

Press Conference

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Energy Mr. Muhammad Ali held a press conference along with Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance Dr. Shamshad Akhtar and Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mr. Murtaza Solangi. The minister addressed important questions regarding electricity and petroleum prices and the recent crackdown on electricity theft on Friday.



Photo: PID

Election schedule likely to be announced in December

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is likely to announce the schedule of general elections in the first week of December 2023.

According to sources within Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the election date will also be announced with the schedule for upcoming polls.

Sources further said that elections will be held in the center and all four provinces on the same date, however only the ECP has the authority to announce the election date.

Earlier, President Arif Alvi 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 election should be held by the eighty-ninth day of the date of dissolution of Assembly i.e. Monday, November 06, 2023.

The announcement can be termed the culmination of the months-long debate over whether the President or the ECP has the right to announce the date of polls.

It is pertinent to mention here that, the Ministry of Law had also conveyed

to President Arif Alvi that he has no role in the announcement of date for polls "following the amendment in Elections Act.

The law ministry had forwarded its response to President Arif Alvi's letter, seeking opinion on ECP's stance that "only it had the authority to decide the election date".

Meanwhile, Caretaker Minister Punjab former chief secretary of the election commission Kanwar Dilshad, has said that the ECP will release election schedule by November.

He said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has currently been engaged in fresh delimitation exercise that could be concluded by November 20.

"The constitution says the election should be held within 90 days after dissolution of assemblies," former ECP official said. "A turmoil being created

referring the 90 days' condition repeatedly," he added.

Commenting on the President's role, Dilshad said that he could only give his suggestion to the election commission.

Kanwar Dilshad earlier said he did not see the next general elections to be held before February 15, 2024, after the Council of Common Interest (CCI) approval of the Digital Census 2023.

He pointed out that a fresh delimitation exercise, which takes around four to six months, would make it impossible to conduct the general polls due before October 12 this year.

He said that the ECP is legally bound to hold a fresh delimitation exercise, noting that the next elections are likely to be delayed till February 2024.

In response to a question, Dilshad said that increasing the national and provincial assemblies' seats was not possible without a two-thirds majority.

Funeral prayer of Wali Tangi attack martyr offered at Quetta Garrison



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The funeral prayer of Subedar Qaiser Rahim, who was martyred while bravely fighting against terrorists in Wali Tangi area of Quetta, was offered at the Quetta Garrison on Friday. The Corps Commander Balochistan and other

senior military officials participated in the funeral prayer, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

After the funeral prayer, the body of the martyr was sent to his native region, where the martyr would be buried with full military honours, it added.

NAB amendments verdict not worrisome for PML-N, Nawaz will return: Zubair

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan as the Supreme Court (SC) verdict regarding NAB amendments is not worrisome for the party, said the spokesperson of the party in London.

The spokesman of PML-N Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz - Muhammad Zubair, during a media interaction in London, stated that Nawaz Sharif will travel to Pakistan on October 21 as scheduled.

Muhammad Zubair expressed



that the Supreme Court's decision regarding the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Amendments case was anticipated.

He emphasized that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had no objections or concerns regarding this particular judicial decision.

Every politician will bear consequences of not dissolving NAB: Shahid Khaqan



News Desk

Reacting to the Supreme Court (SC) verdict to nullify NAB amendments, former premier and PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that he had already asked to dissolve the National Accountability Bureau and everyone will bear the consequences of facing corruption cases now, ARY News reported on Friday.

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said, "I had already told everyone that the country would not make any progress in the presence of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), hence, it should be dissolved."

"I had also suggested to hold proceedings of cases against the ruling party on a daily basis. My recommendations were not listened to at that time and now, everyone will bear the consequences of making wrong decisions."

Continuing his remarks following the SC verdict, Abbasi said, "Cases will only be filed against politicians. The NAB was established 24 years ago and hundreds of [corruption] cases were filed but who has been sentenced till today." The former prime minister termed the anti-corruption watchdog, NAB, a completely failed institution and "it would only cause disaster to the country."

Pervaiz Elahi gets bail in judicial complex attack case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Friday granted bail to former chief minister of Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in a judicial complex attack case.

Former Punjab chief minister Pervaiz Elahi has filed a bail plea in a judicial complex attack case in the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC).

The PTI president was produced before ATC judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain's court, where the ATC judge granted bail to the former CM Pervaiz Elahi against a surety bond of Rs 20,000.

During the court hearing, ATC Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain stated that nothing substantial had been recovered from Chaudhry Parvez Elahi during his period of remand. Consequently, Judge Zulqarnain ordered that there would be no further investigation into Chaudhry Parvez Elahi's involvement in the case.

Meanwhile, the prosecutor - Raja Naveed - emphasized that the provisions



under which the FIR was registered against Chaudhry Parvez Elahi is non-bailable.

However, the court pointed out that Chaudhry Parvez Elahi's name is absent from the FIR itself, raising questions about the basis for the former CM Punjab arrest.

Naveed further added that the arrest was

based on information provided by the informant not on the basis of FIR.

The court heard the argument from both side and decided to grant bail to Pervaiz Elahi, while write the verdict in the open court, ensuring transparency and allowing for a thorough examination of the case.

Statement on Dasu-Mansehra-Islamabad Transmission Line Project



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In response to the recent media coverage regarding the contract under the Dasu-Mansehra-Islamabad transmission line project, the World Bank would like to clarify that the contracts for the 765 KV transmission lines have been procured, following the World Bank Procurement Regulations, as stipulated in the Legal Agreement signed between the World Bank and the Government of Pakistan. These contracts were awarded to the bidders that offered the lowest price.

The World Bank shared the no-objections based on the information shared by the National Transmission and Despatch Company to allow them to proceed with the recommended pre-qualifications and awards.

All formal complaints were handled during the bidding process. Before the contract was awarded, there was a period for resolving procurement-related complaints, which gave other bidders the opportunity to voice any concerns.

Based on the information provided, matters raised by inquiries cited in the media provided no new additional information. The World Bank strongly objects to the allegations recently cited in the media and considers them baseless.

Pakistan envoy in Brussels meets EU Commission's DG INTPA



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan in Brussels Anna Baloch on Friday met Director General International Partnership of European Commission Koen Doens. In the meeting, they discussed the impactful implementation of the development cooperation portfolio in Pakistan.

The pathways for creating synergies with the innovation ecosystem in Pakistan and the European Union were also discussed.

Pakistan-Japan Security Dialogue

Hinza Asif

TOKYO: The 9th Round of Pakistan-Japan Security Dialogue was held in Tokyo on 15th September 2023. Pakistan delegation was led by Mr. Ameer Khuram Rathore, Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia-Pacific). The Japanese side was led by Mr. Ryo Nakamura, Director General, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department.

The two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. The cordial Pakistan-Japan ties and the potential for greater cooperation in the field of defence were underscored.

During the exchange of views on regional situation, the Additional Foreign Secretary briefed the Japanese delegation on Pakistan's policy of peaceful neighbourhood including Afghanistan, India and the gross violations of human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Pakistan's efforts against terrorism; and substantial contribution towards global peace; in this regard were discussed and appreciated. The Security Dialogue between Pakistan and Japan is an important forum for exchange of views on a broad range of issues of mutual interest in the fields of security and defence.

China stands ready to provide humanitarian assistance to flood-hit Libya: Mao Ning

Spokesman Report



BEIJING: China is prepared to offer disaster-relief to Libya and stands ready to help its people to overcome the difficulties and rebuild their homes, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said on Friday. "The Chinese side is working around the clock to provide humanitarian assistance to Libya. We stand ready to help the Libyan people to overcome the difficulties and rebuild their home at an early date based on the needs on the ground," she said at her regular press briefing held here at International Press Center (IPC). Mao Ning said that the Chinese side was closely following the devastating flooding triggered by Storm Daniel, which had caused heavy casualties and property losses in eastern Libya. "President Xi Jinping has sent a message of condolence to Chairman of the Libyan Presidential Council Mohammad Al-Manfi, extending deep condolences over the loss of lives" she added.

UNICEF chief visits South Punjab to monitor school re-opening after floods

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chief of Field Operations UNICEF Pakistan Scott Woolery visited the South Punjab Secretariat and met Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. (Rtd) Saqib Zafar. Additional IG Police South Punjab Maqsood ul Hasan was also present in the meeting. Health of mother and child, commencement of classes in flood affected schools and projects of supply of clean drinking water were discussed in the meeting. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. (Rtd) Saqib Zafar, while speaking on the occasion, said that due to India's water aggression, several districts of South Punjab have been affected by floods. He said due to rains and flood in nullahs last year, the infrastructure in DG Khan and Rajanpur was severely damaged and billions of rupees were spent by Government on its resto-



ration. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab said rehabilitation of flood affected schools and commencement of classes was our first priority and educational activities of children in DG Khan and Rajanpur districts were not allowed to be disrupted. He expressed hope that the educational activities will also not be affect-

ed in the schools affected by the flood of Sutlej river. Capt. (Rtd) Saqib Zafar paid tribute to the services of UNICEF in the field of education and health and said UNICEF was being provided full support in the projects of education and clean drinking water in South Punjab. He further said South Punjab was the region of rich cultural and heri-

tage and the restoration of this heritage in its original state is included in the government's agenda. Capt. (Rtd) Saqib Zafar also told about the digitization of South Punjab Secretariat and its future planning of development. On this occasion, Scott Woolery said UNICEF has set up temporary learning centers for the education of children in the flood affected districts where students are being provided with stationery and uniforms. He said cluster based water supply systems have been installed to supply clean drinking water in the flood affected areas and mobile water filtration plants have also been provided in these districts. He further informed that a Child Protection Unit has been set up in Rajanpur district to meet the nutritional needs of the children. Scott Woolery also thanked the government for providing full support by districts administration.

Conduct of Orderly Room at DPO Office South Waziristan Lower



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: DPO Farmanullah Khan (PPM) conducted an orderly room in his office to hear the issues faced by subordinate policemen under the rules and regulations of the police department. The policemen informed the DPO Farmanullah Khan (PPM) about their legitimate submissions/objections and the problems faced by them and the DPO South Waziristan Lower issued immediate orders to solve the problems faced by the policemen. On this occasion, DPO South Waziristan Lower said that policemen are our valuable assets, their problems will be solved on priority basis on this occasion, DPO South Waziristan Lower said while issuing a message to the policemen, that the police officers perform their duties in a polite and honest manner, no official should adopt inappropriate behavior with the public. The police are for the protection of people's honor and property, consider public services as a duty and show the best morals and good behavior with the citizens.

Tribal elders & political leaders demand to speed up bifurcation process of Lower SW

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's previous provincial government cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa formally approved the division of South Waziristan into two districts on 12 April 2022. One district was named Upper Waziristan while the other district was named Lower Waziristan, but despite the official notification issued on September 13, 2022 the district of Lower South Waziristan is still deprived of its fruits. Due to the slowness of the bifurcation process, public problems started increasing, the bifurcation process should be expedited, demand of ANP leader Noorzaman Wazir and tribal elders. ANP senior leader Noor Zaman Wazir says that South Waziristan has been divided into two districts, Upper and Lower Waziristan, but unfortunately the offices of Lower South Waziristan district are still in Tank district. He said that until the offices of all the departments of Lower South Waziristan district are shifted to Wana and the people are not made easily accessible to these offices, then it is of no use. Informed sources say that the heads of some departments have been appointed in Lower South Waziristan, but on the one hand, they cannot work due to lack of offices and on the other hand, the staff of the District Account Office are sitting 160 km away in Tank district due to which the official work of Lower South Waziristan district has come to a complete standstill. He said that new problems are arising for the common people day by day due to which the problems of the people are increasing enormously. He said that the Deputy Commissioner of Lower South Waziristan has been appointed, but he does not have access to development funds and other resources, as is the case with other departments. The tribal elders have strongly demanded the Caretaker Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Anwar Ulhaq Kakar from the provincial government and top military officials.

Foundation Day

FAISALABAD: Famous Poet Dr Raiz Majeed cuts the cake along with others to mark the 41st Foundation Day of Radio Pakistan in city.



Photo: Online

The German theater group presented Theater "Trashedy" in the ongoing Pakistan Theater Festival

News Desk

KARACHI: A German group staged a comedy on Thursday as the Pakistan Theatre Festival 2023 being held at the Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, completed a week. The German troupe came to Karachi to participate in the festival. The title of the play enacted was "Trashedy". School children from Lyari and Defence were also invited to attend the theatrical performance of German artists directed by Leandro Kees.



The cast included Marie-Lena Kaiser, Daniel Matheus, Julia Mota Carvalho and Elina Brams Ritzau. The production was a purposeful art as it not only provided entertainment to the audience but also raised awareness about how plastics had been polluting environment. A large number of people attended the show and appreciated the German group for

its performance. Theatre shows how humans destroy environment. Humans invented many things for their convenience, one of which is plastic, which is also polluting us because when plastic breaks down or becomes micro plastic. It is also included in some food cycle and enters our own stomach, we become sick. It was also mentioned that as we progressed, cars came, buses came, TV, computers and mobiles came, people from each other.

ISRA University v. Nazeer Laghari: High Court of Sindh, Karachi, dismisses appeal

News Desk

KARACHI: The High Court of Sindh, Karachi Divisional Bench, has dismissed the appeal filed by Dr. Nazeer Laghari and has upheld the 15-08-2023 order of the Single Bench of the High Court of Sindh, Karachi, whereby Dr. Nazeer Laghari was restrained from functioning as the Vice Chancellor of Isra University. Thus, Dr. Nazeer Laghari shall not function as the Vice Chancellor since his tenure had already expired on 23-06-2023.

MEPCO starts Crackdowns on Electricity Thieves: Laghari

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chairman MEPCO Board of Directors Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Laghari has said that in the light of the government's instructions, the ongoing operation against electricity thieves and defaulters in South Punjab is yielding positive results. Electricity thieves who cause damage to national exchequer will not be forgiven under any circumstances, while defaulters have no right to use electricity due to non-payment of dues/arrears, their connections are immediately disconnected and transformers are being removed. The performance of Chief Executive Officer MEPCO Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana in the ongoing operation against electricity thieves and defaulters is commendable. The performance of Mepco is improving as compared to other electricity distribution companies of Punjab province and instructions have been issued to improve it further. He expressed these views while addressing the 205th meeting of the Board of Directors at the Mepco headquarters. He said that Mepco teams were tortured in Kacha/Rajanpur/Rojhan/area under the management of DG Khan circle. The Ministry of Energy and the Provincial Government have been requested to hire Rangers to conduct operations in areas where incidents of violence/resistance are concerned.

Nishtar Hospital to be inspected after CM's visit: District Administration



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: In the context of the recent visit of the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi to Multan, the district administration has decided to conduct a strict inspection of administrative matters for the improvement of medical facilities in Nishtar Hospital. On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Faizan, Ahmed Riaz and Additional Deputy Commissioner General Abida Fareed visited Nishtar Hospital and checked the arrangements in the parking area including various wards. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Faizan Ahmed Riaz said that during the recent visit, Chief Minister Punjab has pointed out the irregularities in Nishtar Hospital and given the task to improve it. A comprehensive strategy is being formulated to provide better medical facilities. We will bring the hospital parking stands and other issues transparently under the law, while steps have also been initiated to improve the malfunctioning machines and test laboratories.

AJK cabinet to maintain existing electricity tariffs: Minister

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The AJK cabinet meeting, while deciding to maintain the previously determined tariff on electricity, made it clear that no additional burden of taxes would be laid on power consumers. Addressing the media representatives here today, senior minister Col (r) Waqar Noor said that rather than putting a burden on the common masses, the government has decided to pay the additional charges. He said that no late payment surcharges would be charged on the electricity bills. Pertinently, the payment surcharge for the month of July alone amounts to 22 crores rupees, which the government won't collect from the consumers. The senior minister, who was accom-



panied by government minister Abdul Majid Khan and Ch. Muhammad Rashid told the media that a hike in electricity tariffs in the month of July had been suspended on the directions of the AJK premier. Endorsing the Prime Minister's decision, they said that the cabinet meeting had also decided to form a separate power regulatory body. The State Electric Power Regulatory Authority (SEPPRA), they said, would be responsible for regulation of electricity tariffs in the region. They said that the cabinet had given

its approval to lift the ban on appointments and transfers of government employees. They said that the tenure of all ad hoc/contractual employees has been extended to 30 September. They said that the government of Azad Kashmir wouldn't do anything against the interests of the state of Pakistan. "For us, the integrity and interest of Pakistan come before anything else", they said, adding that the government would not allow any such thing to happen that was detrimental to the

interests of the country. Regarding the Mangala Up-Raising Agreement, they said that the Cabinet has unanimously refused to accept the amendments made to the Mangala Up-Raising Agreement in 2003 and thereafter, in 2021. These amendments, they said were made unilaterally without taking on board the government of Azad Kashmir. "Neither the President nor the Cabinet was taken into confidence", they said, adding that these amendments had been rejected by the Cabinet. "The Cabinet has approved a summary for increasing the upper age limit from 35 years to 40 years for government jobs", they said. They said that the cabinet meeting had also decided to amend the Accountability Act to ensure fair and cross-the-board accountability in the region.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:27 am
Zohr 12:03 pm
Asr 4:29 pm
Maghrib 6:15 pm
Isha 7:39 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan

AIOU offers Foreign Language courses till September 20

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood, had instructed the Center for Languages and Translation Studies (CeLTS) to introduce foreign language courses. In August, CeLTS introduced various language courses, including Chinese, Japanese, Gurmukhi script, Forensic Linguistics, and Natural Language Processing. The last date to enroll in these courses is September 20, 2023.

The duration of Chinese and Japanese language courses is three months while Gurmukhi Script course is of 2 months duration. Admissions will be given on merit and classes for these courses will be during weekdays in the evening at the main campus of the University. Eligibility for these courses is Matriculation or equivalent (minimum second division).

The duration of courses in Forensic Linguistics and Natural Language Processing is 4 months, classes will be held on weekends at the main campus of AIOU. Eligibility for admission in both courses is Intermediate/A level or equivalent (minimum Second Division). Students can apply online on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk) and last date to take admission in all courses is September 20. For further information, students can contact Center for Languages and Translation Studies at 051-9576950-051 or email cels@aiou.edu.pk.

Chief Justice IHC assures judiciary to decide cases of business community on priority

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Honorable Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court Justice Aamer Farooq along with Honorable Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri and Honorable Nasir Javed Rana Judge & Session Judge Islamabad visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and inaugurated the Mediation Council Office in ICCI and congratulated ICCI for opening this office. The Mediation Council Office has been established as per requirement of the amended Rent Restrictions Act 2023, which would play mediation role for resolving the commercial rent disputes of the business community and contribute to the out-of-court settlement of such disputes.

Addressing the business community, Chief Justice Islamabad High Court Justice Aamer Farooq said that the business community is the backbone of the economy and assured that the judiciary would decide commercial and rent disputes on priority. He said that

a mechanism including special bench would be considered to adjudicate the commercial disputes of the business community to facilitate them in business development. He said that arbitration and mediation is getting popularity as a cost-effective mechanism for settlement of cases as litigation is an expensive and lengthy process. He acknowledged that the prevailing laws in Pakistan are not supportive of business and investment and stressed that legislative should amend them to facilitate the entrepreneurs and investors. He stressed that the business community should play role to boost business activities to steer the country out of current crisis.

Justice Tariq Mehmood said that inauguration of a mediation council in ICCI is a commendable initiative for the out-of-court settlement of rent disputes of the business community and said that IHC would also forward such cases to the council for mediation.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Indus-



try said that an effective commercial dispute resolution mechanism is vital for sustainable economic growth of Pakistan. However, the arbitration & mediation laws, court procedures, dispute resolution and mechanism for enforcement of different types of contracts including commercial and

investment in Pakistan are weak, time taking, outdated and a cause of concern for the local and foreign investors. He said that on average, it takes around 3 years to settle a commercial dispute in courts in Pakistan and a contract case takes many years to be decided. He stressed that the government should

amend and upgrade and align business laws with the needs of current times to facilitate the growth of local and foreign investment in the country. He stressed that the government should establish a network of commercial courts across the country and evolve an effective alternate dispute resolution system for timely settlement of commercial disputes and promote a healthy environment for business and investment activities in the country.

Chinese Naval delegation

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Naval delegation visited NHQ, Islamabad. During the visit the delegation called upon the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Training & Personnel). Matters of mutual cooperations & interests were discussed. The visit will further consolidate the already strong ties between both the navies.



Photo: Spokesman

Government handed the petition to protect disability rights

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has received a petition with thousands of signatures calling for action to protect disability rights ahead of a major UN summit on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) this month.

The petition was handed to Rafiullah Kakar, Member Social Sector, Planning Commission by Munazza Gillani, Country Director Sightsavers. It was signed by thousands of people. Signatories include people from different walks of life and prominent personalities like Nadia Jamil, TV actress, Shabnam Baloch, Eminent Humanitarian worker, Saqib Rafique, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and many others.

Community Based Inclusive Development, National Forum of Women With Disabilities and Sightsavers' Equal World campaign jointly organised the



'Promise in Peril' petition. The campaign is calling on world leaders to keep the SDG promise of leaving no-one behind and ensure disability is specifically addressed in discussions on the SDGs.

Rafiullah Kakar, Member Social Sector, Planning Commission endorsed and appreciated Sightsavers' efforts towards ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development process.

The government of Pakistan will join other member states at

the SDG Summit in New York on 18-19 September, to make new commitments and assess progress on the global goals. The outcome of the summit will be a political declaration and global and national commitments made by UN member states.

According to Munazza Gillani, Country Director Sightsavers Pakistan Office, "As the world arrives at the halfway point of the 2030 deadline, progress on the SDGs has derailed - they are completely off-track. People with disabili-

ties are being hit hardest by the lack of progress on poverty and inequality. The promise to leave no-one behind is in peril."

The call follows a new UN report which shows that the SDGs cannot be achieved unless urgent action is taken to include marginalised groups, including people with disabilities, but that they are being left furthest behind in global progress. For example, globally people with disabilities are up to twice as likely to be in poverty and those without disabilities.

Asim Zafar, Secretary Coordinator of Community Based Development (CBID-Network) added, "We're calling on all world leaders to speed up action on the SDGs and make sure they are inclusive of people with disabilities. They must ensure that the Political Declaration, and all national commitments made at the Summit, focus on reaching those who are being left furthest behind. This is our last chance to get the SDGs back on track."

NUST and S&P Global Pakistan Strengthen Linkages by signing MOU

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Placement Office and S&P Global Pakistan has entered into a strategic Partnership to reshape research, industrial connectivity, training, and employment prospects for both institutions.

This groundbreaking partnership between NUST and S&P Global was solidified through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at the NUST Campus in Islamabad.

Pro-Rector NUST Research, Innovation & Commercialization (RIC) Dr. Rizwan Riaz and Managing Director S&P Global Pakistan Mujeeb Zahur signed the MoU in a ceremony held on Friday. The ceremony was attended by HR, Marketing & Operations team of S&P Global and the NUST Placement Office team.

Mr. Mujeeb Zahur emphasized the pivotal role of robust industry-academia alliances in providing students and graduates with invaluable hands-on experience. He not only reiterated S&P Global's resolute dedication to recruiting highly skilled candidates but also highlighted the additional benefits this collaboration will bring. This includes offering cutting-edge Final Year Project (FYP) opportunities for students thus providing a unique platform for practical application of knowledge.

Dr. Rizwan Riaz not only commended S&P Global's visionary approach but also showcased the exceptional strengths of NUST. He emphasized NUST's unwavering dedication to not only nurturing but also arming students with the skills to become the favored choice of employers. Dr. Riaz stressed that NUST alumni are distinguished by their comprehensive skill set, enabling them to excel on the global stage.

Following the MoU, the delegation had the privilege of visiting the National Science & Technology Park (NSTP), a hub for pioneering research and innovation. This visit provided invaluable insights into the vibrant realm of innovation and the exchange of technology, underscoring the potential impact of this partnership on forthcoming technological progress.

Through this visionary alliance, NUST and S&P Global Inc. are set to cultivate a dynamic ecosystem that nurtures talent, propels innovation, and catalyzes industrial progress. The MoU stands as a testament to the shared vision of both organizations in establishing long-term, sustainable growth.

New Food Street inaugurated at IIUI

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The newly established food street for the students of the university at male campus was inaugurated on Thursday by H. E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President, International Islamic University (IIU).



The guest of honour Capt. (Retd.) Anwar ul Haq, Chief Commissioner / Chairman CDA/ was also accompanied by the President.

The food street has been established to provide a variety of food to students such as fast food, traditional dishes and beverages with best dining facilities in the light of the vision of IIUI President to facilitate the students on top priority.

After inauguration, the IIUI President and the guest of honour Capt. (Retd.) Anwar ul Haq visited all the food chains, stalls and cabins dedicated for different food items. The IIUI President also met with the students and inquired about the quality of food and provision of the services. "Your facilitation is our top priority" said Dr. Hathal while directing that the students must not face any problem. He said the goal of the IIUI administration is to provide an ideal milieu to the students across the campus, after students facilitation centre, now this food street is part of that mission. He said more such facilities will be included in near future and told that more such Cafes will be inaugurated in this month. Capt. (Retd.) Anwar ul Haq, appreciated the initiative adding that it is encouraging to see that university leadership is keen to facilitate the students. He also praised the standards and ambiance of the food street.

Both the guest were given briefing about the new set up, quality food provision, hygiene related measures, ambiance of the location, proper sitting for the students and dedicated dining area for the teachers. They were apprised that the locations have been designed in a food street pattern where students without any delay will have all the food items including fast food, BBQ, traditional food, salads and other cuisines.

The university will soon inaugurate more including the one in the female campus near Maryam block and the Cafeteria near the male hostels no 4.

Later, Capt. (Retd.) Anwar ul Haq, Chairman CDA/ Chief Commissioner also met with IIUI President at his office where issues of mutual interest and role of university in society building was discussed. The IIUI President apprised the Chairman CDA about the vision of university and its newly established strategic plan.

Capt. (Retd.) Anwar ul Haq praised the efforts of IIUI President for the betterment of university and hailed his student centric approach. He said the IIUI is playing a vital role in nurturing the young minds of Muslim world according to contemporary needs and Islamic values.

First Diplomats' Discourse organized at Foreign Service Academy

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: First Diplomat's Discourse on "Regional Connectivity: In Asian Context" was convened today at Foreign Service Academy, Islamabad. Besides several Islamabad based Ambassadors, diplomats, think-tank representatives, serving and former Pakistan Ambassadors, undertraining Foreign Service of Pakistan officers as well as ASEAN Country diplomats currently undergoing training at the Academy attended the event. One-day event was organized in collaboration with COMSATS University, Islamabad and Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). Inaugural Session was addressed



by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, newly arrived Ambassador of China to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Jiang Ziadong and Director General Foreign Service Academy, Ambassador Mazhar Javed.

Two panel discussions were held, one themed around BRI and ASEAN and the other on Pakistan as the hub of regional connectivity. Participants included Senator Mushahid Hussain

Syed, Ambassadors of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan in Pakistan, Pakistan Ambassadors to Philippines, Thailand, UAE, Oman and Azerbaijan and former Ambassador of Pakistan to China Ms. Naghmana Hashmi and former Ambassador to Indonesia Mr. Muhammad Hassan.

Speakers underlined the importance of Belt and Road Initiative and the opportunities it had for participating countries. Pakistan's potential to become a hub of regional connectivity was highlighted. Progress already made in that direction and what was needed to be done came under discussion. Discussions were followed by a lively question-and-answer session.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**
 Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.**
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

‘Morocco’s Seismic History: Lessons in Resilience’

Fatima Mazhar

Morocco is a country with a colourful culture, a diverse landscape, and a rich history that is nestled at the intersection of Africa and Europe. However, beneath its placid exterior, there is a geological story of unrest, a story told through the earth’s own shaking. Morocco’s seismic history, which has been marked by centuries of tremors and earthquakes, is evidence of the nation’s geological complexity and fortitude in the face of nature’s wrath.

Morocco’s unique geological position serves as the foundation for its seismic tale. The African Plate and the Eurasian Plate, two sizable tectonic plates, collide in this nation. Morocco’s landscape has been shaped by the interaction of these enormous forces, which has also increased seismic activity there.

The country’s mountain ranges, particularly the Atlas Mountains, which are themselves the result of tectonic forces, are where this geological complexity is most noticeable. The Atlas Mountains, which span the entire nation, are evidence of the ongoing slamming and grinding of these plates. Morocco’s seismic history takes place within these mountains and along the related fault lines.

On September 8th, 2023, a very powerful earthquake of 6.8 magnitude, with its epicenter near to Marrakech hit

Morocco causing a large-scale destruction to infrastructure. So far, more than 2500 people have been killed and many others have been injured. People are desperately searching for their missing families and trying to find their loved ones through the rubble.

In Morocco, seismic activity is a persistent worry, necessitating ongoing preparation and monitoring measures to safeguard the population and infrastructure.

The earthquake of 1755 which occurred in the Lisbon city of Portugal also affected the Meknes city of Morocco, significantly impacting the architectural beauty of the city. Later, the Tangier earthquake in 1940 caused damage to the city with a magnitude of 6.3. The Agadir earthquake of 1960 has been said to be the most catastrophic earthquake in the whole Moroccan history. Having a magnitude of 5.7 to 6.0, it caused enormous damage in the city of Agadir, which led to thousands of fatalities. It had a significant effect on Moroccan society and caused changes to building regulations and earthquake readiness. Similarly, the Al Hoceima earthquake that occurred in 2004 again caused a lot of devastation in the city. Midelt, a town in Morocco experienced

an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.2 back in 2019. Morocco’s coastal regions, where tsunamis caused by underwater earthquakes have occasionally struck, are part of the country’s seismic history. Despite being centered offshore in Portugal, the devastating Lisbon Earthquake of 1755 sent tsunami waves crashing into Moroccan coastal areas, taking lives and leaving destruction in what followed. Morocco’s coastline is still vulnerable to

earthquake activity, so the memory of this historic tsunami has an impact on coastal zoning laws and emergency preparedness along the country’s coastlines.

There are a number of valuable lessons that we can learn from earthquakes. Individuals and families should have preparedness measures like emergency plans, supplies, and communication methods. Building designs and construction methods should be improved in order to reduce the damage from earthquakes. International cooperation and collaboration is very important when addressing earthquake related challenges. Early detection and response efforts can be enhanced by sharing data and resources. For the purpose of estimating earthquake risks, seismic hazards must be continuous-

ly monitored and assessed. For more accurate hazard assessments, funding for research and technology is crucial. Moreover, understanding how earthquakes affect survivors and the affected communities emotionally and psychologically is crucial. Equally important to physical relief efforts are programmes for mental health and social support. One study also showed that children are the worst affected by earthquakes and other natural disasters. Post-traumatic stress and depression are all seen in the victims of such calamities. It is a valuable endeavor to raise money for earthquake relief and recovery efforts because it can have a big impact on the communities that are affected.

Morocco continues to develop and adapt in the face of its seismic legacy, teaching the rest of the world an important lesson about how to overcome even the most powerful natural forces. The history of Morocco’s earthquakes is not just a tale of trembling earth; it is also a tale of a people’s perseverance in the face of hardship. It serves as evidence of human adaptability and resiliency and a reminder that, in the end, people with a strong will and an unbreakable spirit can overcome the forces of nature in order to preserve their culture and create a more secure future.

Writer is pursuing bachelors in International Relations from National Defense University, Islamabad. She can be reached at fatymamazhar@gmail.com

One study also showed that children are the worst affected by earthquakes and other natural disasters. Post-traumatic stress and depression are all seen in the victims of such calamities.

Dengue

Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Friday said that an effective and coordinated strategy is being formed by the federation and the provinces for the prevention of the dengue virus to keep people safe from the disease. Chairing the Inter-Ministerial Health and Population Council meeting, he said that there was a need to develop integrated strategies for disease eradication in the context of lessons learned and experiences from COVID-19 in the country. The Ministry of Health will ensure all possible support to control the infectious diseases in the country. Federal and provincial governments should re-organize a comprehensive program for the prevention of hepatitis, he said. On Hepatitis-C control, Dr. Nadeem Jan emphasized a joint strategic response with provinces and to launch of the National Hepatitis Control Programme this year. Through this programme, diagnostic services and the availability of essential medicines to all Hepatitis-C patients will be ensured. He said that the Global Health Security agenda was the top-most priority of the Government of Pakistan. In this regard, for the first time in history, the government will host a Global Health Security Summit in November this year, to which leaders, top experts, and stakeholders from across the world will be invited. Dr Nadeem Jan, “This is a matter of honour for Pakistani people and institutions and the summit will help Pakistan to finalize its strategic roadmap to tackle health emergencies and epidemics effectively in the country.” He said that the Drug License issuance and laboratories across the country are being upgraded. “We are creating a comprehensive system based on uniform guidelines for elimination and recovery of spurious medicines from the market.”

In this context DRAP will sign a joint MoU with all provincial governments. It was agreed in the meeting to ensure an uninterrupted supply of medicines and effective measures to deal with related challenges, the minister added. The Caretaker Health Minister Punjab, Dr Javed Akram informed that a Dengue Expert Advisory Group was functional and has played a pivotal role in devising and implementing comprehensive strategies to combat dengue outbreaks. He added that the surveillance systems and community engagement initiatives have not only helped in the early detection of dengue cases but have also raised awareness about preventive measures among the public. The Caretaker Health Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Dr Riaz Anwar updated that Dengue surveillance activities in the KP province have been diligently conducted to monitor and manage the spread of dengue disease. The province has implemented a comprehensive surveillance system to track dengue cases and identify potential outbreaks. The Caretaker Health Minister Sindh, Dr Saad Khalid Niaz informed about the enhancement of entomological surveillance, laboratory networks, and the adoption of a multisectoral approach have proven instrumental in reducing the number of dengue cases. He mentioned that the Local Government in the Sindh province has constructed a Rapid Response Team (RRT) at the Union Council level for vector control measures. Dr Nadeem Jan said, “Let us pledge that the federal and provincial leadership will work together to ensure practical measures to keep the people of Pakistan safe from deadly diseases.” All provincial health ministers and other stakeholders appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of not only bringing all provinces, federating areas, and stakeholders to the same table but also setting a comprehensive strategic direction through an inclusive consultative process. They committed that today’s meeting will become a starting point for an effective collaborative response to tackle dengue, hepatitis-C, and other epidemics in the country.



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

Pakistan at cross road of IMEEC and BRI - I

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) is a proposed trade and investment initiative designed to connect India, the Middle East, and Europe. This corridor holds great potential for fostering economic growth and cooperation in these regions while serving as a counter-balance to China’s expansive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The origins of the IMEEC project trace back to the 2016 G20 summit in Hangzhou, China, where leaders of India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) agreed to collaborate on establishing a trade and investment corridor. Subsequent agreements followed, involving India and other regional countries like Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Jordan.

The IMEEC project carries substantial political and economic significance. It seeks to strengthen trade and investment ties between India and the rapidly growing economies of the Middle East and optimized European economies, while enhancing connectivity within these regions, potentially fostering cooperation in various sectors, including energy, transportation, and tourism. Regionally, the IMEEC project aims to create a new economic and trade bloc in the Middle East and South Asia, which could reduce the region’s dependence on China and promote improved stability.

Building the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) could indeed provide India with a significant opportunity to gain traction against China for several strategic reasons. The IMEEC project is often seen as India’s response to China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has expanded China’s influence across Asia, Africa, and Europe. By establishing IMEEC, India

aims to create its own economic and strategic corridor, countering China’s growing sway in the region. It would enhance India’s connectivity with the Middle East and Europe, two economically vibrant regions. This connectivity would open up new trade routes and markets for Indian goods and services, helping India diversify its trade partners and reduce dependence on China. The Middle East is a major source of India’s energy imports. IMEEC could strengthen India’s energy security by facilitating the transportation of oil and gas resources from the Middle East. It would also provide alternative routes for energy imports, reducing reliance on China-dominated sea routes.

IMEEC could strengthen India’s strategic partnerships with countries in the Middle East and Europe. Enhanced economic ties could lead to deeper security cooperation, benefiting India’s security interests in the region. The project’s infrastructure development and increased trade would boost economic growth in India. This growth would translate into more jobs and increased revenue, further solidifying India’s position as a regional economic power. India has a substantial trade deficit with China.

By diversifying its trade partners through IMEEC, India could potentially reduce this imbalance. A successfully implemented IMEEC could enhance India’s global influence and reputation as a proponent of sustainable and equitable development, countering some of the criticisms directed at the BRI. IMEEC provides an alternative

infrastructure network that aligns with India’s interests. This could encourage other countries, including those wary of the BRI, to participate, bolstering India’s position as a leader in the region.

India’s participation in the IMEEC project allows it to exert political leverage and negotiate favorable terms, strengthening its position in regional and international forums. However, the successful realization of these benefits depends on effective planning, investment, and cooperation with participating countries.



Qamar Bashir

The anticipated cost of the project is expected to reach billions of dollars, although the exact funding mechanisms remain undetermined. The project is envisioned to involve the construction of new transportation infrastructure like roads, railways, and ports, in addition to the improvement of existing facilities.

The financing of the IMEEC project is anticipated to involve a combination of public and private investments. Governments of participating countries are likely to contribute some funding, but the majority of the financing is expected to come from private investors.

Several potential sources of financing for the project include: Public funding from the governments of participating countries, Private investment from commercial banks, investment funds, and other financial institutions, Grants from international organizations such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, Concessional loans from governments and financial institutions and blended finance arrangements that

combine public and private funding.

In terms of the United States, the project serves as a strategic response to China’s BRI, aiming to provide an alternative and sustainable approach to infrastructure development while countering China’s influence in the region. The project, once realized, could lead to new markets for American products and services, generate employment opportunities, promote economic growth, and contribute to the vitality of American businesses.

The possibility of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) joining forces and connecting with each other presents an intriguing prospect. Both projects share common goals of promoting economic growth and connectivity, and they could complement each other by creating an extensive global network of infrastructure.

The BRI, spanning over 60 countries across Asia, Africa, and Europe, involves the construction of roads, railways, ports, and other infrastructure, primarily connecting China to Europe and Africa. In contrast, the IMEEC is more focused on strengthening connectivity between India, the Middle East, and Europe.

The convergence of the BRI and IMEEC could create a vast interconnected network of infrastructure, simplifying the movement of people and goods between different countries and boosting global trade and economic growth. Realizing this vision would require addressing several challenges. It would require extensive coordination to merge the two projects effectively to ensure compatibility between the BRI and IMEEC networks.

To be continued

Is democracy seen anywhere in Pakistan?

The term democracy is very common and known to us. More than 100 countries in the world follow a democratic form of government. It’s a form of government that comes into existence through elected representatives of the people, so the

people also accept such a government from the heart and follow the decisions of the government because they think they are in the interest of the country.

Ideal democracy is an expression used to refer to standards of government behavior that are felt to be essential for the constitution of a democratic policy. Stability is seen in such a government, and the wheel of the country’s economy goes on the path of rapid development. Many countries in the world fulfil all the principles of democracy, and their citizens enjoy their rights. The rule of law and administrative matters are carried out better in the country. People enjoy a happy and peaceful life.

If we talk about our country, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, it emphasizes the rights of people.

Fundamental rights are listed in the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan. The principles of democracy, freedom, equality, social justice, etc. shall be observed. If we look at the current situation in our country, the governments keep changing. One government replaces the other without completing its tenure,

which is contrary to the principles of democracy. The mandate of the people was robbed, and the right of the people to express their opinion was undermined. A government was imposed, and such a government does not examine the problems of the people, and this is one of the reasons why this government does not have a solution to the problems of the people. This is the reason for the poor socio-economic condition, which hinders the development and prosperity of the country.

I think there are no signs of democracy in the country, and we just use democracy as a label. Proper democratic government is the solution to our problems. Our bureaucracy should understand this for the betterment of the nation and our country.

ramanawaqas21@gmail.com

Religious leaders can help bring about world peace - opinion

To build a new system of international security, the world requires a new global movement for peace. I believe the role of religious leaders will be indispensable here

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

It is not a secret that the world is witnessing rising international tensions and erosion of the global order that has been in place since the establishment of the United Nations. Divisive blocs, which have not been seen since the Cold War, are making a swift return. As a result, our planet is facing severe threats, including a new global arms race, the threat of the use of nuclear weapons, and the proliferation of wars in all formats, including hot, hybrid, cyber, and trade.

In this atmosphere of tension and increasing geopolitical turbulences, it is vitally important to develop new approaches to strengthening inter-civilizational dialogue and trust.

Diplomacy is, undoubtedly, key to facilitating cooperation. Kazakhstan has always supported solving disputes exclusively at the negotiating table based on the UN Charter. Our country has consistently promoted principles aimed at achieving lasting peace, security, and sustainable progress across the world.

Despite best efforts, conflicts remain ubiquitous in many regions of the world.

To build a new system of international security, the world requires a new global movement for peace. I believe the role of religious leaders will be indispensable here. Approximately 85% of the world's people identify with a religion, making it a significant factor in our lives. Religious leaders therefore have a significant influence on global affairs. Moreover, the sacred value of human life, mutual support, and the rejection of destructive rivalry and hostility are a set of principles shared by all religions. As a result, I am convinced that these principles can form the basis of a new world system.

How can religious leaders help push for world peace?

How can this work in practice? Firstly, religious leaders can contribute to healing the wounds of hatred



following an enduring conflict. Syria is a case in point. Kazakhstan welcomes the fact that hostilities have all but ended in that country. We are glad to have contributed to this through the Astana Process peace talks, which since 2017 facilitated negotiations between representatives of the Syrian government, the opposition, as well as Turkey, Iran, and Russia.

Yet while the hot phase of the conflict is over, the divisions within the country remain. Spiritual leaders can play an important role in healing Syrian society through the power of religion.

Secondly, human nature is contradic-

tory. There will always be provocations and hatred. Recent actions to burn the holy Quran in a number of northern European countries are negative trends that undermine the culture of tolerance, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence. In this regard, the targeted communication of religious leaders in preventing such situations and trends is crucial.

Thirdly, new technologies are radically changing all spheres of human life. These changes are mostly for the better, including improved healthcare, unlimited information online, and ease of communication and travel. At the

same time, we observe how societies are being fragmented and polarized under the influence of digital technology.

In the new digital reality, it is also necessary to cultivate spiritual values and moral guidelines. Religion has a key role to play here, too, as all faiths are based on humanistic ideals, recognition of the supreme value of human life, and the aspiration for peace and creation.

These fundamental principles should be embodied not only in the spiritual sphere, but also in the socioeconomic development of countries and international politics.

Without reliance on humanis-

tic ideals and ethics, the rapid scientific-technological revolution can lead humanity astray. We are already witnessing such debates with the advent of general artificial intelligence.

Ultimately, moral authority and the word of spiritual leaders is crucial today.

That is why I am proud that for 20 years, Kazakhstan has been hosting the triennial Congress of Religious Leaders. Established in 2003 in direct response to the rise in interfaith disagreements and extremism following the 9/11 terrorist attack in the United States, the Congress has strengthened interfaith dialogue by bringing together reli-

gious leaders.

It has enabled meaningful dialogue on ways to combine efforts to promote better understanding between representatives of different cultures and religious communities.

Prior to becoming the president of Kazakhstan in 2019, I had the honor to serve as head of the Secretariat of the Congress.

I observed how the Congress promoted tolerance and mutual respect in contrast to hatred and extremism.

Last year, our country held the Seventh Congress of Religious Leaders. It was attended by delegations from 50 countries, including representatives of Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Shintoism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, and other religions. I was honored to welcome Pope Francis, the second visit by the head of the Catholic Church to Kazakhstan following the visit by Pope John Paul II in 2001.

Over the past two decades, the Congress became a platform for inter-civilizational dialogue at the global level. I believe it made a significant contribution to Kazakhstan's success in forging a stable and harmonious society from a population made up of more than 100 ethnic groups and 18 confessions that live in peace in our country today.

Through its commitment to religious tolerance and human rights, Kazakhstan sets an example for the world, showcasing the importance of interfaith dialogue in creating a more peaceful and harmonious global society.

As the world continues to be embroiled in political uncertainty, a bridge of rapprochement between cultures and civilizations is required more than ever. I am determined to ensure that Kazakhstan facilitates global dialogue between religions and nations, including through the work of the Congress of Religious Leaders, thus contributing to mutual understanding and respect in societies.

The writer is the president of Kazakhstan.

Creek Marina part of Singapore Company—to be held in Escrow Account

News Desk

KARACHI: Consequent upon the report of JET constituted in vide DG office Order No 184/2023 dated 25.07.2023 and the Director FIA Islamabad Office Order No 184/2023 dated 25.07.2023, it transpired that on 27th September 2004, Pakistan Defence Housing Authority (DHA) Karachi and Meinhardt Singapore Pte Ltd [hereinafter referred to as MSPL] entered into an agreement for the construction of Creek Marina project located at DHA Phase VIII Karachi it was agreed between both parties to open and maintain an Escrow Account for the purposes of the payments received for the buyers and for the payment of expenses and project costs related to the project Creek Marina. The Escrow Account was to be audited and agented by an independent Auditor, and its cash flows were to be quarterly reported to the DHA by the MSPL. However, no Escrow account was opened till 10th July 2020 after a settlement agreement between DHA, MSPL and CMPL dated 18th June 2019. On 5th May 2005, an addendum was made to the said agreement, Creek Marina Pvt. Ltd [hereinafter referred to as CMPL] was added as the sub-lessee third party was executing the project in Pakistan. The CMPL is the subsidiary of another foreign special-purpose vehicle company namely Creek Marina Singapore Pte Ltd [hereinafter referred to as CMSPL] – an investment holding company for CMPL – registered in Singapore entirely owned by another offshore company namely



Swiftarn Holding Limited in the British Virgin Island.

In violation of the aforesaid agreement, the CMPL fraudulently opened two bank accounts i.e., A/c account number 001-028463-001 Titled: Creek Marina Pvt. Ltd. In HSBC Bank Karachi on 20-04-2005 [authorized signatory Nasim Shahzad & others], and A/c 0007-70002286-03 Titled: Creek Marina Pvt. Ltd. In HBL Commercial Banking Branch in 15-05-2007 [authorized signatory Nasim Shahzad & others]. During the operations of these accounts, approximately Rs12.1 billion and Rs17.1 billion were

credited into these accounts, respectively. It is pertinent to note that these two accounts were Current Accounts, not Escrow Accounts. The funds fraudulently accrued in these accounts from the buyers [general public] and investors were subsequently siphoned off mainly through cash withdrawals and foreign telegraphic transfers [FTTS]. Rather than using these funds for the construction of the project. The management of CMPL fraudulently invested the same in another (new) CMPL's HBL Investment Plus Account No. 0007-79005746-80 Titled: Creek Marina Pvt. Ltd., in HBL Commercial Banking Branch, Karachi. During that period, the Creek Marina construction project remained halted, and no substantial construction work was being carried out by CMPL.

Again, in April 2011 the management of Creek Marina fraudulently opened another account No. 001-170315-020 Titled: Creek Marina Singapore Pte Ltd - an Investment Holding Foreign Company – at HSBC Pakistan Main Branch Shaheen Complex Karachi, which was

later transferred to the Meezan Bank in 2014 after HSBC's merger with the Meezan Bank as having new A/c No. 9902-01014732-33. The account remained non-operational and dormant till 16th June 2016 when Faisal Jamil Khan, the then-Operational Manager, and Syed Ali Murad Naqvi, Branch Manager of Meezan Bank Shaheen Complex Kiyani Road Karachi reactivated the bank account on the reactivation request of Nasim Shahzad (as its authorized signatory). The account was fraudulently re-activated in violation of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s regulation viz. AML/CFT regulations, CDD, EDD, etc., and without obtaining the mandatory documents required for a Foreign Investment Holding Company in Pakistan i.e., Board of Investment (BOI) Government of Pakistan's approval. During the operation of this account, the funds [Total Credit Turnover: Rs 4.3 Billion] accrued in this account from the buyers [general public] and investors were subsequently siphoned off mainly through cash withdrawals and third-party

payments.

Again, the management of CMPL/MSPL fraudulently opened another bank account bearing A/c No. 2010568668 Titled: Creek Marina Singapore Pte Ltd. (CMSPL) in Silk Bank Main Branch Karachi on 30th December 2021 [account authorized signatories: Nasim Shahzad, Muhammad Omar Shahzad, Nudrat Mand Khan & Muhammad Abdur Raheem] with active connivance of Silk Bank officials. This account was opened in Silk Bank without obtaining mandatory documentation viz. Company's Board resolution, Article of Association, Company Registration Certificate, Form A and Form 29, Certificate of Incorporation, SECP-approved documents, verified signatures on the AOF by an Embassy official for the signatories residing abroad, and approval from the Board of Investment of Pakistan (BOI). Moreover, no Biometric verification of the authorized signatories of the account holders was conducted. Shehryar Khalid-GM and Faisal Hameed ROSM of Silk Bank Karachi, with crim-

inal intention and connivance, got these accounts opened by securing deferral (for submitting required documents) on this account from the Silk Bank Management. The Account Service Department proceeded to open the account while adhering to instructions regarding its status as 'Post No Debit' (PND). Later, Faisal Hameed merely obtained a scanned copy of the Account Opening Form with incomplete documentation. Despite PND, the account remained operational with a total credit turnover of Rs 182 Million and a total Debit turnover of Rs158 Million. During the inquiry, the management of CMPL admitted the majority of its debtors are employees of the company but failed to provide any plausible answer/justification for funds so siphoned off from this account.

Furthermore, the Borad of Investment vide its letter, No. 1 (9)/2023-FTP-(MISC) date 09-08-2023, has categorically stated that it is mandatory for a foreign company to get prior permission from BOI to operate a branch/liaison office in Paki-

stan. M/S Creek Marina Singapore Pte. Ltd (CMSPL) is not registered as a branch/liaison office with BOI as per available records.

Hence, while fraudulently establishing a series of undisclosed bank accounts and deceitfully obtaining and embezzling investment funds under the pretense of the project, the management of CMPL/MSPL with criminal intentions and connivance of Meezan Bank officials namely Faisal Jamil Khan and Syed Ali Murad Naqvi and Silk Bank officials namely Shehryar Khalid, and Faisal Hameed opened and operated Bank accounts at Meezan Bank Shaheen Complex Kiyani Road branch Karachi, and Silk Bank Main Branch Karachi, respectively. The funds thus siphoned off were subsequently embezzled and misused for personal gains of the Directors and Ultimate Beneficial Owners (UBOs) of CMPL/MSPL/CMSPL.

Prima facie, the Directors and Ultimate Beneficial Owners (UBOs) of CMPL/MSPL/CMSPL namely Nasim Shehzad [POC: 70258-6811455-1; Singaporean Passport: E6334933H], Mohammad Omar Shehzad [POC: 70258-6100255-1], Nudrat Mand Khan [CNIC: 42000-0553910-5] and Muhammad Abdur Raheem [CNIC: 37405-3609042-7] with criminal intent and connivance of Silk Bank officials, GM(SAM) Shehryar Khalid [CNIC: 42501-6817549-9] and ROM Faisal Hameed [42101-7835120-9] and Meezan Bank officials namely OM Faisal Jamil Khan [CNIC: 42201-5058048-5] and BM Syed Ali Murad Naqvi [CNIC: 42501-3437036-9] have committed offences, u/ sections 409, 34, 109 PPC. Moreover, the role of others involved, and beneficiaries (if any) shall be determined during the course of the investigation.

The competent authority vide letter no FIA/CBC/ KHI/ ENQ-93/2023/14576-77 dated 08.09.2023 directed the undersigned to register FIR. Hence, a case is registered accordingly, investigation of the case has been taken up byx' the undersigned.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
45,753.51	45,650.05	
Day's High	Day's Low	
46,093.01	45,700.65	
Index Value	Change	
10,022,820,942	+103.46	
Percentage	Time	
+0.23%	15 Sept, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,711.38	+38.30	
Percentage	Time	
+0.50%	15 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
34,644.98	-262.13	
Percentage	Time	
-0.75%	15 Sept, 1:17 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,533.09	+364.99	
Percentage	Time	
+1.10%	15 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198	200
Bahrain Dinar	795.46	803.46
Canadian Dollar	220	222.20
China Yuan	40.72	41.12
Danish Krone	42.57	42.97
Euro	321.5	324.5
Hong Kong Dollar	38.21	38.56
Indian Rupee	3.57	3.68
Japanese Yen	2	2.09
Kuwaiti Dinar	968.3	977.3
Malaysian Ringgit	63.21	63.81
New Zealand \$	175.01	177.01
Norwegians Krone	27.87	28.17
Omani Riyal	776.86	784.86
Qatari Riyal	81.28	81.98
Saudi Riyal	79.15	79.9
Singapore Dollar	217.2	219.2
Swedish Korona	26.6	26.9
Swiss Franc	334.14	336.64
Thai Bhat	8.29	8.44
U.A.E Dirham	81.7	82.5
UK Pound Sterling	375.5	379
US Dollar	296.8	299.8

Ambassador of Kazakhstan meets Commerce Minister

Agree on strengthening Regional Connectivity and Bilateral Trade

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan called on Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Federal Minister for Commerce today. Both parties expressed their commitment to fostering stronger economic ties with the aim of enhancing regional connectivity and boosting bilateral and transit trade.

During the meeting, Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, highlighted Pakistan's exports to Kazakhstan which currently stand at 150 million dollars. Pakistan maintains a trade surplus with Kazakhstan, indicating the favorable trade conditions and opportunities for further growth. Kazakhstan, as the largest economy among the Central Asian republics, presents significant potential for economic cooperation. Kazakhstan boasts a substantial international trade volume.

Both nations are actively considering a Transit Trade Agreement, with a commitment to expedite the signing process. The Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement



is pivotal in facilitating trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, offering a shorter and

efficient transit route. Pakistan expresses its keen interest in enhancing collaboration and trade in the pharmaceutical sector, recognizing the potential for growth and cooperation.

Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin reciprocated with key insights and proposals, including highlighting Turkmenistan's favorable tariffs, surpassing those offered by Uzbekistan, in an effort to further facilitate trade between the two nations. Kazakhstan aims to develop textile cooperation with Pakistan, seeking to strengthen ties in this industry.

Furthermore, the Ambassador conveyed willingness of Kazakhstan's Minister of Trade to visit Pakistan. The trade minister will be accompanied by the Kazakh business community, to promote robust business-to-business trade.

This meeting between the Ambassador of Kazakhstan and the Federal Minister for Commerce signifies a significant step towards strengthening economic ties, enhancing regional connectivity, and promoting bilateral trade. Both nations are committed to exploring avenues of collaboration that will benefit their economies and contribute to the prosperity of the region.

Pakistani CG will fully participate in the Pakistan Saudi Investment Conference in Jeddah

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas along with Convener Exhibition Fahad Barlas met Consul General Khalid Majid in Saudi Arabia yesterday at Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah. While talking about the Consul General said that Saudi Arabia wants to strengthen and stabilize trade relations with Pakistan because there is a great potential to promote trade between the two countries in various fields.

Pakistan has great potential to achieve better economic development, there is a need to highlight the positive aspects of Pakistan more. During the conversation Khurshid Barlas said that the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry wants to organize the Pak-Saudi Investment Conference in Jeddah. Investors and Pakistani products will have an opportunity to make a place in Saudi Arabia, which will significantly increase the country's development. On which Consul General Khalid Majid said that he appreciated the



initiative of the Pakistan Saudi Investment Conference in Jeddah and the Pakistani Consul General Khalid Majid said that there are great opportunities for Pakistani exporters in Saudi Arabia. To increase exports, Pakistani investors have to use modern means of marketing. There are many products of Pakistan which

Pakistan facing serious economic, political and environmental crises

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 Friday that the country is facing serious economic, political, and environmental crises.

Authorities are trying to manage problems temporarily with some success, but serious matters should not be taken lightly, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that lessons should be learned from the countries that have gone bankrupt recently, and negotiations should be started without delay for new loans from the IMF.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that in addition to the IMF loan, efforts should also be made to restructure the domestic and foreign debt; otherwise, the IMF loan will not be able to help much.

He said that sloganeering against the IMF should be stopped and decisions should be taken according to



ground realities because the current crisis is more serious than all the past crises. Mian Zahid Hussain said that foreign investment of 100 billion dollars can change the destiny of Pakistan, but it will take some time.

The business leader noted that there is a need to facilitate investment and business in Pakistan, reduce electricity and gas prices, make the tax burden fair, and equip the youth with technical education.

He observed that with the current actions of COAS General Asim Munir, the situation has improved somewhat; the rupee has strengthened, smuggling has decreased, and the price of sugar has also come down. But exports and remittances are decreasing, which will widen the current account deficit, which needs urgent attention.

Hamdard signs contract with Decibel BPO for Human Capital Management

Bureau Report



KARACHI: Hamdard Pakistan has signed a contract with Decibel BPO Private Limited to enhance efficiency

in human resources and overall management through the implementation of the Decibel Human Capital Management System. A formal signing ceremony took place yesterday at Hamdard Corporate Head Office.

During this event, Abu-Talib Bhutto, Group Director of Hamdard Pakistan, and Faisal Qamar, Co-Founder and CEO of Decibel, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Dr. Arshad Saleem, Chief Operating Officer of Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Pakistan, also attended the ceremony.

Shaharyar Pasha, the Head of the Marketing Division Hamdard, welcomed the esteemed guests. The gathering included representatives from Decibel, as well as directors, deputy directors, and staff from different divisions within Hamdard Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Arshad Saleem emphasized the critical importance of modernizing various aspects of organizational management in today's highly competitive global business landscape.

He stressed that successful organizations excel in operations, human resource management, workforce development, planning, monitoring, control, and production by aligning their practices with contemporary management models and technologies.

"Today's agreement with Decibel reflects Hamdard Pakistan's commitment to further improve automation in skill development, enterprise and corporate affairs, and operational efficiency, all in pursuit of advancing healthcare within society," he said.

"Hamdard Pakistan, as a responsible national healthcare organization dedicated to the nation's health, recognizes the priority of adopting modern technologies to enhance operational efficiency," he added.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh with UBG leaders Abdul Rauf Alam, Karim Aziz Malik, Nasir Khan and others.



Ufone 4G launches end-to-end Digital Lifestyle Experience Shops

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani mobile operator, Ufone 4G has started transforming its flagship joint shops nationwide to Digital Lifestyle Experience Shops, aimed at delivering an end-to-end digital lifestyle experience to its customers. The joint shops are being equipped to provide a comprehensive suite of world-class services, including a wide range of handsets, internet devices, repair & maintenance, exclusive discount & value-added offers and more to help customers to fulfill their diverse digital needs conveniently under one roof.

Ufone 4G joined hands with multiple partners with leading digital products and services providers to bring about the single-window facility. Notable partners include Generation Next; the official distributor of Samsung products in Pakistan, electronics giant TCL, top-rated digital marketplace PriceOye, prominent distribution company Yellowstone and gaming powerhouse Game Store. Chief Retail Sales Officer, Ufone 4G, Nauman Fakhra, inaugurated the first flagship Digital Lifestyle Experience Shop in Islamabad in the presence of officials from the partnering companies and PTCL

Group. Speaking at the event, Nauman Fakhra, Chief Retail Sales Officer, Ufone 4G, said, "Ufone 4G is steadfast in its commitment to improving customer satisfaction. That is why, we have collaborated with the leading digital players to transform our flagship joint shops into Digital Lifestyle Experience hubs to bring our customers a uniquely enabling experience."

Ufone 4G is also offering monthly 10GB exclusive free data bundles for 3 months on the purchase of new handsets at these shops. Mobile phone users can check the latest



range of gadgets and services, besides exploring finance and other service options provided

by Ufone 4G to facilitate its customers at par with global standards. The new Digital

Lifestyle Experience resonates with Ufone 4G's customer-centric promise of 'Tum Hi Tou Ho.'

Indonesia to face Pakistan in Davis Cup World Group II on 16-17 September

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The two-day Davis Cup World Group-II tie match between Indonesia and Pakistan will kick off on 16-17 September at Aisam-ul-Haq Tennis Pavilion, Pakistan Sports Complex in Islamabad. The Davis Cup final match will see Indonesia and Pakistan's finest tennis talents competing on the grass courts, promising fans an exhilarating display of skill, passion, and sportsmanship.

On the opening day, 1st singles followed by 2nd singles will be played and doubles match followed by 1st and 2nd reverse singles will be played the next day.

Chargé d'affaires of The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Yusran Hadromi expressed appreciation to Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) for hosting and facilitating Indonesian players for Davis Cup in Pakistan and



extended heartfelt wishes to both teams as they prepare to compete in this exciting and prestigious two-day tie match.

The Indonesian team landed in Islamabad on Monday, consisting of three players, one captain, and three

other team members. David Agung Susanto, Ignatius Anthony Susanto, and Gunawan Trismuwantara are among the visiting players, with Bonit Wiryawan serving as captain who is a well-known former Davis Cup player

with more than 16 Davis Cup victories, he retired as Indonesia's most successful doubles player in the history.

Speaking on the press conference he said "Sports, particularly tennis, serve as a unifying force that transcends borders, fostering mutual respect and admiration for both brotherly countries."

President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation, Senator Salim Saifullah Khan, remarked, "May this match be remembered as a celebration of tennis and friendship between Indonesia and Pakistan, and deep-rooted sportsmanship expressing enthusiasm for their friendly rivalry."

Tennis enthusiasts and fans across the globe eagerly await this thrilling competition, where Indonesia and Pakistan will battle it out for Davis Cup supremacy. Stay tuned for more updates and exciting developments as we count down to the highly anticipated matches.

Athletes aspire to bring honor to war-torn countries at Asian Games

Xinhua

CAIRO: For athletes from turbulent west Asian countries, the upcoming Asian Games is not only a competition to display individual athletic prowess, but also an opportunity to bring honor to countries scarred by war and conflict.

Abdullah al-Arqan, a Palestinian beach volleyball player who lives in the Gaza Strip, has grown up amid countless military tensions between armed Palestinian factions and Israel.

"Every time we survived each conflict, I felt that it was another message to me that I have to continue my plan and work to achieve my dream," said the 20-year-old, who has witnessed four large-scale military operations in the Palestinian enclave.

Ever since he was a child, Al-Arqan dreamed of representing Palestine in an international tournament.

His hard work paid off, as he and his Palestinian teammates succeeded in winning bronze medals in two Arab tournaments held in Qatar in 2022 and 2023.

"I was so proud of myself, as well as my team which was born in the suffering," Al-Arqan said.

"The latest magic win in Qatar encouraged me to make a greater effort to compete in the Asian Games and raise



the Palestinian flag in a country I have always dreamed of visiting," he said.

For athletes from war-torn Syria, taking part in the Asian Games is already hard-won.

"Sanctions have greatly affected the players, and have had a significant impact on Syria both economically and politically, including the sporting sector," said Muhammad al-Hayek, member of the Executive Office and Head of the Athletics Office.

"There are many difficulties in secur-

ing visas to travel abroad, or even obtaining foreign currency. If we want to organize an external training camp or participate in any event, we need overseas approval."

Due to fuel shortages, the Arab country in December last year temporarily suspended all sporting competitions in government-held areas, where nationwide power cuts could last up to 22 hours per day.

Man Asaad, a 29-year-old weightlifter who clinched a bronze medal at Tokyo

2020, said, "Our economic situation is difficult. But that makes us more determined to achieve and present a positive image of our country and its people."

"The athletes are part of the Syrian people who withstood and overcome their problems. Even if we don't have external training camps, we make training camps inside the country and we have the strength to hoist our country's flag in international arenas," al-Hayek said.

Wushu athlete Tharwat Mahyoub Al-Sindi of Yemen started preparing for the Games three years ago, plunging himself into rigorous and intensive training schedule with the aim of winning a gold medal.

Al-Sindi's passion for Wushu began in 2013 when he joined a private club in Yemen's capital Sanaa, and started participating in local tournaments, securing second place in the Yemen Wushu Championship in May 2014, months before the country's civil war broke out.

In May, Al-Sindi won the gold medal in the Sanda (52 kg) category at the eighth Arab Championship in Rabat, Morocco. He aspires to replicate this achievement at the Asian Games and potentially make history as the first Yemeni athlete to win a gold medal in this event.

Asia Cup 2023: Pakistan squad to depart from Colombo today

Sports Desk

COLOMBO: Pakistan squad is set to depart for Pakistan via Dubai today, after getting knocked out of the ongoing ACC Men's Asia Cup 2023 yesterday.

Captain Babar Azam, Shaheen Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan, Iftikhar Ahmed and Saud Shakeel departed for Dubai in the morning, from where they will reach Pakistan to their respective hometowns.

Meanwhile, other squad members will fly to Dubai from Colombo in the evening. They will then depart for their respective destinations from Dubai later.

Bowling coach Morne Morkel and batting coach Andrew Puttick will fly to Australia and South Africa.

Pakistan team was knocked out of the Asia Cup 2023 yesterday after losing to Sri Lanka in the last-ball thriller by two wickets.

Sri Lankan while chasing a revised target of 252 in the reduced 42 overs, needed to chase eight runs off Zaman Khan, bowling the final over, and amassed the total when Charith Asalanka chipped one down to the square leg on the final delivery.

Pakistan's final Super 4 group match became a virtual quar-



ter-final after Pakistan's net run rate suffered a major nosedive due to their heavy 228-run loss against arch-rivals India in their

second Super 4 match of Asia Cup 2023. Star batters Virat Kohli and KL Rahul scored unbeaten

centuries after the match was forced into the reserve day due to the heavy rain in Colombo. Kuldeep Yadav, then wreaked havoc on the Pakistani batting line-up as he picked five wickets to book Pakistan to a meagre 194 while chasing a mammoth 357.

Prior to that, Pakistan powered to a resounding seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in their first Super 4 match at Lahore, thanks to a combined effort by both batters and bowlers.

Haris Rauf picked four wickets in the first innings to rattle Bangladesh, which was followed by half-centuries by Imam-ul-Haq and Mohammad Rizwan in the pursuit of Bangladesh's 193.

Klaasen hammers century as South Africa post 416-5 against Australia

Sports Desk

Heinrich Klaasen slammed 174 off 83 balls to lead a South African batting assault against Australia in the fourth one-day international at SuperSport Park on Friday.

Klaasen shared an extraordinary fifth-wicket partnership of 222 off only 94 balls with David Miller (82 not out) as South Africa piled up 416 for five, their fifth-highest total in one-day internationals.

Klaasen struck 13 fours and 13 sixes before being caught on the boundary off the last ball of the innings.

A run spree of such magnitude did not seem likely as accurate as Australian bowling and a slower than usual Centurion pitch saw South Africa make relatively sedate progress on a ground known for high scoring.



At the second drinks break, the total was 157 for three off 32 overs.

The acceleration started with a stand of 74 off 57 balls between Rassie van der Dussen (62) and Klaasen.

It went into over-drive when the left-handed Miller joined Heinrich Klaasen and hit the second ball he faced, from leg-spinner Adam Zampa, for six. Miller's 82 not-out came from 45 balls and included five sixes and six fours.

South Africa's thrashing saw Australia

lian leg-spinner Adam Zampa equalling Mick Lewis' record of the worst bowling figures in ODI cricket.

Zampa was taken to the cleaners by the South African batters and consequently conceded a whopping 113 runs in his quota of 10 overs and went wicketless.

Zampa went for nine sixes and eight fours during South Africa's onslaught which also included a 26-run 48th over against Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller.

His dismal bowling figures were the joint-most expensive in the history of ODI, equalling Mick Lewis' dubious, who also went for none for 113 against South Africa in 2006.

Notably, Adam Zampa's haul of nine sixes is the joint-second worst by a bowler in an ODI and is now only behind Rashid Khan, who conceded 10 sixes against England in 2019.

Adam Zampa equals worst bowling figures in ODIs

A Sports

CENTURION: Australian leg-spinner Adam Zampa on Friday, equalled Mick Lewis' record of the worst bowling figures in ODI cricket.

Adam Zampa was taken to the cleaners by the South African batters in the ongoing fourth ODI here and consequently conceded a whopping 113 runs in his quota of 10 overs and went wicketless.

Zampa went for nine sixes and eight fours during South Africa's onslaught which also included a 26-run 48th over against Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller.

His dismal bowling figures were the joint-most expensive in the history of ODI, equalling Mick Lewis' dubious, who also went for none for 113 against South Africa in 2006.

Notably, Adam Zampa's haul of nine



sixes is the joint-second worst by a bowler in an ODI and is now only behind Rashid Khan, who conceded 10 sixes against England in 2019.

Most expensive ODI bowling figures

Adam Zampa 113-0 (10)

Mick Lewis 113-0 (10)

Wahab Riaz 110-0 (10)

Rashid Khan 110-0 (10)

After being put into bat first in the aforementioned fixture, South Africa dominated the Australian bowlers, cour-

tesy of a ruthless thrashing and Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller and racked up a mammoth 416/5 in the allotted overs.

Klaasen, who struck a 57-ball hundred, went on to top score for South Africa with a marathon 174-run knock in just 83 deliveries, smashing 13 boundaries and as many sixes.

David Miller was equally threatening for the Australians as he struck an unbeaten 82 from a mere 45 balls, hitting six boundaries and five sixes.

Besides the two, Rassie van der Dussen (62) and Quinton de Kock (45) made notable contributions to South Africa's sensational show with the bat.

Josh Hazlewood led the bowling attack for Australia with two wickets but conceded 79 runs in his 10 overs while Marcus Stoinis, Michael Nesser and Nathan Ellis had a wicket apiece to their names.

National Badminton Tournaments will be organized in Multan in future: Amir Khattak



Sports Desk

Sports Department, Multan Organized by District Badminton Association, Multan, Punjab Badminton Association and DHA Multan, the ongoing four-day Punjab Badminton Championship concluded at Sports Gymnasium Multan. On the last day, men's and women's singles and doubles, while under-13 boys, Shahzeb Shabbir Faisalabad. And Miss Kunzila Yaman won the women's single titles. Zain Subhani Lahore won the honor of winning the Under-13 Boys Singles Punjab Badminton Championship. While Zain Ali and Burhan Yasin won the men's doubles. Lahore won the title.

While in women's doubles, Kunzaiman Rawalpindi and Shazia Ishaq of Multan won. On this occasion, a prize distribution ceremony was held under the glittering lights of Sports Gymnasium Multan, the chief guest was Commissioner Multan Engineer Aamir Khattak, while Rana Nadeem Anjum Divisional Sports Officer Multan. District Sports Officer Multan Farooq Latif. Secretary Punjab Badminton Association Tayyab Sohail. President Multan Badminton Association. Mian Muhammad Jahangir. Secretary Muhammad Akram. Noor Khan Qaisrani TSO President Multan. Muhammad Anees Khan District Coach Multan. Gymnasium Incharge was also present.

Rana Nadeem Anjum in his welcome address said that due to the special efforts of Mr. Commissioner Multan, Badminton Championship was organized at Punjab level in which male and female players from 36 districts of Punjab participated, which ended successfully today. In the future also under the leadership of Commissioner Multan. Sports Department Multan will organize such competitions. Farooq Latif said that Multan is deeply grateful to all the visiting players and officials for their arrival.

Tayyab Sohail said, "Honorable guest. We are grateful to the technical committee and the cooperating institutions for organizing an excellent event. Commissioner Multan, Engineer Aamir Khattak said that the Punjab Badminton Championship was successfully completed. This special effort of District Badminton Association Multan, Punjab Badminton Association, Sports Department Multan and DHA Multan is commendable. He said that national level badminton tournaments will be organized in Multan in future. So that our players can enjoy exciting competitions in the best healthy environment. At the end of the event, the winning players. Officials. Special prizes, shields and certificates were given to the technical staff.

A. S. Natural Stone U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The 2nd Phase of the A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament begins from 25th September at various grounds of the City with the collaboration of A. S. Natural Stone Announced by Jawed Ahmed Khan Secretary Regional Cricket Association Karachi.

In this connection the Facial Scrutiny of Selected Players of all the Zones will be held accordingly to the following Programme.

Saturday 16th September at Young Fighter Ground! Zone-II Afternoon 2.00 pm, Zone-I 3.00 pm, Zone-VI 4.00 pm.

On Sunday 17th September at Annu Bhai Park Ground! Zone-VII 2.00 pm, Zone-IV 3.00 pm, Zone-III 4.00 pm.

On Monday 18th September at Landhi Gymkhana Ground! Zone-V 3.30 pm.

The Scrutiny will be Conducted by Jawed Ahmed Khan Secretary RCAF with M. Touseef Siddiqui Joint Secretary RCAF.

All the Selected players of the Zones are advised to report with their Zonal officials according to the above Schedule.

Babar Azam says Naseem Shah may miss a 'couple' of World Cup matches

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has raised the possibility that pacer Naseem Shah may miss some of the matches during the upcoming ICC World Cup 2023. Naseem was ruled out of the Asia Cup 2023 after he injured his right shoulder during the Super 4 match against India. The pacer has been advised by the medical panel to rest before the World Cup. The ICC World Cup is scheduled to take place in India and will start next month.

Meanwhile, fast bowler Haris Rauf was not allowed to bowl against India as a precaution on the reserve day. The right-arm pacer has a side strain and is rapidly improving.

"Haris Rauf is not bad. He's just got a little bit of a side strain, but he's recovering before the World Cup. Naseem Shah also... they have a couple of missed matches, I don't know [how long] the recovery [is], but in my opinion, Naseem Shah also [will be] in the World Cup later on. But let's see," Babar said during a post-match press conference.