirpore announced the results of Intermediate Part II / Composite First Annual 2023 exam organized by Azad Jammu and Kashmir Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Mirpur. A total of 47398 candidates applied under the online system and 46136 candidates participated in the examination, out of which 23057 candidates were declared successful. Thus, the overall result of the board was 49.98% and the result of regular candidates of government institutions was 53.77% and the result of regular candidates of private institutions was 59.27% while the result of private candidates was 34.10%.

Overall, Ahmed Afzal 511488, a student of Lajbhambar of Orread Foundation, secured 1054 marks and secured the first position in the board and also among pre-medical group students, and Rajab Imran, a student of Punjab College Mirpur, roll number 511206, secured 1050 marks. 2nd position in the board and 2nd position in the pre-medical group students, while Mohammad Ali Tanveer, a student of Red Foundation, Lajbhambar, roll number 511502, obtained 1049 marks and secured 3rd position in the board and 3rd position in the pre-medical

group students. In total, Kashmala Ijaz, a student of Punjab College, Mirpur, roll number 502276, secured 1046 marks and secured the first position in the pre-medical group students, and Amina Farooq, a student of Fatimat-ul-Zahra Girls College, Kotli, roll number 503922, secured 1042 marks and secured the second position in the pre-medical group. While Ayesha Arif, a student of Government Model Science College, Muzaffargarh, roll number 500464, got the third position by securing 1039 marks.

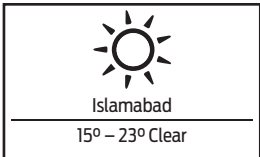
Noor Fatima Usmani, a student of Al Habib Science College, Tariqabad, Muzaffargarh, with roll number 520069, secured the first position by securing 1039 marks in the pre-engineering group. School and College Kotli student Ira Shabir Roll No. 520255 2 secured second position by securing 1022 marks while Mahin Khalid Roll No. 520307 student of Yin Model Science College Bagh secured third position by securing 1017 marks. The student of Bhimbar, Mohammad Shehryar, roll number 525578, got the first position by getting 1026 marks, and the student of this institution, Muhammad Zain Nadeem, roll number 525587, got the second position by getting 1024 marks, while the third position was also obtained by Rehan Khaliq, a student of Red Foundation College, Bhimbar, with roll number 525539, getting

1002 marks. In science general group students Shanze Iman, a student of Pak Kashmir Institute of Computer Science, Mirpur, roll no. 530322 secured the first position by securing 994 marks and Maryam Javed, a student of Super Young Field School and College Bagh, roll no. 530886 secured the second position by securing 987 marks.

While the student of New Methodist Public School and College Upper Chhatar Muzaffargarh, Bushra Batul roll number 530131 got 978 marks and got the third position. Science general group students got cadet. Tayyab Hanif Awan, a student of Ka Laj Chhatra Class, Muzaffargarh, roll number 535609 secured the second position by securing 974 marks, while Muhib Ilyas, a student of Government Degree College Tatar Khul, roll number 537542, secured the third position by securing 963 marks. Nimra Anjum, a student of Institute for Advanced Studies Mirpur, roll number 580032, secured the first position by securing 980 marks, Alishba Nisar, a student of Red Foundation School and College, Dhirkot Bagh, roll number 580282, and Arfa Liaqat, a student of Shaheen Model Lodge, Muzaffargarh, roll number 580005, secured the first position. Second position by getting 938 marks while Laureeb Shakur, a student of Leeds Higher Secondary School and College, Mirpur, roll number 580091,

got third position by getting 934 marks. obtained 929 marks and Ahad Akram, a student of Spire Higher Secondary School, Shaheen Chowk, Bhambar, with roll number 585343, secured the second position with 921 marks, while Rafi Ahmad Qureshi, a student of Punjab College, Mirpur, with roll number 585256, secured the third position with 913 marks.

The students of Ilam Wadab group, Rabia Zahid, a student of Fatima-ul-Zahra Girls College, Kotli, roll number 543283, and Roshan Zahra, a student of Red Foundation School and College, Dhirkot Bagh, roll number 544918, obtained 999 marks equally and got the first position and the Government Girls Degree College Diploma. Laiba Azeem roll no. 541156 got second position by getting 970 marks while Asma Sherbaz roll no. 543066 student of Government Girls Degree College Sahansa Kotli got third position by getting 967 marks. Muhammad Mansuranseem, a private student of Poonch district among the students of Ilamwadab group. 565501 secured the first position by securing 959 marks and Javad Naveed, a private student of District Sudhanoti, Roll No. 566584 secured the second position by securing 937 marks, while Muhammad Afzal, a student of National Science College, Seri Kotli, secured the third position by securing 914 marks.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings
 Fajr4:25 am
 Zohr12:04 pm
 Asr4:32 pm
 Maghrib6:18 pm
 Isha7:42 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
 Bomb Disposal 15
 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad1122 & 16
 Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 4451122
 Motorway Police 9266044
 Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
 Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
 PIA Flight Info 114
 PIA Cargo 9280979
 Railway Inquiry117
 Railway Exchange9270831-5
 WASA Rawalpindi5555489
 CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
 MH561116
 Cantt Hospital9270907-11
 DHQ5556311-4
 RGH9290301-7
 Holy Family9290322-7
 PIMS9261170-79
 Polyclinic9218300-09
 Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce delegation meets SAPM Mushaal

By Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick and delegation of Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce decided to work together on the issue regarding women empowerment.

The delegation held meeting with the SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment under the leadership of President Rubina Amjad here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the delegation expressed solidarity with Kashmiris and discussed the action plan regarding women empowerment.

They paid tributes to the Kashmiri brothers and sisters for their peaceful movement to break the shackles of Indian slavery and subjugation to long-denied freedom. During the meeting, they decided to work together regarding the women empowerment of women.

Speaking on the occasion, SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment said that the government was determined to resolve the Kashmir dispute as per the UN resolutions



and aspirations of the people of the valley. Mushaal vowed that she would raise her voice against the brutal occupation and reign of terror unleashed on people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) at every forum. Talking about women rights, she said

that laws had been made for the empowerment of women so that women did not face harassment at the workplace and they could carry on their work more confidently. Senior Vice President Madam Tasqira Tajmal and Shahid Baloch were also part of the delegation.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Danila Ganich posing for a group photograph along with the participants after conference entitled "Pakistan-Russia Relations, and Way Ahead" at Islamabad Policy Research Institute in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Pakistan Navy Seized Huge Cache of Narcotics At Sea



City Desk

KARACHI: In an intelligence based counter-narcotics operation, Pakistan Navy and ANF seized approximately 782 Kgs of narcotics at Arabian Sea. The apprehended drugs were stowed in hidden compartments of a fishing boat that was successfully intercepted by a Pakistan Navy Ship. The estimated value of seized narcotics is US \$ 235 million in international market. The seized drugs were subsequently handed over to ANF for further legal proceedings.

The successful execution of Anti-Narcotics Operation is a demonstration of Pakistan Navy's resolve to deter, dissuade and disrupt all illegal activities in the maritime zones of Pakistan.

AIOU initiated fellowship program with Indonesian university

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) signed an MoU with Indonesia Open University (IOU) Terbuka last year regarding the faculty and students exchange, joint educational and research projects and fellowship programs. In this regard, a fellowship program under the Asian Association of Open Universities was held at Terbuka University from August 20 to September 6. Chairman, Department of Distance, Non-Formal and Continuing Education AIOU, Dr. Muhammad Ajmal represented AIOU and completed



his fellowship program. It is pertinent to mention here that faculty members of AIOU and IOU keep visiting both universities for educational and research projects and fellowship program. Dr. Muhammad Ajmal stated

during the fellowship in Indonesia that Allama Iqbal Open University has expanded globally and is now attracting international. It is pertinent to mention here that last semester, over 450 students from 35 different countries

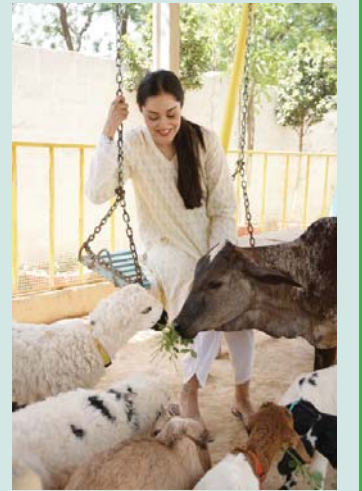
were enrolled in AIOU. This achievement demonstrates the increase in the quality of education and the university's commitment to providing a diverse and inclusive learning environment. Directorate of International Affairs at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has been making efforts to enhance relations with open universities worldwide on the instructions of the Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood. VC AIOU is enthusiastic about enrolling numerous international students in the university. Dr. Muhammad Ajmal was awarded a certificate upon completing his fellowship.

ACF Animal Rescue Responds to false accusations with a strong statement

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ayesha Chundrigar, the founder of ACF Animal Rescue has issued an official statement in response to the false, libelous, and defamatory statements published by Sadia Ghori against ACF Animal Rescue despite her bogus case being disposed off by the court (Judgement attached) due to a concealment of material facts and no law broken.

ACF Animal Rescue's legal defense clearly states that attacking the integrity of ACF is causing irreparable damage to their reputation. Contrary to the fabricated statements presented, there is no legal offense that has been committed by ACF as acknowledged by the court of law, but the people of Empress Market are still being incited by the same person with defamatory videos against ACF Animal Rescue, where they are trying to help the animals.



All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Federation appoints Nayar Ali as anchor person



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation, Aasma Butt, has selected the well-known, competent and talented journalist and Finance Secretary National Press Club Islamabad, Nayar Ali as the anchor person in the federation.

President Aasma Butt gave the letter of appointment to Nayar Ali along with Afzal Butt, the emperor of the world of journalism. On this occasion, Federation President Aasma Butt said that we expect that the way our Federation is playing the role of a bridge in strengthening friendship and cultural exchange between Pakistan and China. Exactly the same Nayar Ali will perform her services for well fare and success of federation. On which Nayar Ali and Afzal Butt appreciated the positive efforts of Federation President Aasma Butt and thanked her.

OGDCL announces commencement of oil and gas production from Nashpa-11 Well in KPK Province

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Tuesday announced the successful testing, completion, and commencement of production at the Nashpa-11 well in District Karak, KPK Province This achievement stands as a testament to OGDCL's commitment to bolstering Pakistan's energy sector and meeting the escalating needs of both domestic consumers and industrial enterprises.

OGDCL is diligently pursuing a harmonized approach to exploration, drilling, and development activities with a focus on optimizing production on a fast-track basis.

This development is the result of OGDCL's in-house expertise. The well was drilled to a depth of 4,485 meters, targeting the hydrocarbon potential within the Lumshiwai, Hangu, and Lockhart formations. Presently, these formations are yielding 830 barrels per day (BPD) of oil and 1.0 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of gas through a 32/64" choke at a wellhead flowing pressure (WHFP) of 520 PSI. As of September 11, 2023, the well has been connected to the OGDCL Nashpa plant through a 1.8 Km flow line, and gas is being injected into the SNGPL network.

This venture is a collaborative effort where OGDCL stands as the operator, holding a 56.45% stake. The partnership also involves Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), which holds a 28.55% share, and Government Holding Private Limited (GHPL) with a 15% share.

It is worth noting that the first discovery at the Nashpa structure was made in September 2009. Currently, out of 12 drilled wells, 10 are in production, collectively producing 11,300 BPD of oil, 91 MMSCFD of gas, and 395 MTD of LPG. The Nashpa-11 well marks a significant addition to the hydrocarbon reserves base of OGDCL, PPL, GHPL, and the country, promising notable savings through import substitution. The enhancement in oil and gas production aims to address the increasing demands of both domestic consumers and industry.

Smuggling scaled down with prompt action recovering Billions: M. Ismail

MA Rashid

FAISALABAD: Prompt action by the Collectorate of Customs Sargodha seized more smuggling cases worth Rs 223-million.

According to Spokesman Liaquat Kamal, Collectorate of Customs Enforcement, Sargodha, Faisalabad and DG Khan Range, Collector Muhammad Ismail, Additional Collector Muhammad Tahir Khattak, Assistant Collector Muhammad Usman and Inspector Mr. Waqas Sargodha, formed four different teams of Anti-Smuggling Squad.

These teams performed very well and effectively created more confiscation cases worth 923 million in a week. This is the 3rd mega operation against smugglers.

According to the further details, the following is the description of the seized goods at this time.
 TKS.423 (15,000,000)
 1. Betel nut (9000) kg, 2. Dry milk (5750) kg, 3. China salt (3125) kg, 4. Almonds (1540) kg TKQ (15,000,000), 5. Betel nut (1500) Kg, 6. Dry milk (3990) Kg, 7. Welding rod (1700), 8. Cigarette

(380,000) stick, 9. TIRE (50), 10. Almonds (5150) Kg, 11. Toyota Land Cruiser (90,000,000), 12. My Max, (4,000,00), 13. Suzuki Alto (3,000,000), The Collectorate is doing its best to curb the menace of smuggling with limited resources & Staff.

It should be remembered that the Collectorate of Customs caught smuggled goods worth billions of rupees red-handed just a few days ago.

According to the previous output of the Collectorate, the Collectorate Customs performed brilliantly in a short span of 6 months.

Despite limited resources and less manpower, smuggled goods worth 301 million were also recovered red-handed.

Furthermore, Mr. Mohammad Ismail Collector Customs and Additional Collector Dr. Tahir Khattak said that a few days ago recovery was done by Collector Customs Enforcement Sargodha at Faisalabad Airport in view of reliable mobile information. At that time, the Collector alerted the airport staff and immediately deployed the Faisalabad Anti-Smuggling Squad at the airport. He personally

supervised the operation, which led to the successful recovery of high value mobile phones and other electronic items.

The details of the smuggled items were as follows: iPhone various (785), 2- Samsung (120), 3- OnePlus (15), 4- iPad (78) 5- Drone battery (10), 6- Confiscated goods The total worth, estimated by the appraising officer at Rs 163 million, includes laptops, play stations and drones (14).

This swift action thwarted the efforts. As a result, the Collectorate of Customs Enforcement Sargodha has seized mobiles worth Rs. 138 million and prohibited drugs worth Rs. 20 million. Mobiles and electronics worth Rs. 301 million have also been seized from Faisalabad International Airport.

It may be noted that the Collectorate of Customs Enforcement Sargodha is a newly established Collectorate which consists of three civil divisions of Sargodha, Faisalabad and DG Khan.

According to the sources, 2.2 billion rupees have been earned in the last 06 months.



have yielded a sum of Rs 475 million. The extraordinary services of the Collectorate of Customs Sargodha were appreciated.

So in the given circumstances with limited human and material resources compared to the extensive jurisdiction of the Collectorate. The collector said that proactive and prompt services with proper planning can eradicate evils and miscreants.

Faiz Ahmed.

According to the more details, during July, August and as 07th September 2023, a huge quantity of smuggling goods was seized, disclosed by the Director Asif Abbas Khan

Furthermore all the officers of Directorate Multan paid tribute to the martyrdom of Sepoy Sardar Khan and other customs martyrs while a team saluted while praising the efforts of the country's economic and social Boundaries, the blood of Customs jawans and officers is involved in protecting in all respect.

On this occasion Director Asif Abbas Khan, Additional Director Muhammad Mumtaz Ali Raza Chaudhary, Deputy Directors Muhammad Ali Asif and Ali Touqir addressed the Media. Whereas Director Asif Abbas Khan said that Directorate of Intelligence and Investigation Customs Multan has intensified anti-smuggling activities. Under the leadership of Deputy Director Atrat Hussain Shah in Regional Office Faisalabad and Deputy Director Ali Touqir in Multan, during the last two months and the current month (July, August and till 07 September 2023), a huge amount of smuggled goods were seized even More than million to billion.

Foreign baggage in baggage (5,540 kg), cigarettes (18,586 sticks), cars, cosmetics, cloth, tires, shopping bags, dry milk, almonds, Chinese salt, cardamom, mobile phones, engines, Rani juice, cream and other goods. 752 million. The value of cases for this year is compared to last fiscal year (July, August and September). By 2022, there has been an increase of 87%, which is the result of the day and night efforts of the officers and staff.

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Terrorism from Afghan Soil - I

In a recent national TV interview, Pakistan's Prime Minister showcased a remarkable blend of clarity and professionalism while addressing a host of critical issues facing the nation. His articulate and persuasive style left no room for ambiguity, shedding light on the complexities of Pakistan's evolving relationship with its neighbor, Afghanistan. He provided insights, with a particular focus on Pakistan's stance on Tehrik-e-Taliban and the challenges posed by illegal Afghan immigrants.

The Prime Minister's candid discussion on the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) issue was both enlightening and pragmatic. He refrained from making any rash decisions regarding pursuing TTP terrorists into Afghan territory but affirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to defending its own territory. To understand this nuanced approach, we must acknowledge the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties that TTP has with its Afghan counterparts.

TTP and Afghan Taliban share a common history, having fought together against the Russian invasion and later against Allied forces. TTP and similar groups adhere to an extremist interpretation of Islam and seek to establish a strict Islamic state, often using violence to achieve these goals. Their shared philosophy, ethnicity, language, and cultural bonds have forged a strong connection.

Recognizing these intricacies is crucial when developing a response to either the TTP or the Afghan Government in light of the Doha Agreement. Pakistan rightly demands that Afghanistan adheres to its commitment to prevent terrorists

from using Afghan soil to attack other countries.

The Prime Minister astutely pointed out that the Afghan government remains in an interim and arguably illegitimate state, with rudimentary governance structures and communication mechanisms. This informality in governance has led to various local commanders and tribal chieftains exercising significant autonomy, sometimes sheltering TTP terrorists and aiding their nefarious activities within Pakistan. Pakistan's response to these challenges requires careful consideration of these factors.

The Prime Minister himself, being of Pathan heritage, possesses an innate understanding of the Afghan, TTP, and similar groups. He is well aware of their attitudinal, psychological makeup, and their unwavering commitment to certain ideologies. Pathans, when committed to an idea or philosophy, are notoriously difficult to dissuade by kinetic force. Their resilience, adaptability, and determination make them formidable adversaries.

Moreover, Pathans can endure the harshest conditions with minimal resources, rendering them highly resilient. The adherents of the TTP, typically impoverished, have little to lose, which makes them more willing to engage in violence. They possess a deep-seated commitment to their cause, making it challenging to disassociate them through force.

Adding to the complexity, the TTP

now possesses state-of-the-art weaponry left behind by the departing Allied forces in Afghanistan. The United States, during its 2021 withdrawal, left approximately \$7 billion worth of military equipment and weapons, including firearms, communications gear, and armored vehicles. The Taliban seized this arsenal after the fall of the Western-backed Afghan government, significantly bolstering their military capabilities.

Regrettably, some of this American military gear and weaponry have found their way into neighboring Pakistan, where they are utilized by armed groups, including the TTP. This influx of U.S. weapons has enhanced the TTP's capacity and emboldened ethnic Baluch separatist groups in Pakistan, leading to a surge in violence.

The United States Institute of Peace has noted a "robust and growing black market" for U.S. weapons in Pakistan, with armed groups obtaining advanced U.S. weaponry and equipment like M16 machine guns, M4 assault rifles, night-vision goggles, and military communication gear. These sophisticated weapons have had a "terrifying" impact, especially on the under-equipped Pakistani police force.

In the wake of acquiring advanced weaponry, TTP's attacks in Pakistan have escalated since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan. According to the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS), terrorist attacks in Pakistan increased by 27 percent last year compared to 2021. These attacks claimed the lives of at least

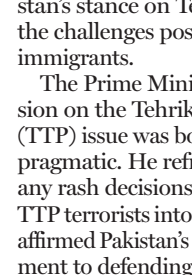
419 people and left 734 injured in 262 incidents. TTP's use of sniper rifles with thermal scopes has given them a distinct advantage, enabling pinpoint accuracy even in the dark.

These enhanced night vision goggles and weaponry have enabled the militants to carry out sophisticated attacks, particularly on security checkpoints along Pakistan's western border with Afghanistan. The situation poses a serious threat, especially in areas that were previously relatively peaceful and less prone to violence.

The Pentagon has conveyed to the U.S. government that retrieving the material left in Afghanistan is currently unrealistic, given that the United States does not recognize the Taliban as a legitimate government. The Taliban, however, denies supplying U.S. weapons to TTP fighters and instead blames former members of Afghanistan's security forces for selling arms on the black market after the fall of the internationally recognized government in Kabul.

In Pakistan, the black market has become inundated with U.S. weapons since the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan. These weapons are known for their excellent quality and lethality, attracting buyers from various quarters. A U.S.-made M4 assault rifle in good condition can be purchased for approximately \$1,400, while military communication gear like Harris Engineering Falcon Three Radios is available for around \$3,500. Some of these weapons have also fallen into the hands of criminals, giving them an edge over civilian law enforcement agencies, which are equipped with outdated and less lethal weaponry.

To be Continued



Analysis
Qamar Bashir

China emerges as key investor in Pakistan's digital sector

China has emerged as a key investor in Pakistan's digital sector, with numerous successful collaborations and partnerships contributing to the country's digital growth.

We look forward to China taking the lead in digital investments in Pakistan," highlighted Zulfiqar Ali, Director General of Pakistan Regulatory Moderation Initiative, Board of Investment (BOI).

On a panel discussion session of the UN Asia-Pacific Innovation Forum during the 23rd China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) held from 8 Sept to 11 Sept, Zulfiqar Ali outlined Pakistan's national strategies for digital development and highlighted the critical role of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country's digital transformation.

As the world embraces the digital age, Pakistan is actively pursuing the path of digitalization and making substantial efforts to transform its economy and society.

Recognizing the importance of digital development, Pakistan has formulated comprehensive strategies and policies to harness the potential of technology.

These efforts encompass various sectors, including infrastructure, education, governance and entrepreneurship, with the aim of leveraging technology to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life for its people.

The director general noted that Pakistan has launched a Digital Economy Enhancement Project worth \$78 million, aiming at enhancing the government's capacity for digitally-enabled public service delivery for citizens and businesses.

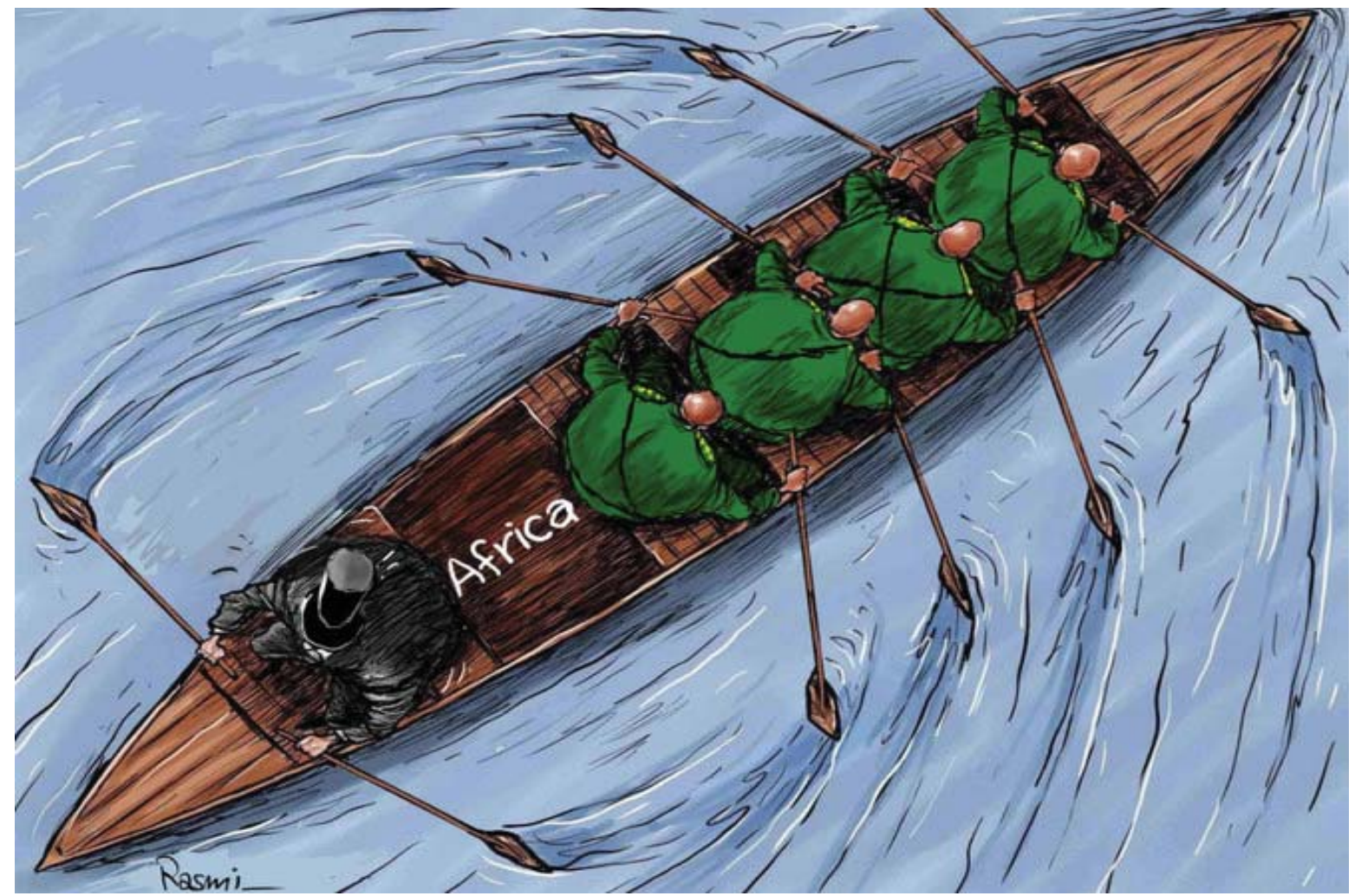
One of the key components of the initiative is the Pakistan Business Portal, which is a one-stop shop for businesses to digitally execute all their functions in Pakistan without having to visit any office.

Zulfiqar Ali expects this single window platform to be implemented next year when the digital investment environment in Pakistan will be upgraded.

In an interview with China Economic Net, the Director General emphasized the key factors that have made Pakistan an attractive destination for Chinese direct investment in the digital sector, which include "Pakistan's strategic location as a gateway to regional markets, the availability of a skilled workforce, and the government's commitment to creating an enabling environment for foreign investors." The success of joint ventures and collaborations between Pakistani and Chinese companies in the digital sector has led to the development of cutting-edge technologies, innovative solutions and the expansion of digital services across Pakistan, he added.

He said that the Chinese investment brings not only capital but also expertise, knowledge transfer and access to international markets.

Regarding the future of Chinese direct investment in digital innovation in Pakistan, the DG expressed optimism over the ongoing collaboration between the two countries and the potential for further investment in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, e-commerce, fintech and smart cities.



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

Defense Day Ceremony at J&K Monument Muzaffarabad

Martyrdom holds a special place in Islam, reflecting the profound commitment to faith and selflessness of those who embrace this path. In the Islamic tradition, a martyr is someone who sacrifices their life for the sake of Allah and the advancement of Islam.

Martyrdom, known as "Shahada," is the act of willingly sacrificing one's life in the name of Allah and for the greater good of the Muslim community. A martyr is a person who dies as a result of their steadfast adherence to their faith, often in the face of persecution or adversity. Martyrs are considered heroes in Islam, celebrated for their unwavering commitment to God and the principles of Islam. Martyrdom is believed to be one of the noblest ways to die in Islam. The Quran promises martyrs a special place in Paradise, where they will be rewarded with eternal bliss. This belief serves as a powerful motivator for individuals willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their faith. Martyrs are granted forgiveness for their sins and are exempt from the torment of the grave. This concept underscores the purity of intention and devotion that martyrs exhibit. Islamic tradition holds that martyrs will intercede on behalf of their family members, helping them attain forgiveness and a higher status in the Hereafter.

In Islamic tradition, martyrdom can take various forms, each reflecting the circumstances under which a person sacrifices their life for Islam:

Martyrdom in Islam represents the ultimate act of faith, selflessness, and devotion to Allah. It is a concept deeply rooted in the Islamic tradition, with theological significance and rewards promised in the Hereafter.

Pakistan has fought a major war with India in 1965. India attacked Pakistan but the war was resulted into its defeat due to sacrifices and commitment of our civilians and military. Every year on September 6th, Pakistan Defense & Martyrs Day is observed with great reverence and patriotism. This significant day commemorates the heroic efforts and sacrifices made by the Pakistani military during the 1965 India-Pakistan War. Pakistan Defense Day not only honors the brave soldiers who defended the nation but also serves as a reminder of the unwavering commitment of the Pakistani people to safeguard their sovereignty.

The origins of Pakistan Defense Day can be traced back to the 1965 India-Pakistan War. The conflict was sparked by territorial disputes and longstanding tensions between the two neighboring countries. India faced a formidable adversary in Pakistan, and it was during this challenging time that the nation's resilience and determination came to the forefront.

Pakistan Defense Day serves as a solemn occasion to honor the sacrifices made by the Pakistani military person-

nel who fought valiantly during the 1965 war. It pays tribute to those who gave their lives for the nation's defense. The day promotes a sense of national unity and pride. It reminds Pakistanis of their shared history and the importance of standing together in the face of external threats. Pakistan Defense Day reaffirms the nation's commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity. It serves as a reminder that the Pakistani people are willing to make sacrifices to defend their homeland.

Pakistan Defense Day is observed with various activities and ceremonies. People gather at mosques and offer prayers for the well-being and prosperity of the nation. They also pray for the souls of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Pakistan. Patriotic songs and national anthems are sung with fervor. Various events and seminars are organized to pay tributes to the martyrs of the 1965 war. Their stories of bravery are retold to inspire future generations. Television channels air special programs and documentaries related to the 1965 war and the sacrifices of the military. Pakistan Defense Day is not just a historical event; it is a symbol of the Pakistani people's resilience and their commitment to defending their homeland. It reminds the nation of the sacrifices made by its brave soldiers and the importance of unity in the face of adver-

sity. As Pakistan continues to face various challenges, the spirit of Defense Day serves as a beacon of hope and determination for a brighter and more secure future.

A very graceful ceremony of Defense and Martyrs Day was held this year at J & K monument Muzaffarabad as well. I am honored to be an attendee of this great event and was invited by ISPR to pay tribute to our brave heroes. 10-Corps Commander was the Chief Guest. The ceremony started well in time. Chief Guest laid the wreath for martyrs. Special Prayers were done for higher ranks of Shuhada. Documentaries of our national heroes were shown. Families of martyrs were also invited. Son of Lt General Saifraz Ali Shaheed was also there who is in also serving in Pak Army in the love of country and with the same spirit as that of his father. The morale of the families of martyrs was quite high and they aimed to give more sacrifices for the country. The patronage and association with the families of martyrs through these events is an appreciable act.

Shuhada e Watan Media cell was also very active. Agha Safer Hussain is doing a great job of keeping contacts and helping the families of martyrs. I saw many people there who appreciated Shuhada e Watan Media Cell's efforts for the cause. Such initiatives need to be encouraged to strengthen our ties with the families of Shuhada.

Readers, whole nation acknowledges the sacrifices of our defenders and martyrs and pay tribute to their selfless dedication for the country.



Analysis
Abdul Basit Alvi

COAS support to caretaker setup, a good omen - II

The illegal influx of petrol and other goods from the Iranian border into Pakistan is a testament to the incompetence of the Ministry of Interior and national security.

The statements made by former Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Shabbar Zaidi, regarding investment in the country, resonate with many. He mentioned that during his time, he also heard such constrained discussions. However, he emphasized that it is impossible for Pakistan to attract such substantial investments in the short term. Talk of 20/21 billion dollars is merely talk.

He made it clear that at present, Pakistan needs net cash inflow. While investments bring in dollars, they are often spent on purchasing machinery, which doesn't necessarily address the immediate need for cash. What is being discussed here are investment projects, not cash flow projects. In such circumstances, even foreign investment won't significantly boost the current account.

Zaidi also mentioned that in previous administrations, even the Army Chief held meetings with business figures, including prominent businessmen. Our meetings would begin at 10 PM and conclude by 2 AM but often felt meaningless. Business individuals would bring up their minor issues, and their vision didn't align with the

overall national economy. We understand these matters well, Shabbar Zaidi conveyed these insights as a guest on a TV channel.

When I was writing this column, Commander's conference was underway, and an official statement has been issued. Those who widen the gap between government institutions and the public will find nothing but disappointment. No doubt People of Pakistan stand with the Pak Forces on this declaration. The public demands that the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan will succeed in serving the nation's best interests and gaining their trust if the COAS and caretaker government brings Agriculture Secretary and Interior Minister, who

allegedly smuggled sugar during the PDM government's tenure, in ring of justice without any favoritism. According to media reports, they earned fifty crore rupees by smuggling ten lakh tons of sugar. Caretaker Prime Minister should also keep in mind the purpose for which he has taken the oath. Fulfill the responsibility of holding elections within 90 days. This demand is both legal and public. To ensure the rule of law, it is not only the responsibility of the government and legal institutions but also of the entire society. In a society where the rule of law is ensured, people can have confidence in the fairness and impartiality of the legal system. In all matters COAS support to caretaker setup is a good omen.



Analysis
Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

King Salman Relief Centre completes distribution of 12,000 food packages

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (KSrelief) has initiated a project aimed at ensuring food security for the year 2023-24. In collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), KSrelief were distributed 12,000 food packages to assist individuals affected by the floods residing in the Lower and Upper Chitral, as well as Dir districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

This package is a part of the second phase of the Food Security Support Project in Pakistan for the year 2023-24. During this second phase, KSrelief is also distributing 4,400 food packages



to flood victims in Punjab's Muzaffargarh and Bahawalnagar districts, 5,000 food packages in Sajawal and Dadu districts of Sindh province,

and 11,000 food packages in Kharan, Sahabatpur, and Washuk in Balochistan. In total, this initiative aims to benefit 226,800 people through the distribution of 32,400 food packages across Pakistan.

Each package weighted 95 kgs which contains 80kg of flour, cooking oil of 5 liters, 5kg of Sugar, 5kg of Daal Chana, which will be sufficient for a family throughout the month.

This project comes under the umbrella of humanitarian projects of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center to assist needy families and achieving food security for the neediest groups of communities in Pakistan.

Nearly 100 mln torchbearers carry online flame to Hangzhou Asian Games

Xinhua

HANGZHOU: While the physical torch of the 19th Asian Games, also known as Asiad, is currently being relayed across east China's Zhejiang Province, an online "digital torchbearer" relay has seen more than 97 million netizens participate as of Wednesday.



Dong Sijiao, 79, carried the Games' physical flame in Zhejiang's Shaoxing City on Monday, and she was also an online torchbearer.

Dong leads a rock band with an average age of over 70, and she and her bandmates adapted songs to celebrate the upcoming Games, volunteering to promote the online torch relay.

"Enthusiasm and confidence can also be conveyed through the online torch relay. I hope to pass on my passion to friends from all over the world," she said.

On Nov. 27, 2022, the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou Organising Committee released a digital platform for the Games, using advanced technologies such as blockchain, big data and artificial intelligence. On the platform, the torch can be carried without the limits of time and space.

The digital torchbearer relay was officially launched after the flame of the Games was lit on June 15 this year. On the digital platform, people can pass on the torch by shaking their mobile phones.

The online relay is covering huge distances, since the next digital torchbearer who takes over the torch may come from anywhere in the world. After passing on the online torch, each torchbearer can download a picture of the moment.

Gao Zhenzhou, 83, is from Changzhou City in Jiangsu Province. He participated in the first and second stages of the activity, collecting digital pictures of the online torch relay held in more than 40 countries and regions.

So far, the digital torch has been passed through Central Asia, South Asia, West Asia, East Asia and Southeast Asia, beginning its third stage on Aug. 15 in China, covering former Asiad host cities Beijing and Guangzhou before arriving in Hangzhou, the host city of this year's Games.

At the opening ceremony of the Asian Games scheduled later this month, online torchbearers around the world will also work together to light the online flame.

Du Zuofeng, deputy commander of the Games' torch relay command center, said that anyone can be a torchbearer in this digital era, and that the Hangzhou Asian Games are expected to see the largest-scale torch relay and the most widespread coverage of participants in the history of the event.

The Hangzhou Asian Games will be held from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8.

Pakistan's Leading Research Network, RASTA, to Host the 3rd PIDE-RASTA Conference

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) Competitive Grants Programme for Policy-oriented Research is proud to announce the upcoming 3rd PIDE-RASTA Conference, set to take place on Thursday, 14th, and Friday, 15th September 2023 at the prestigious Gun & Country Club in Islamabad.

RASTA, Pakistan's largest economics and public policy research network comprising academia and think tanks, has been at the forefront of promoting policy debate and research culture in the country. With a commitment to producing high-quality evidence-based research that informs public policy, RASTA has expanded its influence and now boasts a network of over 60 local universities, more than 10 foreign institutes, and an impressive roster of approximately 2300 researchers, academics, practitioners, and professionals. The program is guided by a distinguished 26-member Research Advisory Committee, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, Islamabad.

The 3rd PIDE-RASTA Conference will be a highlight in RASTA's calendar, featuring an impressive lineup of sessions and research showcases. A total of 20 papers will be presented across 8 engaging sessions, providing a platform for the exchange of ideas and insights from experts in the field.

A three-day Pakistan Energy Exhibition and Conference PEEC 2023 Kickoff

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Chief Guest will be Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rahman who will inaugurate it while the guests of honor were CEO Punjab Board of Investment and Punjab board of investment and Trade Jalal Hasan and President IEEEEP Dr. Sohail Aftab Qureshi.

Various companies from Iran, China, UAE, UK, Germany, France, Canada, Korea, Japan, Singapore participated in this exhibition.

More than a hundred companies set up stalls in it and about ten thousand visitors participated in it.

Apart from this, representatives of various government agencies related to energy sector such as NTDC, LESCO, OGRA, OGDCL, Sui Northern Gas Company, HESCO and other organizations will participate

purpose of this exhibition is to bring under one roof all organizations related to the energy sector of the world such as manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, service providers, project planners and others.

Called on

Islamabad: H. E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran, called on the Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, & Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at the Finance Division.



Photo: Spokesman

IEEE UOL Student Branch successfully organize Summer School on Blockchain

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The University of Lahore, in collaboration with the IEEE ComSoc Society and IEEE UOL Student Branch, successfully organized the Summer School on Blockchain Applications in Electrical Engineering and Technology.

This is a 3-day event starting from September 13, 2023. Rector (UOL), Deputy Chairman of BOG (UOL), and Mr. Kashif Bashir (Chair, IEEE ComSoc Society) inaugurated the event. On the first day of the event, three keynote speeches were delivered, covering blockchain applications in governance, networks, and power systems. Mr. Abdul Manan (Blockchain Enthusiastic), Dr. Asif Rehman (FAST-NUCES Lahore), and Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Chaudhry (COMSATS University, Lahore) delivered informative and helpful keynote speeches.

BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi creates virtual reality experience for temple visitors

Spokesman Report

ABU DHABI, UAE: Hewlett Packard Enterprise (NYSE: HPE) today announced the BAPS Hindu Mandir Abu Dhabi, the first traditional Hindu stone temple (mandir) to be built in the Middle East, has selected HPE to create a one-of-a-kind digital experience for visitors of the mandir, enabled through a comprehensive HPE Aruba Networking Wi-Fi solution.

The BAPS Hindu Mandir Abu Dhabi will use the HPE Aruba Networking Central cloud network management platform to simplify operations, leveraging artificial intelligence for IT operations (AIOps) to reduce manual tasks when managing the HPE Aruba Networking Wi-Fi 6E access points (APs).

The BAPS Hindu Mandir Abu Dhabi is currently under construction, being built by the Hindu organization Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS). Formed in 1905, BAPS has more than 1,200 mandirs worldwide, offering devotees a dedicated environment to foster culture and development and a place for transmission of the group's values and their incorporation into daily life. The BAPS Hindu Mandir Abu Dhabi will



also provide free Wi-Fi access for visitors of BAPS Charities, a separate non-profit aid organization that provides food and education services, for example language, art and music courses, to those in need.

Officially announced in 2015, the BAPS Mandir Abu Dhabi will be one of 45 shikharbaddha mandirs, the traditional Hindu temples, and the first of its kind in the Middle East. As part of its

unique digital experience, the temple has created an app that will provide virtual reality (VR) tours of temples and other information about the BAPS Hindu Mandir Abu Dhabi, intended to enhance the cultural and spiritual experiences of its visitors.

"In today's world, technology has deeply influenced fundamental aspects of human life and we believe that it is here

for us to enhance human experiences – including religious and spiritual ones," said Sadhu Aksharjitdas at BAPS Hindu Mandir Abu Dhabi. "In our endeavours to create these kind of experiences partners like HPE Aruba Networking are key to helping us to continuously innovate and connect with each and everyone – keeping technology in the service of humanity and with human experience at the forefront."

With several thousand people expected to visit the temple per day, the BAPS Hindu Mandir Abu Dhabi prioritizes the security of its network and the safety of its users. Using HPE Aruba Networking Central, the temple's IT team will have granular control over the network, access policies and full visibility of the network users. HPE Aruba Networking Central's abilities to monitor, alert and troubleshoot issues will also help the temple ensure the digital safety of the visitors and create new services.

"While every customer we work with is special in its own way, the BAPS Hindu Mandir is unique case with the main focus of the project being the cultural and spiritual experience instead of business outcomes," said Zeeshan Hadi, Country Manager Aruba UAE & Africa, HPE Aruba Networking.

Coordinator General of COMSTECH addresses United Nations General Assembly's Science Summit

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Coordinator General of COMSTECH, the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary addressed the inaugural session of the United Nations General Assembly's Science Summit on Tuesday. The summit was organized by ISC Intelligence in Science, is a significant platform for global science collaboration during the UN General Assemblies.

In his address, the Coordinator General expressed gratitude to Mr. Declan Kirrane, Managing Director of ISC Intelligence

in Science, for his pivotal role in promoting global science collaboration and hosting the Science Summits during the UN General Assemblies.

The Coordinator General highlighted the multiple challenges faced by OIC countries, including food insecurity, poverty, youth unemployment, female illiteracy, and water scarcity. These nations are also among the most vulnerable to climate stress. Additionally, they confront perceptual issues like Islamophobia and distrust.

He said that COMSTECH's primary focus is on assisting the Least Developed Member States. Their initiatives in Africa involve promoting climate-resilient agriculture, the Health Africa program in ophthalmol-

ogy and neurology, establishing laboratories and institutions, offering numerous Scholarships and Fellowships, and engaging in country-specific science programs.

The Coordinator General pointed out that the UN Secretary-General's report from May 2023 highlighted impediments in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, especially for the Global South. He emphasized the need for transformative changes to shift the world toward sustainability.

To achieve the SDGs effectively, he proposed a four-fold approach. Firstly, there is a need to remove disparities in international funding to foster genu-

ine engagement of researchers in international collaborations; secondly, OIC-COMSTECH endorses the idea of establishing a new SDGs goal the "global research cooperation". This cross cutting goal will help to integrate scientific research into the sustainable development agenda; thirdly, research collaboration and knowledge sharing are crucial for fostering innovation, leveraging expertise, and maximizing the impact of R&D investments; and fourthly, scientific communities need urgent preparation to make post-2030 Agenda more science-based, addressing the shortcoming of SDGs. Thus, there is need to co-create a framework for a science-based post-2030 Agenda by combining



Iqbal Choudhary Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

lessons from SDGs, and state-of-the-art science.

Prof. Choudhary concluded his speech by proposing setting up a Forum to discuss and identify challenges and mechanisms to

strengthen scientific and technological capacity, pertaining to implementation of SDGs. He offered that OIC-COMSTECH will be happy to serve as its secretariat for the global south. He

further said that COMSTECH is willing to play a central role in engaging the science community of the Muslim world in research towards solving global challenges.

In closing, the Coordinator General expressed his gratitude to Mr. Kirrane for the opportunity to speak at this prestigious science forum. He highlighted how this invitation has connected the largely disconnected Muslim world to the global science community, emphasizing their shared future.

The Coordinator General's address was met with appreciation and applause from the audience, marking a significant moment in global science collaboration.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 45,590.92 | 45,508.39 |
| Day's High | Day's Low |
| 45,732.72 | 45,500.21 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 3,143,330,239 | +82.53 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.18% | 13 Sept, 2023 5:00 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 7,525.99 | -1.54 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.020% | 13 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1 |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 34,686.69 | +40.70 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.12% | 13 Sept, 1:24 pm GMT-4 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 32,706.52 | -69.85 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.21% | 13 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9 |

| Open Market Forex Rates | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Currency | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar | 198 | 200 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 796.93 | 804.93 |
| Canadian Dollar | 218.8 | 220.1 |
| China Yuan | 41.22 | 41.62 |
| Danish Krone | 43.08 | 43.48 |
| Euro | 322 | 325 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 38.28 | 38.63 |
| Indian Rupee | 3.62 | 3.73 |
| Japanese Yen | 2.1 | 2.18 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 970.8 | 979.8 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 64.07 | 64.67 |
| New Zealand \$ | 176.8 | 178.88 |
| Norwegians Krone | 28.04 | 28.34 |
| Omani Riyal | 778.3 | 786.3 |
| Qatari Riyal | 82.32 | 83.02 |
| Saudi Riyal | 78.25 | 79 |
| Singapore Dollar | 217 | 219 |
| Swedish Korona | 26.98 | 27.28 |
| Swiss Franc | 336.14 | 338.64 |
| Thai Bhat | 8.41 | 8.56 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 81.2 | 82 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 371 | 374 |
| US Dollar | 297 | 300 |

Reports of another interest rate hike are concerning: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that reports of a further increase in interest rates by State Bank are worrying.

Interest rates are already so high that any further increase would prove disastrous for the economy, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that before making a decision, its implications should be considered by policymakers.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the central bank is considering increasing the interest rate from one hundred to one hundred and fifty basis points as it thinks it will help reduce inflation while also stabilising foreign exchange reserves.

However, the central bankers should also consider that the interest rate was raised to 22 percent in April and was not cut last month, which disappointed the business community, he said.

The business leader said that a further increase of one or one and a half percent will make it impossible to do business for many, which will close many businesses and increase unemployment.

The move will also increase the burden of interest on the government, which is already 7200 billion rupees annually.

In the current situation of the country, it would be more beneficial to reduce interest rates than to raise them, as businesses are in a bad state, unemployment is high, and bank defaults are also increasing rapidly, he noted.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that new trade agreements are being made between international powers in our neighbourhood. Western



nations and Arab countries are increasing trade by ignoring the open violation of human rights

in India, while Pakistan is playing the role of a silent spectator instead of being a part of this whole issue, which is a sign of poor management.

The G20 meeting in India has proved that the world is more interested in trade than ethics, and if we want to be valued and heard, sloganeering will no longer work, but trade will.

He said that concrete measures will have to be taken to increase the exports of the country, without which the economy cannot become stable.

No one in the world cares about a bankrupt country, no matter how big the consumer market is or whether it is armed with nuclear weapons.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that in these circumstances, the establishment of SIFC is a ray of hope, and it is necessary to enhance the role of the private sector in order to achieve its goals.

German companies want joint ventures and investment in Pakistan

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of German companies led by Muhammad Usman, Country Representative for Pakistan of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and showed interest for joint ventures and investment in Pakistan in areas of their respective fields. The delegation was representing various sectors including telecommunication, automobile, construction, logistics, energy & financial services.

Addressing the German delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan and Germany have great potential to increase bilateral trade in many areas as the current level of two-way trade of around US\$ 4 billion is not matching with the actual potential of both countries. He said that both countries are doing trade in limited items as Pakistan's main exports to Germany include textiles, leather goods, sports goods, footwear and medical instruments, and its main imports from Germany include machinery, chemical and electrical goods, motor vehicles and iron goods.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that over 40 German companies are doing successful business in many sectors of Pakistan's economy including telecommunication, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, automobile,



automotive, wholesale and stressed that more German companies should explore JVs and investment in Pakistan, which is a huge market of over 240 million consumers. He assured that ICCI would connect German investors with right partners in Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, the representatives of German companies said that Germany wants to diversify foreign trade and the purpose of their visit to Pakistan is to develop networking with Pakistani counterparts and explore potential areas of joint ventures and investment.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that German investors from

automobile and other sectors should transfer technology and set up business partnerships in Pakistan to export their products to Central Asia and other markets.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan has huge potential for foreign investment in the construction sector and German companies should take advantage of these opportunities.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan stressed for direct air links between Pakistan and Germany that would help in promoting trade relations between the two countries.

Standard Chartered drives inclusion with enhanced parental leave benefit

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Standard Chartered announced the rollout of enhanced parental leave benefits. Effective 1 September 2023, the Bank has standardised the amount of parental leave it offers, providing parents the option of undertaking more equitable caregiving responsibilities for their children.

With the enhanced benefits, employees can access a minimum of 20 weeks of paid parental leave, irrespective of gender. The enhanced benefits have been designed to support working parents. This is part of the Bank's commitment to fostering an inclusive culture, where employees are supported in balancing their personal lives with building successful careers.

Rehan Shaikh, CEO Standard Chartered Paki-

stan said, "Parental leave is a great way to dedicate your time to your family that has just expanded by a new member. This gender-neutral caregiving policy is also part of a wider set of people policies focused on actively promoting physical, emotional and mental well-being of not just our colleagues but also their families.

At Standard Chartered Pakistan we are committed to creating an environment where colleagues can thrive and grow. We will continue to challenge the status quo and seek progressive, purpose-led benefits to improve the colleague experience and help them achieve their true potential. We hope that our actions inspire other across industries, to do the same and help foster a more inclusive society in Pakistan."

NBP donates PKR5 million to NOWPDP



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), recently made a visit to the Head Office of the Network of Organizations Working for People with Disabilities, Pakistan (NOWPDP). During his visit, he presented the organization with a donation of PKR 5 million to support a wide range of services and training initiatives.

This contribution reflects NBP's commitment to NOWPDP's noble mission of fostering an inclusive society and empowering individuals with disabilities (PWDs). NOWPDP, which was founded in 2008, has a multi-faceted approach to advancing disability inclusion. Their focus areas encompass identity recognition, welfare support, educational advancement, skill development, and economic empowerment for PWDs. Among their extensive services are Certification Audits, employee sensitization programs, assistance with account opening, and comprehensive financial literacy training, all of which collectively contribute to the holistic development of individuals with disabilities.

The visit by the President of NBP to the Center of Excellence for Financial Inclusion (CEFI) marks a significant stride towards raising awareness about the unique challenges and opportunities faced by disabled individuals. Interacting with disabled students across various classes underscores a genuine commitment to understanding their needs and fostering their growth. NOWPDP's vision of promoting equal access to opportunities and the seamless integration of PWDs into society resonates with the core principles of National Bank of Pakistan, which prioritizes inclusivity and social equity. These contributions play an important role in the ongoing effort to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all, a cause that the bank steadfastly upholds.

Hunar Khun

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visits Karakoram Area Development Authority's 'Hunar Khun' facility in Hunza on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Jazz serves Rs10 billion defamation notice to SNGPL for baseless allegations

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In response to the recent baseless allegations of gas theft by Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL), Jazz, Pakistan's largest digital operator, has served the gas company with a Rs 10 billion defamation notice.

Categorically refuting SNGPL's false claims of gas theft at a Karak (KP) site, the telecom company has served a legal notice to SNGPL.

Jazz has reiterated its stance that there's no provision for natural gas use at any of its network sites across the country, a fact that is also corroborated by the picture of the diesel generator that SNGPL itself shared in its X (formerly Twitter) post on the matter.

Accusing Jazz of gas theft at one of its sites is frivolous and lacks merit. SNGPL's allegation against Jazz, which is a significant contributor to the national economy, holds no basis. Moreover, baseless accusations like this can undermine investor confidence and potentially have a negative impact on the country's economy.

Jazz ensures that its electricity and fuel arrangements are completely legitimate. As part of its backup power plan, Jazz has established agreements with third-party vendors to exclusively supply diesel fuel for generators at multiple locations.

Jazz enjoys an impeccable reputation and highly values the trust placed in it by its stakeholders. The irresponsible approach exhibited by SNGPL in making unfounded allegations has the potential to not only damage foreign investor confidence but also harm national interests.

PTCL achieves seamless go-live of SAP S/4HANA for enhanced

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) have successfully implemented SAP RISE with SAP S/4HANA, marking an innovative digital transformation within the telecom sector.

This strategic move is poised to modernize PTCL Group's corporate operations, fostering efficiency, effectiveness, and a culture of digitization. The official go-live ceremony took place at PTCL HQ in Islamabad, graced by the presence of senior management from PTCL & Ufone 4G, as well as distinguished figures from SAP, IBM, and Amazon Web Services (AWS). The ceremony also included appreciation certificates for team members involved in this transformation.

PTCL & Ufone 4G, pioneers in Pakistan's telecom sector, became the first to leverage a blend of top-notch SAP ERP solutions, facilitated by the SAP S/4HANA Private Cloud. This collaboration is a monumental transformation that will optimize resource allocation, real-time data insights, streamlining business processes, and bridging organizational information silos. This is so far the largest customer go-live on SAP Rise with SAP S/4HANA in Pakistan, with IBM as their implementation partner and AWS as their hosting partner.

While appreciating teams successfully implementing the transformation process, Jafar Khalid, Group Chief Technology Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said, "We are immensely proud to have guided PTCL Group on its operational journey, lead-

ing the way in this initiative within the region. This journey is set to establish a new standard and drive Pakistan's telecommunications sector towards improved operations and advancement.

Sharing his thoughts, Saquib Ahmad, Managing Director, SAP Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan, said, "Pakistan is rapidly becoming a thriving market for SAP's enterprise and corporate solutions, with the telecommunications sector leading the charge in adopting innovative ERP systems and embracing digital advancements facilitated by the Cloud.

Elaborating on the same, Faisal Khalid, Partner Middle East and Pakistan, IBM, said, "Implementing SAP's RISE with SAP S/4HANA will enable PTCL and Ufone 4G to embrace fresh business



models, optimize both internal and external resources, and leverage Artificial Intelligence to make well-informed decisions."

Companies adopting SAP's

RISE with SAP S/4HANA can establish their digital footprint and achieve innovation objectives to work with new business models and serve markets at a faster pace. The reduction of

duplication of efforts through improved business insight, while ensuring increased transparency, helps organizations gain necessary competitiveness in the information age.

Abdullah Nawaz of PAF beat Ibrahim Mohib of Pakistan Army to win Roshan Khan Squash title

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Abdullah Nawaz of Pakistan Air Force defeated Ibrahim Mohib of the Pakistan Army in the final of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Roshan Khan Squash Championship title in a marathon final witnessed by a capacity crowd present on this occasion. Minister Sports Najeebullah Khan Marwat was the chief guest on this occasion. President KP Squash Association Dawood Khan, former World Champion Qamar Zaman, Director Blue Tone Squash Academy Wazir Gul, players and officials were also present.

Umar Ashraf, Mamoon Khan, Nouman Khan, Abdullah Nawaz and Azan Khalil also took their trophies in various categories wherein Caretaker Sports Minister Najeebullah Khan Marwat distributed the prizes. Former World Number-2 Muhibullah, former World No. 8 Ehsanu-



llah, coaches Mansoor Zaman, Tahir Iqbal and other important personalities were present. Under the auspices of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Squash Association,

Roshan Khan Junior Squash Championship was held at Qamar Zaman Squash Complex, Peshawar Sports Complex, in which more than hundred boys of U-11, U-13, U-15, U-17 and U-19 participated. In the Under-11 final, Umar Ashraf of Pakistan Air Force defeated Mohammad Hussain of PAF 11-8 13-11 8-11 6-11 11-5. In the Under-13 final, Mamoon Khan of PAF defeated Muhammad Fawad Khan 3-0, the score was 11-6 11-9 11-5. In the U-15 final, Pakistan Army's Nouman Khan defeated PAF's Muhammad Shahzeb 11-6 11-3 11-8. In the U-17 final, Pakistan Air Force's Abdullah Nawaz defeated Pakistan Army's Ibrahim Mohib 11-6 11-3 11-0 while in the U-19 final, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Azan Khalil defeated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Yasin Khattak 11-7, 11-8 and 11-7 to win the trophy. Finally, the special guest distributed prizes among the players.

POA held a press briefing

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) held a press briefing to provide updates on Pakistan's contingent for the upcoming 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

During the briefing, President POA discussed the details of the contingent, which includes personnel supported by the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), National Federations (NFs), and POA. A comprehensive sports-wise list of the contingent was shared with the media and is attached.

Responding to inquiries about allegations of excluding athletes and officials from Athletics, President POA clarified that POA had not excluded anyone, if received within the timelines. Instead, PSB received and forwarded the names of athletes and officials for accreditation much after the given timelines set by the Organizing Committee i.e. 20th May, 2023. Simi-

lar complications arose in the sport of Hockey due to late changes in team composition which were not processed. POA has informed the Pakistan Hockey Federation that processing new accreditations beyond the established deadlines was not possible.

President POA emphasized the importance of adhering to timelines and assured that any accreditation request received within the stipulated time frame had been processed. He also mentioned that the matter regarding allegations of exclusion of athletes and coaches is now before the Honorable Court, and we will also submit the facts before the Honorable Court.

On the question of the public discourse holding POA responsible for the sports development of Pakistan, he said that the people are rightly concerned as we have a huge potential in Pakistan. POA is held accountable for the functions for which POA is in no way responsible. We

continue to request the Govt to extend support to the Paris 2024 qualified athletes which should have started in 2021. Instead, the then officials opted to launch a misleading campaign to deflect the responsibility of deteriorating national sports standards on POA.

As far as assistance for athletes is concerned, the President informed that POA with the help of Olympic Solidarity has provided over Rs. 55 million to 11 x athletes and 19 x National Sports Federations during 2022-2023.

This support includes the IOC Scholarship for athletes for which Arshad Nadeem, Ghulam Mustafa Bashir, Gulam Joseph and many others are benefiting. However, given the lack of international standard facilities for elite athlete training, the standards of the national sport will only deteriorate.

He informed the media friends that the POA has managed to train highly energetic professionals to

support the strengthening of the internal governance of the sports organizations. "Our CDM for Asian Games is IOC-educated (MEMO Program) and is working along with other persons to add value to our governance structure" President POA.

President POA expressed gratitude for the excellent arrangements made by the Hangzhou Organizing Committee to ensure the safety and comfort of participants during the Games. He also extended thanks to the Olympic Council of Asia for their guidance and support in facilitating the necessary arrangements. The press briefing concluded with a note of appreciation to the media for their continued support and coverage to highlight the problems faced by athletes.

For information or inquiries related to the Asian Games, POA will be passing on the information of contact details of Contingent Officials through Whatsapp.

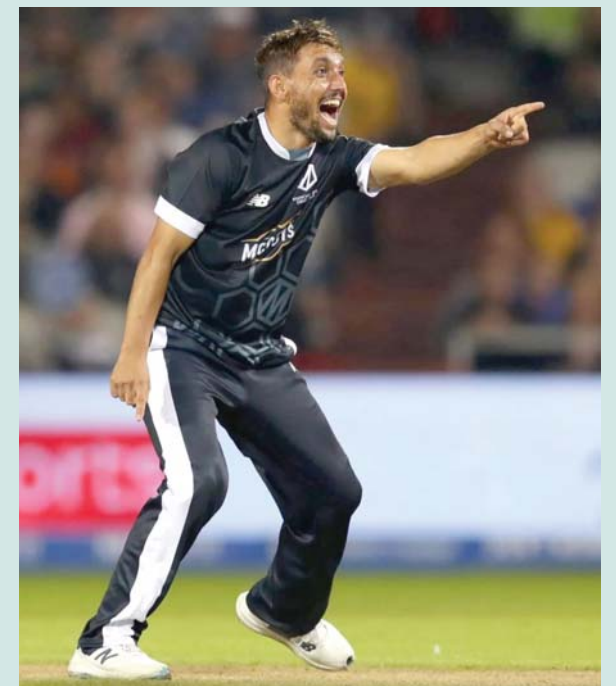
Najeeb Nd Khattak nominated Pakistan hockey team fitness coach



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mr Najeeb Nd Khattak a well known fitness expert and nutritionist appointed National fitness coach nutritionist of Pakistan senior hockey team for Asian Olympics games Hangzhou China more he says it's challenge for me I will deliver my best inshallah... private school association congratulations to Mr Najeeb Nd Khattak for this big achievement's as hockey is Pakistan national game PSAI confident that he will improve fitness level of Pakistan senior hockey team as Najeeb Nd Khattak is very talented intellectual person

Zaman Khan replaces Naseem Shah in Asia Cup Squad



Sports Desk

MULTAN: Right-arm fast bowler Zaman Khan has replaced Naseem Shah in Pakistan's 17-player squad for the ongoing Men's ODI Asia Cup 2023. Zaman joined the team in the morning today and will train with the squad at the RPICS in the evening.

Naseem injured his right shoulder during the match against India. He continues to be monitored by the team's medical panel that is taking all necessary precautions keeping in mind the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

Haris Rauf, who did not bowl on the reserve day of Pakistan v India contest as a precautionary measure, continues to recover well after he felt discomfort in his right flank on the first day of the match.

Team doctor Sohai Saleem: "These two fast bowlers are our assets and the team's medical panel will provide them the best possible care ahead of the all-important World Cup."

Fast bowler Shahnawaz Dahani will join the team on Thursday morning.

Pakistan U-16 football team 'barrelling through' at South Asian Championship in Bhutan



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Shahid Niaz Khokhar, a member of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalisation Committee (NC), expressed his admiration for the performance of the Pakistan U-16 football team at the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U16 Championship in Bhutan.

Addressing the Pakistan U-16 football team, alongside coaches, officials, and Basalat Mirza of Candyland, during a reception held by Candyland in honor of the team's achievements, Shahid Khokhar said, "I have immense pride for our remarkable Pakistan U-16 football team, who recently participated in the SAFF U-16 Championship in Bhutan. This was an extraordinary journey, and the spirit, dedication, and performance of our young players deserve recognition."

Khokhar continued, saying, "In this tournament, our young talents displayed their unwavering determination to the game. They faced formidable opponents on foreign soil and came out victorious not once but twice, leaving an indelible mark on this international stage."

"Our journey began with a thrilling 2-1 victory against Bhutan, a testament to our team's grit and potential. The following match saw an even more impressive performance as we secured a convincing 3-0 victory against the Maldives," he added.

Khokhar acknowledged the setback in the third match against Bangladesh in the semifinal, with a narrow 1-2 loss, saying, "Setbacks provide us with the opportunity to learn, grow, and come back even stronger."

"I want to commend each and every player for their exceptional effort and dedication. You have proven that you possess the spirit and ability to excel at the highest levels of the sport. Your commitment to representing Pakistan on an international stage is truly commendable," he stated.

"As we move forward, I want to assure you that the Pakistan Football Federation is fully committed to your development. We will provide you with the best training and resources to enhance your skills and abilities. Our goal is to prepare you for future international endeavors, where you can not only compete but also excel and bring glory to our beloved nation," Shahid Khokhar concluded.

Zone-VI Whites Clinched A. S. Natural Stone U-13 Inter Zonal Cricket title

Arif hafeez

KARACHI: Zone-VI Whites won the First A. S. Natural Stone Under-13 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament after beating Zone-VII Whites by 44 runs in the final played at KCCA Stadium. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi and Sponsors by A. S. Natural Stone.

Scores in brief: Zone-VI Whites 119/5 in the allotted 25 overs. Opener Aaish Malik 49 4x4, Faisal Qurban 17, Muhammad Faizan 14. Hussain Abbas, Hassan Siddiqui and Saghir Ahmed got one wicket each.

In reply Zone-VII Whites 75 all out



in 14.3 overs. Only Hassan Siddiqui reach in double figure scored 31 4x4.

Darain Faraz (rlb) 3/11, Muhammad Usaid (rmf) 3/22, Hasan Raza 2/16, Durrani Khan 2/17.

Jawed Ahmed Khan Secretary Regional Cricket Association Karachi, Muhammad Touseef Siddiqui Joint Secretary, Azam Khan Assistant Secretary, Zia Ahmed Siddiqui President Zone-VI, Mazhar Ali Awan President Zone-VII, Arif Waheed Secretary Zone-I, Nusrat Ullah Khan Secretary Zone-II, Fomer first Class Umpire Junaid Ghafoor, Akbar Alam, Rehan Siddiqui, Shoukat Rajpoot, Nawaid Al Ameen, Mohitashim Ali Syed Coach Karachi Region Under-19 and Hundreds of young Cricketers also watching the Final Match.

QeAT: Faisalabad, Karachi Whites register wins in the first round

A Sports

Faisalabad registered their first victory of the season, after chasing 186 on the final day of the first round of the QeAT 2023-2024, while Karachi Whites won over Peshawar by a margin of 116 runs.

Lahore Whites and Lahore Blues drew their game at Gaddafi Stadium after the former could not bowl out the latter in the second batting innings. FATA and Rawalpindi match also ended in a draw.

In the third game of the ongoing QeAT, Multan started the day at 155-5 after 52 overs, leading by 119 runs. After amassing 66 runs in the first session, they were bowled out for 221.

Faisalabad was thus asked to chase 186 on the final day. Openers Mohammad Huraira and Azeem Ghumman set the tone for the chase by going for a 63-run partnership. Even as wickets fell, the side remained in command of the

chase without faltering.

Experienced batter Asif Ali, retaining his form from the previous batting innings, scored an unbeaten 42 which secured the game for his side.

They won the game by five wickets after chasing the target in 51.3 overs.

Meanwhile, in another game of QeAT, Lahore Blues stood at 61-2 in 26 overs, at the start of the day's play, with Rizwan Hussain and Umar Siddiqi at the crease.

A 92-run-stand between Umar and Rizwan, followed by a 47-run-stand between Umar and Hussain Talat helped Imran Butt-led side recover the deficit caused by the mammoth total accumulated by the opposition. An unbeaten century by the prodigal Qasim Akram effectively took the side into the lead.

With the Blues at 329-8 in their second innings in the last session of the game, it was deduced that the game would not have a defin-

itive conclusion.

The captains shook their hands as a draw was called.

Watch QeAT 2023/24 Live on ARY ZAP

In the second match of the QeAT, Karachi began the day with Sarfaraz Ahmed at the crease alongside Aftab. The scorecard read 249-6. After getting to 329, Sarfaraz declared the innings, inviting Peshawar to chase 360 in the final innings of the game.

Peshawar, chasing a big total, had a shaky start; opener Israrullah failed to score more than one run and captain Sahibzada Farhan was removed after scoring 28 runs. Although a 68-run-stand between Kamran Ghulam and Waqar Ahmed helped their side gain some momentum, it was short-lived with the specialist spinner Abrar Ahmed getting both of them out before they could produce any significant damage.

The Sahibzada-led team could not sustain any solid partner-

ships after that and kept faltering on the crease. Sajid Khan, who had retired hurt earlier, came to bat at the end. Batting alongside Imran Khan Sr, the spinner tried to keep the game alive for his side.

Eventually, they were bowled out for 244 runs, with the Sarfaraz-led side seizing a 116-run victory. In the fourth QeAT match, Rawalpindi started the day at 16-0 after batting for eight overs the previous day. Chasing a mammoth total of 400 in the final innings, the Umar Waheed-led team had a stellar start to their innings.

The openers Hasan Raza (79) and Abdul Fasih (65) had a brilliant partnership, expanding for 140 runs before Zeeshan Ahmed provided the breakthrough. Despite losing wickets periodically, Rawalpindi's scorecard kept flowing. A half-century from Haider Ali and a 33-run-knock from Mubasir Khan helped their case. Although the Khushdil-led team countered the plans set in motion



by the opposition, Rawalpindi were determined not to give in. A four-wicket haul by Akif Javed

destabilized Rawalpindi but not sufficiently enough to bring out their loss.

With Rawalpindi at 293-7 after 98 overs, stumps were called and the match was drawn.