



Pakistan facing big threat of TTP, ISIS-K from Afghan soil: FM Jilani

Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Wednesday said that Pakistan was facing the biggest concern at present with an enhanced threat from the terrorist organizations, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) and ISIS-K (Islamic State – Khorasan Province). (Details on Page 8)



Ambassador Haque briefs media delegation on Pak-China relations, CPEC

A high-level media delegation from Balochistan province, currently on a visit to China, called on Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque at the Pakistan Embassy here on Wednesday. Ambassador Haque briefed the delegation about Pakistan and China of bilateral relations especially the current status of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which he termed as the flagship project of BRI... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Called-on

ISLAMABAD: Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili on Wednesday called-on Chief of Staff Pakistan Navy, Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf, and lauded bilateral exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XIV being conducted at Al Jubail.



Saudi General visits NHQ, lauds conduct of Exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XIV

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili on Wednesday called-on Chief of Staff, Pakistan Navy, Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf, and lauded bilateral Exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XIV being conducted at Al Jubail. The Chief of General Staff Saudi Armed Forces visited Naval Headquarters.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional security were discussed.

The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Both dignitaries appreciated the successful conduct of PN-RSNF Exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XIV that was recently held at Al Jubail and reaffirmed the resolve to further enhance bilateral defence ties.

The visit of Chief of the General Staff Saudi Arabian Armed Forces will further enhance bilateral defence collaboration between the two countries.

PM urges global support to developing nations on climate ambitions

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday urged the world to extend financial and technical support to developing countries like Pakistan to help them achieve ambitions on climate change.

The prime minister, addressing the Climate Ambition Summit 2023, on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, urged all nations to raise their climate ambitions, regardless of their statuses and geographical locations.

He told the international community that the adverse impact of climate change continued to rise in frequency and intensity, disproportionately affecting developing

countries. "Pakistan is a prime example. Despite contributing less than one percent to global warming, we are among the top ten vulnerable countries.

The unprecedented floods of last year illustrated this vulnerability but these may just be the tip of the iceberg unless we arrest this global warming," he remarked.

The prime minister thanked the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for active solidarity and mobilization of global support after the floods.

He said due to its "well-established" climate vulnerability, the adaptation was a "critical" priority for Pakistan.

He said Pakistan adopted the first-ever National Adaptation Plan to build climate resilience



that would follow the projection and casting of interventions identified in the said Plan. He said the second phase of the Plan would mark preparing for the sector-specific investment framework to serve as a blueprint to translate and identify the adaptation needs into

tangible and bankable projects. Prime Minister Kakar also highlighted Pakistan's "Living Indus Initiative" aimed at restoring the ecological health of the Indus basin.

He said Pakistan took significant steps to enhance the early warning capacity as well as the

flood protection plan.

He said despite its no contribution to global warming, Pakistan chose to be part of the solution by deciding to convert 60 percent of its energy resources to alternative energy by 2030 which would cost around \$100 billion to the country.

Citing Quranic verses, the prime minister told the world leaders that Islam promoted responsibility to protect the environment and utilise natural resources efficiently and undertake an equitable approach to nature.

Urging the global community to come up with climate actions and support to the developing countries, the prime minister said, "This will be a litmus test of solidarity and perhaps for the survival of our species on our injured planet."

Security forces kill terrorist in Kulachi IBO

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The security forces on Wednesday killed a terrorist and injured the other during an intense exchange of fire in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in general area Kulachi of Dera Ismail Khan District.

During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between the Army troops and terrorists, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the



killed terrorist, who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent civilians, it said.

The locals of the area appreciated the operation, whereas sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

Indian links to Canada target killing shows its 'extrajudicial network' has gone global: FO Spox

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Wednesday said the news of Indian involvement in an extrajudicial killing in Canada had shown that the country's "network of extra-territorial killings had now gone global". "India's assassination of a Canadian national on Canadian soil is a clear violation of international law and the UN principle of state sovereignty," the FO spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing. Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch was responding to a question on Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement that he had "credible evidence" linking the Indian state to Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar's

murder must be based on "some facts." Nijjar, 45, was shot dead in his vehicle by two masked gunmen in the busy car park of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in British Columbia, a Canadian province. The spokesperson said the incident was a "reckless and irresponsible act" that called into question India's reliability as a credible international partner and its claims for enhanced global responsibilities. About India's previous record, she said for decades, the Indian intelligence agency RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) had been actively involved in abductions and assassinations in South Asia. Pakistan, she said, remained a target of a series of targeted killings and espionage by RAW.

Modi has a long 'rap sheet' of HR abuses: Mushaal



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Malik has stated that the fascist Narendra Modi-led Indian government had unleashed a reign of terror and was committing war crimes in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Inaugurating the Free Dastarkhwan and Free Healthcare society in a private housing society near Gujjar Khan, the SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment said that "Modi has a long 'rap sheet' of human rights abuses," a press release issued here on Wednesday said. She said that the Indian government was not only involved in massacre of innocent Kashmiri people but the Hindutva regime was also embroiled in carrying out terrorist activities elsewhere in the world.

Solangi terms poet Iftikhar Arif shining star on literary horizon

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi while paying tributes to the academic and literary services of renowned poet Iftikhar Arif on Wednesday said that the towering figure was a shining star on the literary horizon who has made an immense contribution in the field of literature.

He expressed these views while addressing the launching ceremony of the documentary film on the life and achievements of the renowned poet named "Barhawan Khiladi" here at the Information Service Academy.

Murtaza Solangi said that Iftikhar Arif's name would be at the top of the list of the leading figures of media if the knowledge and literature of Pakistan was prepared.

The minister said that Iftikhar Arif started his career with Radio Pakistan and later played a key role in the creation of PTV's famous programs.

He said that Iftikhar Arif was like a shadowy tree on the horizon of a literary scene. The participants of the event were also shown the documentary film "Barhawan Khiladi" on the life of Iftikhar Arif.

It should be noted that the docu-



mentary "Barhawan Khiladi" was produced by prominent short film-maker Ayesha Akram, in which various aspects of Iftikhar Arif's life were highlighted, while the views of prominent academics and literary personalities of the country were also included in this film.

The film was launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Information Service Academy (ISA) and PTV Films. Executive Director General ISA Dr Tariq Mehmood said that Iftikhar Arif was one of the leading

literary figures of Pakistan and it was an honour to launch the documentary on his life and achievements.

Famous Urdu poet and writer Kishwar Naheed, former MD PTV Akhtar Waqar Azeem and former director PTV Khawaja Najmul Hassan also attended the launching ceremony of the documentary.

Federal Secretary for Information Zahoora Ahmed, Principal Information Officer and Managing Director APP Muhammad Asim Khichi and senior officers of the Ministry were also present on the occasion.

Pakistan's management of Afghan refugees despite challenges represents success story: Hyder

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Minister for Defence, Lieutenant General (R) Anwar Ali Hyder, on Wednesday during a call-on made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific, Indrika Ratwatte said despite our numerous challenges as a developing country, Pakistan's management of Afghan refugees over decades represents a success story.

While speaking to visiting dignitary, he expressed that Pakistan attached great importance to its cooperation with UNHCR and international partners to assist and seek durable solutions for Afghan refugees. He also said that support from UNHCR is important to explore avenues for additional financial support to returning refugees and incentivizing their return and reintegration in Afghanistan.

Protest

LAHORE: Sikh Community of Pakistan holds protest outside Press Club against the alleged death of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.



Photo: Online

President directs Post Office to return wrongly deducted Rs 1.35 m to pensioner

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the Pakistan Post Office Department to pay Rs 1.35 million to a retired employee as the amount was wrongly deducted from his pensionary benefits by the Postmaster General Punjab, Lahore (the Agency) on account of a mistake in employee's date of birth.

The president gave these remarks while accepting a representation filed by Muhammad Yousaf (the complainant) against the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib declaring that the Agency



had rightly deducted the amount from his pensionary benefits.

President Alvi said that the employee continued to serve four more years in his department after his retirement on

the orders of the competent authority and had a bonafide belief of receiving the salary for the period.

He added that depriving the employee of pensionary benefits and deducting the

salary paid in performance of his duties was unlawful and maladministration had been established.

The complainant had alleged that he served for 38 years with the Agency and he retired in 2016 but his department had wrongly recorded his date of birth due to which his retirement year was changed to 2012.

Subsequently, he over-worked for additional four years but a huge amount of Rs 1.35 million was unjustifiably deducted in lieu of the salary paid to him for four years from his pensionary benefits. Feeling aggrieved, he

approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib which passed the orders in the Agency's favour.

Afterwards, the complainant raised the matter with the president by filing a representation against Wafaqi Mohtasib's decision.

President Alvi accepted the representation of the complainant and pointed out that the Agency had notified the date of retirement on superannuation of the complainant effective from 05.05.2016 vide its letter dated 04.06.2015 and the complainant performed his duties on the basis of said order of the Agency.

Pakistan facing big threat of TTP, ISIS-K from Afghan soil: FM Gilani

News Desk

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Gilani on Wednesday said that Pakistan was facing the biggest concern at present with an enhanced threat from the terrorist organizations, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) and ISIS-K (Islamic State - Khorasan Province).

The foreign minister expressed concern over the outfits' ability to use the Afghan soil to launch attacks on Pakistan.

He was speaking on Pakistan's foreign policy and its quest for peace, stability, and shared prosperity at an event of Asia Society, held on the sidelines of the United Nations

General Assembly session in New York.

Jilani said Pakistan remained closely engaged with the interim government of Afghanistan on the issue.

Highlighting Pakistan's commitment to fighting and defeating the terrorists, he stressed that terrorist outfits trying to gain a foothold in Afghanistan should be treated as a threat to the neighbourhood and the entire international community.

After Afghanistan itself, Jilani said, Pakistan had the greatest stake in Afghanistan, i.e., peace within and with its regional and international partners.

"This objective lies at the



heart of our efforts to directly engage with the Afghan interim government as well as cooperate with the international community on Afghanistan," he said.

The foreign minister mentioned that Pakistan had been hosting millions of Afghan refugees for decades and would

continue to work with the Afghan authorities and the international community for their return to their homeland.

He pointed out that Pakistan shared the international community's concerns over the human rights situation in Afghanistan, especially issues related to women's rights, girls' education, and women's employment.

He mentioned that de-linking aid from political considerations was the key to avert humanitarian crises in Afghanistan.

Jilani said Pakistan was committed to playing its part in the comity of nations to address the pressing challenges of the time and realize its vision for

peace, stability, justice, equity, and shared prosperity.

"We are committed to moving our economy to macro-economic stability and sustainable growth, and are undertaking ambitious reforms to realize our vision," he said.

Pakistan's priorities, he said, were to attract investment, improve the ease of doing business, and streamline the regulatory regime.

As regards Pakistan's relations with the United States, he termed the same one of the most consequential of bilateral relationships. "From our independence onwards, Pakistan partnered with the US in promoting regional and global peace, stability, and prosperity."

PIP eyes collaborations at Gastech 2023 for the energy sector of Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Shehryar Omar, Chief Executive Officer of Petroleum Institute of Pakistan (PIP) has said that PIP is working to promote the development of the Oil & Gas sector in Pakistan through advocacy, capacity building, research, publications, conferences and seminars, and international engagement.

Mr Omar stated this at an exclusive Leadership Roundtable session themed, 'Global Policy: How Governments Are Shaping the Future of Gas and LNG' here at the four-day Gastech 2023, recently concluded in Singapore.

Gastech is an annual event and is the largest global exhibition and conference for Natural Gas, LNG, Hydrogen,

climate technologies, and low-carbon solutions.

In his speech, Mr Omar said, "That global leaders need to develop policy and funding frameworks that allow developing countries to transition towards cleaner energy usage as different countries are at different starting points in this transition process and the same rules and policies cannot be applied to every country. Developing countries in particular face huge challenges in providing affordable and reliable energy to their citizens, and they need a great deal of help in ensuring energy reliability while transitioning to a net-zero destination."

While acknowledging the efforts of the host Mr Omar said that the Petroleum Institute of Pakistan (PIP), as a



representative body of the entire Oil & Gas industry in Pakistan was proud to have been a part of Gastech 2023, and the opportunity to talk about Pakistan's challenges and, more importantly, opportunities for investment.

On the sidelines of the Gastech 2023, CEO PIP met some of Singapore's top institutions including the Nanyang Technological Institute (NTU) and Energy Studies Institute at the National University of Singa-

pore. During these meetings, the entities agreed to move ahead for extended research collaborations and knowledge exchange. The institutes identified common research areas and ways to facilitate academic exchange and organize joint workshops and seminars, and also discussed sharing of best practices related to carbon emissions reduction strategies.

PIP was also offered a membership of NTU for access to their workshops, webinars, and research. While the ESI offered to assist PIP in the finalization and formulation of Pakistan's Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) policy which is a PIP initiative as part of the continuing thought leadership efforts by PIP to help and support the Ministry of Energy.

Pakistan, UK agree to enhance collaboration in health sector



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott called on Caretaker Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Wednesday and discussed matters related to the health sector. It was agreed to enhance collaboration in the health sector and forge closer ties in addressing myriad challenges in the area.

Welcoming the high commissioner the Minister expressed gratitude for continued support of the UK in diverse areas of the health sector in Pakistan. In this regard, he made special mention of natural calamities like the earthquake, recent floods and initiatives like polio eradication. The two sides expressed unanimity of views on issues in the realm of health, climate change and population. "In the limited time available to us we will make every endeavour to leave a strong health system as a legacy for those to follow," Dr Nadeem Jan said. "This is an opportune time for system strengthening." Health should be apolitical and for humanity, the minister added.

The minister said although Pakistan was manufacturing vaccines there was a need for transfer of technology to enhance capacity and to that end "we are looking forward to

collaboration with friendly countries". He laid special emphasis on vaccine equity for low and middle income countries. "We would like a partnership to ensure free flow of funds to low and middle income countries in the event of a calamity. We would like a global charter to ensure vaccine allocation to countries in need." The minister said Pakistan was all set to host the first ever Global Health Security Summit later this year in Islamabad reflecting its strongest commitment at the highest level to Global Health Security Agenda. The British high commissioner said the UK-Pakistan partnership was the oldest. UKAID umbrella had been central to Pak-UK collaboration in health and education. "UK-Pak health partnership that we signed this year is instrumental in forging closer collaboration," she added. The high commissioner extended an invitation to the minister to attend the International Food Security Summit focusing on nutrition being held in UK on November 20, which the latter accepted. Later the high commissioner was given a briefing on Pakistan's first Unified Health Management System for infectious diseases namely Infectious Diseases Management Information System (IDMIS) established at the Ministry of National Health Services.

Ambassador Haque briefs media delegation on Pak-China relations, CPEC

Spokesman Report

BELJING: A high-level media delegation from Balochistan province, currently on a visit to China, called on Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque at the Pakistan Embassy here on Wednesday.

Ambassador Haque briefed the delegation about Pakistan and China of bilateral relations especially the current status of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which he termed as the flagship project of BRI and a strong symbol of Pak-China strong ties.

In the second phase of CPEC, the focus is on cooperation in science and technology, agriculture and social sector development, he added.

He said that Pakistan and China were all-weather friends and strategic cooperative partners and both the countries supported each other during the challenging times.

He said that China extended ample assistance to Pakistan during the Covid-19 pandemic by sending vaccines, equipment and medical teams.

During the floods last year, China again extending a helping hand and sent relief goods to help the flood-stricken people in Pakistan, he added.

Ambassador Haque said that China was focusing on the Balochistan prov-



ince and had initiated several development projects, especially in Gwadar.

He informed that Gwadar Port, special economic zone and Gwadar International Airport would play an important role in the development of the province and the country.

Gwadar has potential to become the regional hub for business and trade and expressed the confidence that the port city will greatly contribute to the economy and bring about job and business opportunities for the locals, he expressed.

The members of the media delegation appreciated China's role in the development of Gwadar and Balochistan province and said the projects like Gwadar port, hospital, schools and roads have greatly contributed to regional connectivity and generated employment opportunities of the local people.

They offered to play a positive role in bringing the people of Balochistan and China more closer and contribute to further deepening of the relations between Pakistan and China.

Rain-wind/thundershower expected in various parts of country: PMD

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Wednesday forecast that rain-wind/thundershower was expected in the Pothohar region, Islamabad, upper Punjab, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir during the next 24 hours, with mainly hot and dry weather for most parts of the country.

"In Islamabad, partly cloudy weather with rain-wind/thundershower is expected.

Likewise, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will also experience partly cloudy weather, with chances of rain-wind/thundershower in Dir, Swat, Mansehra, Shangla, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Kohat and Kurram districts," the PMD said.

Similarly, the PMD predicted dry weather in most districts of Punjab, however, rain-wind/thundershower

er was expected in Murree, Gallyyat, Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal, Sialkot, Narowal, Gujrat, Lahore, Gujranwala, Mandi Bahauddin, Hafizabad, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Khushab and Mianwali.

It added that hot and dry weather was expected in most districts of In Balochistan, and dry weather in most districts of Sindh with partly cloudy conditions in coastal areas.

In Kashmir/Gilgit-Baltistan, partly cloudy weather with rain-wind/thundershower was expected, the PMD said. During the last 24 hours, hot and dry weather prevailed in most parts of the country. However, rain-wind/thundershower occurred in lower Sindh, Bahawalpur and Bagrota.

The rainfall was recorded: Badin 54mm, Sakrand 24mm, Chhor and Shaheed Benazirabad 12mm, Karachi (Keamari 11mm, Masroor Base 09mm, Surjani 08mm, Nazimabad 06mm and Faisal Base 05mm.

Hamdard Foundation celebrates Defence Day

Sadia Rashid paid tribute to the martyrs and expressed solidarity with the armed forces

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, in collaboration with Quaid-e-Azam Mazar Management Board, Government of Pakistan, organized a thought-provoking session of the Hamdard Naunehal Assembly Karachi Chapter, presided over by Ms. Sadia Rashid, President HFP at the Mazar-e-Quaid Audio Visual Hall on September 19th, titled "Difa-e-Watan, Baqa-e-Watan." The meeting was held to celebrate September 6th Defense Day, to pay deep respect to the martyrs, and to show support for the country's armed forces.

During the meeting, speakers highlighted the sacrifices of our brave soldiers and the pivotal role of Pakistan's armed forces in preserving peace and safeguarding the nation's borders. Speakers also reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to serve Pakistan. Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodhi, the Vice Chancellor of NED University Karachi, was invited as the chief guest for the event. Abdul Aleem Sheikh, the Secretary/Resident Engineer of the Quaid-e-Azam Mazar Management Board, participated as the guest of honour. Syed Muhammad Arsalan, the director of HFP, also

attended the meeting. The meeting was moderated by Dr. Sana Ghori, Manager Programmes and Publications(HFP), and Muhammad Mubeen Mughal, Speaker of Hamdard Naunehal Assembly.

Ms. Sadia Rashid, in her presidential address, recalled the proud and significant moments associated with 6th September Youm-e-Difa. "It is when our courageous and determined armed forces set exceptional examples of bravery, valor and sacrifice for the motherland. They valiantly defended the nation's borders on September 6, 1965, a momentous day in our national history," she said.

She further said "During that time, ordinary Pakistanis also stood as defenders of their country alongside the armed forces. The entire nation bravely rallied and thwarted against the enemy's invasion. The memories of the Youm-e-Difa go beyond the valor displayed on the frontlines; they encompass the spirit of sacrifice, dedication to faith, and the achievements of our soldiers."

"Defense Day serves as a reminder of the unwavering high morale of our entire nation, the unity of our people, and the memory of our martyred soldiers. It is a testament to the enduring spirit of solidarity," she concluded.



Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodhi, the special guest, emphasized the importance of rekindling the same enthusiasm, hope, inspiration and optimism that were originally experienced by the Indian Muslims upon the creation of Pakistan. These sentiments are essential in today's world because the nation faces challenges from various fronts, with enemies tirelessly conspiring to sow discord and promote nega-

tive sentiments against our national institutions.

Naunehal Assembly. Observing the speeches and passionate addresses of the young speakers, I am deeply reassured that the future of Pakistan is promising," he added.

Abdul Aleem Sheikh expressed his heartwarming appreciation for the children's enthusiasm. He acknowledged the significant social service

being carried out by Ms. Sadia Rashid Hamdard through the Naunehal Assembly.

Quoting Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, he emphasized the importance of nurturing the younger generation as the key to making Pakistan prosper. He reminded the audience that September 6th was a day to honour martyrs of the 1965 war.

During the meeting, students from

KVTC school performed the national song. Asif Ilyas and his colleagues presented a specially arranged tableau on the topic. Towards the end of the gathering, the esteemed guests, along with Ms. Sadia Rashid, distributed gifts and certificates among the children. The meeting concluded with Dua-i-Said, presented by students from Hamdard Public School and Hamdard Village School.

Nepal's National Day

ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest of the event Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Muhammad Sami Saeed cuts the cake along with Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari and others during the celebrations of the Constitution Day and National Day of Nepal at local hotel in Federal Capital.



Pic20-048

Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

WAPDA Mangla Dam issue is still unresolved: Chaudhry Shaukat

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: Commissioner Chaudhry Shaukat Ali has said that the victims of Mangala Dam have made two sacrifices for the economic and economic development of Pakistan. Victims from WAPDA Mangla Dam issue is still unresolved.

For dam safety, a joint survey will be conducted on WAPDA and revenue officers along with administration regarding illegal occupation and encroachment on WAPDA lands, after which illegal activities on WAPDA lands will be done. Removal of encroachments/encroachments will be implemented.

Issue related to WAPDA, completion of the remaining development works in the towns to be built for the victims should be ensured so that the



concerns and apprehensions of the victims regarding Mangala Dam can be removed.

He was addressing While presiding over a meeting of WAPDA Mangla officials here, Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Amjad Ali, GM WAPDA Mangla Safdar Ali Khan, DG WAPDA

Major Retired Tariq Mehmood, Collector Affairs Mangla Dam Raja Tariq Mehmood Khan, Chief Engineer/P.

D Riaz Khalid, Deputy Director Security Imran Babar, Deputy Director Legal Muhammad Kamran Khurshid, Tehsildar Mirpur Imran Yusuf, Tehsildar Amor Mangla Dam Hummam

Shafiq Kayani, Executive Engineer Muhammad Khalil, Information Officer Muhammad Javed Malik were also participated the meeting.

A detailed discussion was held on issues other than illegal encroachment and it was decided that a joint survey would be conducted against illegal encroachment, after which encroachment of the encroacher's areas would be implemented.

Compensation, resettlement of the victims and completion of remaining works in the towns to be built for the victims and other issues were also discussed in detail and WAPDA was asked to resolve the outstanding issues immediately so that the victims of Mangala Dam could be handed over to WAPDA.

RPO visits tank, cleaning police from corruption are top priorities.

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: On Wednesday Regional Police Officer Dera Ismail Khan Nasir Mehmood Satti made his first visit to Tank district after assuming charge.

On reaching Tank, District Police Officer Tank Iftikhar Shah and other senior police officers gave a grand welcome to RPO Dera, and police force saluted.

During the visit, the RPO chaired a high-level police meeting at the District Police Office Tank.

All SHOs including DPO Tank Iftikhar Shah, SP CTD Dera Shabir Hussain, SP Investigation Nasir Khan, SDO Headquarters Roller and Jandola participated in the meeting.

On this occasion, DPO Tank gave a complete briefing about the law and order situation of the district, crime



rate, National Action Plan, police efficiency, challenges faced by terrorism and measures taken to solve them.

While reviewing the performance of the police, RPO Dera Nasir Mehmood Sati called people friendly policing and

keeping the police free from corruption as top priorities.

He urged the participants to behave ethically with the public, use their resources for their protection, problems and provide immediate justice, and perform your duties with dedication, hard work and honesty, intensify the ongoing crackdown against the elements involved in crime prevention, smuggling of non-customs-paid goods, smugglers, gamblers, extortionists, moneylenders, hoarders, hundi-Hawala references and especially drug dealers.

He said, drug dealers do not deserve any concession as these elements are destroying the students of our upcoming schools, colleges and universities.

Satti Said, All SDPOs and SHOs should utilize their secret intelligence system to bring the elements involved

PMAJK says unbreakable bond between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan

Bureau Report



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azam Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while referring to the unbreakable bond between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan, has said that a strong, stable and economically vibrant Pakistan has always been the dream of

Kashmiri people.

While speaking at the Senate Standing Committee on Finance here today, the PM said that he was happy to see that Committee members from all the four entities (provinces) endorsed his viewpoint regarding the issues confronted by the people of Azad Kashmir. "The honourable members of the committee listened to my viewpoint patiently and renewed Pakistan's eternal relationship with the people of Kashmir", he said. Referring to the hydel issues, the PM said that there was no such issue that could not be resolved. He said, as per the rules, all the four provinces get a share out of the revenues received by the Federal Government. He said that the federal government should not impose cuts on AJK's rightful share provided it meets the annual tax target. The PM on the occasion thanked the participants of the committee for discussing in detail the financial affairs and other issues of Azad Kashmir. Earlier, the members of the Standing Committee stressed the need for resolving all the problems faced by the people and government of Azad Kashmir. The committee also directed the Finance Ministry to take measures to address the financial and other problems of Azad Kashmir on a priority basis. A sub-committee headed by Senator Sadia Abbasi has been tasked to prepare a report in this regard and submit it to the Committee. Speaking on the occasion, Salim Mandviwala, the chairman of the Committee, assured the AJK premier that all the financial and other problems of the government of Azad Kashmir would be solved on a priority basis.

UN organizes 9th of 12 dialogues about sustainable development in Sialkot

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations and district administration on Wednesday organized the ninth of a series of 12 dialogues on sustainable development which was held in Sialkot, Punjab.

In total, more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities across six provinces and territories are discussing the development challenges which they face, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts.

The dialogues are being held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan, said a UN press release issued here.

"These dialogues bring the United Nations closer to the people and the local governments that we serve," said Julien Harneis, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan.

"We are actively listening to the people's concerns and their ideas. They will work together, and with us, on accelerating progress to bridge inequalities and reduce poverty. We will share their suggestions with the Federal Government as we focus on returning to sustainable development," he added.

In Sialkot, the discussions focused on four topics chosen by the participants ahead of the event including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), women's voices, governance, and Climate Change.

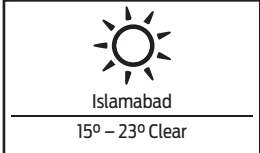
Nearly 100 local leaders — women and men, including youth — participated together with senior officials from Sialkot, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and other UN staff.

The 12 dialogues engage local leaders around development issues such as access to basic social services; gender equality and women's empowerment; climate change; sustainable, inclusive economic growth and decent work; and basic social services. All are key to Pakistan's progress towards the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dinner held in honor of IIUI Rector & President

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A dinner was hosted by Chairman Pak-Saudi Business Forum Aslam Khokhar and CEO of Centaurus and Chairman Builders Association, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan in honour of Rector International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) Dr. Samina Malik and President IIUI Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi. It was also attended by prominent figures of the business community and other walks of life. Both Aslam Khokhar and Sardar Yasir Ilyas as well as other leading personalities of the business community, hailed the recent reforms implemented in the university adding that the impact has been reflected in recent improvement made by the university in rankings due to the leadership of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi. They said that the university has become an ideal hub of learning for national and international students. On the occasion of lunch, the IIUI Rector and President IIUI discussed liaison and opportunities for bilateral cooperation for bridging the gap between academia and industry. In her remarks, IIUI Rector said that IIUI has emerged as a leading educational institution in the previous three years.



SERVICES	
Namaz Timings	
Fajr	4:31 am
Zohr	12:02 pm
Asr	4:24 pm
Maghrib	6:08 pm
Isha	7:32 pm
EMERGENCY	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 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 Corporation	9209224

Committee directed to resolve obstacles immediately faced by labor force moving abroad: Jawad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik on Wednesday directed the Manpower Export Coordination Committee to ensure immediate measures for resolving all obstacles faced by labor force moving abroad.

The Manpower Export Coordination Committee meeting was held here chaired by SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik, a news release said. Malik said effective implementation of any policy was essential for prompt public service delivery, whereas the committee members should deliberate on coherent and actionable road map to boost country's manpower exports. The SAPM said the road map should also define timelines along with expected concrete results for timely delivery



of facilities to the public.

Malik said the majority of Pakistan's population consisted of the youth, adding, "Our youth have tremendous

potential to excel in any field. There is a need to harness the talents and skills of the youth in foreign languages and modern technology."

Restoration

ISLAMABAD: Workers busy in the restoration of the roof of Sheesh Mahal an important historical building of Pakistan.



Saudi Arabia, UNESCO launch 'Dive into Heritage' initiative

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: At the extended 45th session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO's) World Heritage Committee in Riyadh this week, Saudi Arabia and UNESCO organized a side event on the "Dive into Heritage" initiative.

This groundbreaking project will leverage digital technologies to explore and conserve UNESCO World Heritage sites and their related intangible heritage.

Dive into Heritage has been made possible through the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and has seen the team develop an online platform that will create unique ways to digitally experience World Heritage, according to a news report released by the Union of OIC New Agencies (UNA-OIC).

The platform harnesses



the power of digital technology such as 3D models, Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), interactive maps and geolocated narratives to recreate a truly accurate and immersive digital viewing experience.

The 'Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Funds-in-Trust for Culture at UNESCO' was established in 2019, following a commitment of US\$25 million from the Government to fund UNESCO projects in

programme, the report said.

Mr Ernesto Ottone, Assistant Director General for Culture at UNESCO highlighted at his opening remarks that "with Dive into Heritage, we are entering a new digital era for World Heritage exploration and preservation.

The endless potential uses of Artificial Intelligence will allow us to transform the way in which people can experience heritage.

An innovative project such as Dive into Heritage demonstrates the various uses of AI, bringing heritage sites to life, like never before.

The narratives and stories, this technology helps create, will resonate for generations to come, and enable people to live a piece of history." The event included a panel discussion where some key contributors to the project discussed how technology can contribute to heritage interpretation and preservation using digital storytelling techniques.

HEC appoints Dr Nasir as Chairman NACTE

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has been appointed as Chairperson of National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (NACTE) for a term of four years (effective from the date of joining the office) by the Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC).

It is pertinent to mention here that Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has more than 25 years of working experience on various positions in the field of education.

According to a notification, he has completed more than 60 research projects and published 57 research papers in national and international journals.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood served as the Dean of the Faculty of Education in Allama Iqbal Open University for a long time. Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training appointed Dr. Nasir as the Acting Vice Chancellor of AIOU on the tenure completion of Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum.

Since then, he has been rendering his services for Allama Iqbal Open University as Vice Chancellor in a very professional and proactive manner.

IHC quashes case against Afghan woman

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday quashed a case against Afghan national woman for staying in Pakistan without obtaining a visa and said that the Constitution granted the right of asylum.



The court instructed the Ministry of Interior to issue a NOC to the concern woman for traveling to Australia.

Justice Babar Sattar issued the written verdict on the petition filed by Afghan National Raheel Azizi against the registration of a case against her under foreigners act. She was accused of entering Pakistan without obtaining a visa from the authorities.

The order said that the people seeking for asylum couldn't be sent jail. The concern woman had arrived Pakistan as there were threats to her life after regime change in Afghanistan. On this basis, the Australian government had issued visa to her but she couldn't travel abroad due to a case was registered against her in Pakistan.

The court said that under such circumstances, a case couldn't be run against the woman asylum seeker.

It may be mentioned here that the FIA had registered a case against Raheel Azizi under the Section-14 of the Foreigners Act.

Fraudsters held for deceiving individuals regarding immigration to foreign nations

News Desk



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital police have detained fraudsters who exploited citizens by falsely promising to facilitate their overseas visa applications, profiting from their trust.

According to the details, Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCPD) Dr.

Akbar Nasir Khan categorically asked to start a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens.

Following these directives, in a proactive move to protect citizens from visa fraud and financial deception, the Islamabad Capital Police, Aabpara Police Station, has initiated legal action against the accused involved in fraudulent activities to swindle citizens under the pretext of sending them to Dubai, a public relations officer said.

He said that the accused had been deceiving citizens by claiming to facilitate the issuance of visas to the United Arab Emirates and extracting money from them.

The Aabpara police station received information from a citizen who stated that he had fallen victim to a cash scam, having been misled with false promises of being sent to Dubai.

In response to the complaint, a case was registered under the charges of fraud and deception, leading to the swift apprehension of the main culprits.

It is crucial for the public to be aware that the UAE Embassy in Islamabad and the UAE Consulate Work visa services charge a legitimate fee of \$69 for visa processing and \$41 for document verification. There are no additional fees imposed on citizens.

Furthermore, it is strictly prohibited for any entity or individual, except for authorized companies approved by the UAE Embassy, to collect money for visa purposes.

Several unscrupulous entities are known to unlawfully extort money from citizens. Citizens are urged to exercise caution and promptly report any suspicious activity or individuals to the "Pucar-15" helpline.

Number of registered voters in Pakistan swells to nearly 127 million in 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The total number of registered voters in the country has reached to 126.98 million in 2023, around 21.04 million higher than the 105.955 (105,955,409) million voters registered in 2018, shows data released by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The number of male voters is over 68.58 million (68,508,258), while female voters surged to 58.47 million (58,472,014) in 2023.

The total number of voters in Punjab reached to 72.3 million

(72,310,582) in 2023, out of which 54percent are male and 46pc are women.

With respect of number of registered voters, Lahore has highest voters in the Punjab province. Out of total 6.72 million (6,724,633) voters in Lahore, 3.57 million (3,578,725) are male and 2.813 (2,813,759) are female in Lahore.

Faisalabad stands second in Punjab with 5.235 million (5,235,992) voters, out of which 2.813 million (2,813,759) are male and 2.42 million (2,422,233) are female voters.

In Punjab, Rawalpindi has third highest number of regis-

tered voters of 3.25 million (3,259,498). Out of total, 1.68 million (1,681,847) are male voters and 1.57 million (1,577,651) are female voters.

With respect of registered voters, Murree is the smallest district where 290,931 are registered with the ECP as voter. Out of total, 152,470 are male while 138,461 are female voters.

In Sindh, the number of registered voters has surged to 26.6 million (26,651,161) in 2023. The percentage of male and female voters is 54pc and 46pc, respectively.

Karachi central is the largest district when it comes

to the number of registered voters as they are 2.167 million (2,106,746). Out of total 1,132,197 are male and 974,549 female voters.

Karachi East is standing at second spot with 1,626,773 registered voters, out of which 864,301 are male and 762,472 are female voters. Korangi district comes third with respect of number of registered voters with 1,482,795 voters. Out of total 712,933 are male and 669,862 are female voters.

Tandu Muhammad Khan is the smallest district in terms of registered voters with 352,782 voters, comprising 189,172 are

male and 163,610 female voters. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the total number of registered are 20.169 million (21,692,381) this year. It consists of 54pc male and 46pc female voters.

Peshawar is the largest district in terms of registered voters as there are total 2,058,939 voters, out of which 1,138,237 are male and 920,702 are female voters.

Faisalabad stands second in KP with 1,519,597 voters, out of which 832,830 are male and 686,767 are female voters.

In KP, Swat district has third highest number of registered voters, 1,463,956. Out of total, 768,571 are male voters

and 665,385 are female voters. Kolai-Palas is the smallest district in terms of numbers of registered voters as there are 43,250 total voters, out of which 23,234 are male and 20,016 are female voters.

The number in Balochistan has reached 5.28 million (5,284,594) in 2023, comprising 56 male and 44 female voters. Quetta is the largest district in terms of registered number of voters as there are total 830,280 voters. Out of total, 473,387 are male and 356,893 are female voters.

Pishin is the second largest district with 308,987 total

registered voters, out of which are 178,665 male and 130,322 female voters.

Khuzdar stands at third spot with total registered voters of 297,339. Out of which, 163,438 are male and 133,901 are female voters.

Harnai is the smallest district in terms of registered voters as there are only 45,758 voters. Out of total, 25,070 are male and 20,502 are female voters.

The number of registered voters in Islamabad has surged to 1.04 million (1,041,554) this year, according to the data released by the electoral watchdog.

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Govt. Should 'Make 5000 note ineffective' (A proposal)

In Pakistan, there is a growing consensus that taking action to curb tax evasion and eliminate illegal currency transactions are of paramount importance. One proposed measure in this regard is the discontinuation of the 5000 rupee currency note. This proposal has garnered significant support from various quarters, particularly from within business circles and honest traders' associations.

The rationale behind discontinuing the 5000 rupee currency note lies in its perceived role in facilitating illicit financial activities. High-denomination currency notes can make it easier for tax evaders and criminals to carry out transactions that go under the radar of regulatory authorities. These notes are often preferred for their convenience in large-scale transactions, but this convenience can be misused for illegal purposes. Business circles, which include both small and large enterprises, have expressed concerns about the adverse effects of tax evasion and the prevalence of illegal currency transactions. These activities not only undermine the government's revenue collection efforts but also create an uneven playing field for businesses that abide by tax regulations. Discontinuing the 5000 rupee note is seen as a potential step to mitigate these issues.

Honest traders' associations, representing individuals and businesses committed to operating within the bounds of the

law, have been vocal proponents of this proposal. They argue that such a move would promote transparency, encourage compliance with tax regulations, and ultimately level the economic playing field. By removing a high-denomination note from circulation, it becomes more challenging for those engaged in tax evasion and illegal financial dealings to conduct their operations discreetly.

However, any decision to discontinue a currency denomination must be approached with caution, as it can have significant ramifications for the broader economy. Adequate measures would need to be put in place to ensure a smooth transition, including the introduction of alternative denominations and electronic payment solutions to facilitate everyday transactions.

Let's delve into the details of this proposal, its potential benefits, and the considerations specific to Pakistan:

Black Money and Tax Evasion: High-denomination currency notes are often favored by those involved in illicit financial activities, including tax evasion and the hoarding of unaccounted wealth. By discontinuing the five thousand rupee note, individuals with black money holdings would be compelled to bring their

funds into the formal financial system, exposing them to scrutiny and potential tax liabilities.

Enhanced Transparency: The exchange process would require individuals to provide valid identification and explain the source of their funds. This increased transparency helps authorities track the flow of money, identify potential tax evaders, and deter illegal financial activities.

Increased Tax Revenue: As black money is brought into the formal economy, tax revenues are likely to increase. These additional funds can be channeled into public services and infrastructure development, contributing to economic growth.

Reduced Corruption: High-denomination notes are often associated with bribery and corruption. Their discontinuation can make it more challenging for public officials to demand or accept large bribes, thus contributing to reducing corruption levels.

Digital Payment Adoption: The move can accelerate the adoption of digital payment methods, contributing to a more modern and efficient financial system. This can improve financial inclusion and reduce the reliance on cash, which is often associated with illicit activities.

Economic Stability: Over the long

term, bringing black money into the formal economy can contribute to overall economic stability by reducing the informal economy, increasing government revenues, and supporting the country's development goal. Large denomination notes tend to benefit those who have access to them, often leading to economic inequality. They may not be widely available to everyone in the population, creating disparities in access to financial resources.

In most of Pakistan's business circles, people have stashed away large currency notes in their homes, filling bags and lockers with them. These notes are not deposited in banks; they are black money. Just as the previous government discontinued the 40,000, 25,000, 15,000, and 7,500 rupee prize bonds to bring them into the tax net, similarly, the 5,000 rupee notes should also be discontinued for the greater benefit of the country and its people. This will bring about positive changes in the national economy. Discontinuing the five thousand rupee currency note in Pakistan and implementing an exchange process with a one-month window could have significant implications for the country's economy and financial landscape. The largest currency note in a strong economy like the United States is worth 100 dollars note. It can be inferred that having large denomination notes is not necessarily essential for the importance of the national economy.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

NHMP increases fine amount

The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) has advised the motorists to strictly follow the traffic rules while driving on motorways and highways as the fine amount over different violations have been increased and being implemented with immediate effect.

A letter issued by the office of Inspector General of Police NHMP said here Wednesday that as per the decision of a meeting chaired by the Federal Minister the implementation of the revised fine amount was approved under 12th schedule of NHSO-2000.

It said that all the field formations of NHMP have been directed to launch briefing, campaigns and distribution of pamphlets and brochures regarding implementation of revised fine amount on priority basis for awareness and sensitization of drivers, commuters, passengers and general public.

According to the revised fine amount list, the minimum fine starts from Rs 500 and maximum amount is Rs 5000 depending upon the nature of offence.

Similarly six new fines were added in the list over different violations.

The new violations to be fined included use of unlawful police light, mimic Law enforcing agencies in the vehicle to be charged with Rs 5000, use of fancy number plates with Rs 1000, use of HID lights Rs 2000, use of evading of law by improvised tinting of glasses Rs 1000, driving without fastening seat belts either by driver or commuter Rs 1500, use of phone, tab while driving Rs 500 and driving vehicle without side mirrors Rs 500.

NHMP increases fine amount over different offences; launch awareness campaign.

The other penalties include exceeding speed limits Rs 2500, overtaking where prohibited Rs 1500, failure to yield the right of way to other vehicle Rs 1000, interfering with an emergency vehicle Rs 5000, driving at night without proper light Rs 5000, driving on wrong side of the road Rs 2500, disobeying stop sign Rs 3000, following too closely or cutting in too sharply Rs 1000, driving with rear screen covered partially or fully Rs 750, jumping traffic queue Rs 1000, using turn indicator for any purpose other than those prescribed Rs 750, failure to observe lightening hours Rs 1000, obstructing traffic Rs 2000, failure to observe slow sign Rs 2000, prohibited land changing Rs 1000, careless driving Rs 1500, driving without license Rs 5000, driving unregistered vehicle Rs 2000, opening door dangerously Rs 1000, improper turn Rs 2500, improper land usage Rs 1000, driving vehicle emitting smoke, visible vapors, grill, sparks, ashes or oily substance Rs 1250, driving vehicle producing unduly harsh, shrill, loud or alarming noise Rs 1000, improper u-turn, Rs 1000, parking on a bridge Rs 750.



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

The Asim Doctrine in action for Betterment - III

Proposed reduction in income and sales tax rates on bills as people are suffering from high tax burden on electricity which is affecting daily life, businesses and common people. Furthermore, Kashif Anwar introduced a practical approach to fuel adjustment charges and suggested that they should be levied during winter months to reduce the financial burden on consumers when electricity consumption is lower. Discussing the important role of exchange rate in the economic scenario of Pakistan. He also called for greater control over the prices of the US dollar both in the interbank and open markets. General Asim Munir gave a positive response and assured that money exchange will be brought under the ambit of taxation, dollar exchange and transparency in interbank rates will be promoted. President Lahore Chamber also pointed out that the disparity between State Bank rate and Hundi rate often leads to giving preference to hundi channels in terms of remittances. He emphasized that if these rates are harmonised, remittances will naturally flow through the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). He expressed concern over the current lack of response to the proposals made by the business sector. Furthermore, Kashif Anwar called for a united commitment to political parties and suggested signing the Charter of Economy before any upcoming elections. Commenting on General Asim Munir's remarks about the existence of a gray economy, which is 2 to 3 times the total document economy, Kashif Anwar suggested an innovative approach. He recommended encouraging the gray economy sector to transition into a formal, white economy, offering a strategic solution to tackle this pervasive problem. President Lahore Chamber said that as long as the gray economy remains unintegrated, unable to contribute to the formal, white economy, expansion of the tax base will remain impossible.

Then Pakistan Army is also a key partner in SIFC. The Special Investment Facilitation Council Pakistan, commonly referred to as SIFC Pakistan, was established by the Government of Pakistan with the primary goal of facilitating investments in various sectors of the economy. It operates as an independent body responsible for streamlining investment procedures, providing support to investors, and addressing their concerns. One of the primary functions of SIFC Pakistan is to provide a one-stop shop for investors. It simplifies bureaucratic processes and assists investors in navigating regulatory requirements, reducing the time and effort needed to

start and operate a business in Pakistan. SIFC Pakistan works closely with the government to advocate for investor-friendly policies. It identifies barriers to investment and proposes policy reforms to create a more conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investors. SIFC Pakistan serves as a mediator between investors and relevant government agencies, helping to resolve issues and disputes that may arise during the investment process. The council actively promotes investment opportunities in Pakistan through marketing campaigns and by participating in international investment forums and exhibitions. This helps attract foreign investors to explore the country's potential. SIFC Pakistan has been instrumental in enhancing Pakistan's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index. By simplifying procedures, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and improving regulatory transparency, the council has made Pakistan a more attractive destination for investors. SIFC Pakistan's efforts have successfully attracted

foreign direct investment in various sectors, including energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, and technology. These investments have not only contributed to economic growth but have also created job opportunities for the local workforce. The presence of a dedicated investment facilitation council sends a strong signal to investors that Pakistan is committed to supporting their interests and

protecting their investments. This, in turn, builds trust and confidence among the investor community. The investments facilitated by SIFC Pakistan have a multiplier effect on the economy. They contribute to increased economic activity, the development of critical infrastructure, and the expansion of industries, which ultimately leads to higher GDP growth and improved living standards. The Special Investment Facilitation Council Pakistan is a vital institution in Pakistan's journey towards economic prosperity and global competitiveness. By streamlining investment procedures, advocating for investor-friendly policies, and actively promoting investment opportunities, SIFC Pakistan plays a pivotal role in attracting domestic and foreign investment. As Pakistan continues its efforts to reform and modernize its economy, the role of institutions like SIFC Pakistan cannot be overstated. With its commitment to providing a supportive environment for investors and resolving their concerns, the council serves as a catalyst for economic growth and development, contributing

Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Youth at risk: cyber bullying epidemic grips Pakistan

Zahid Ullah Khan

In today's fame-driven world, where one's worth is often measured by their social media followers, Pakistan has emerged as a prominent player with over 72 million internet users. However, this growing access to free social media platforms has brought about significant concerns regarding e-security.

Pakistan ranks as the 5th largest mobile phone market in Asia. Internet regulation falls under the jurisdiction of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Data from these authorities highlights alarming issues within our society, ranging from privacy breaches and disagreements to political rivalries, disinformation, and the targeting of religious and gender minorities.

The UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development Working Group on Broadband And Gender defines cyber violence against women, encompassing hate speech, publishing blasphemous content, hacking, intercepting private communications, identity theft, online stalking (criminal harassment), and uttering threats, which can even lead to convincing a target to end their own life. It is crucial to acknowledge the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which recognizes online intimidation, threats, privacy breaches, and identity theft against vulnerable groups, primarily women.

The most concerning aspect of the DRF's report is the age group between 21 and 25, with the majority of victims falling in the youth sector. The expo-

nential spike in cyber harassment cases was noted with the advent of the coronavirus pandemic and increased internet accessibility.

Research Gate suggests that individuals subjected to social media trolling or cyberbullying are 1.9 times more likely to contemplate suicide. Nearly 90% of Pakistani university students surveyed reported experiencing cyberbullying, with higher socioeconomic status individuals being more susceptible.

Cyberbullying knows no boundaries and affects individuals across all age groups and backgrounds. Even prominent figures, including politicians, celebrities, and internet personalities, have not been immune to its harmful impact. Notably, even the caretaker prime minister found himself targeted by online trolls, with increased Pakistani emigration becoming a contentious topic in the cyber world.

One tragic case involved Dr. Amir Liaquat, a renowned anchor, politician, and media personality, who took his own life following the leak of explicit videos. E-security breaches have taken lives in Pakistan, with misinformation being a significant contributor to the problem.

To establish a secure internet society, parental guidance, teacher involvement, and law enforcement are essential. Monitoring teenagers' online activities is crucial to reduce cybercrimes and protect them from online abusers, identity theft, cyber intimidation, stalking, financial fraud, and more.

The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 (PECA) addresses defamation, extending the right to file complaints to any member of the public, even if they are not directly defamed. PECA criminalizes false

information that harms a person's privacy or reputation when intentionally and publicly displayed.

Social media activist Shareef Ali Dawar shared his traumatic experiences of being threatened, bullied, and relentlessly trolled for expressing certain opinions. For many like him, deactivation and taking a mental break from social media have become the last resort to escape ceaseless political rivalry.

Under FIA's Cybercrime Wing, various cyber offenses, including electronic financial fraud, cyber harassment, cyber defamation, cyberbullying, cyber blackmailing, hate speech, illegal SIM cards, child pornography, identity theft, cyber terrorism, and more, are treated with seriousness.

Recognizing the rampant spread of cybercrimes, the Federal Investigation Agency has proposed amendments to PECA Laws. Over 2 billion PKR has been invested in revamping the cybercrime wing project, with 15 dedicated cyber police stations established across the country. A helpline, 1991, has been designated for cyber complaints. Officials like Dr. Ehsan Sadiq, Additional Director General of the Cybercrime Wing, and Dr. SanaUllah Abbasi, Director General of FIA, are tirelessly working to enhance e-security for the nation.

As an educated and socially aware society, it is our responsibility to respect differing opinions without resorting to personal attacks online or in our daily lives. A civilized society upholds diversity of thought, action, gender, and religion. With strengthened PECA Laws and increased awareness, Pakistan can embark on a journey toward a secure, protected, and inclusive social media environment.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
45,889.57	45,910.46	
Day's High	Day's Low	
46,035.09	45,808.10	
Index Value	Change	
2,491,844,596	-20.89	
Percentage	Time	
-0.05%	20 Sept, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,731.65	+71.45	
Percentage	Time	
+0.93%	20 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
34,752.02	+234.29	
Percentage	Time	
+0.68%	20 Sept, 1:12 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,023.78	-218.81	
Percentage	Time	
-0.66%	20 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198	200
Bahrain Dinar	789.66	797.66
Canadian Dollar	220	222.20
China Yuan	40.87	41.27
Danish Krone	42.6	43
Euro	320	323
Hong Kong Dollar	37.93	38.28
Indian Rupee	3.57	3.68
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	961.3	970.3
Malaysian Ringgit	63.21	63.81
New Zealand \$	175.71	177.71
Norwegians Krone	27.87	28.17
Omani Riyal	771.25	779.25
Qatari Riyal	81.57	82.27
Saudi Riyal	78.7	79.5
Singapore Dollar	217	219
Swedish Korona	26.62	26.92
Swiss Franc	331.2	333.7
Thai Bhat	8.31	8.46
U.A.E Dirham	81.5	82.3
UK Pound Sterling	373.5	377
US Dollar	293.1	296

Huawei Connect 2023 kicks off to explore new prospects for intelligent future

Spokesman Report

SHANGHAI: Huawei Connect 2023 kicked off in Shanghai on Wednesday, bringing together business leaders, tech experts, partners, developers, and industry stakeholders from around the world, to explore new opportunities for an intelligent future. At the event, Sabrina Meng, Huawei's Deputy Chairwoman, Rotating Chairwoman, and CFO, unveiled the company's All Intelligence strategy. She described the company's ongoing efforts to dive deep into foundational AI technologies and build a solid computing backbone for China – and another option for the world – to support a vast range of AI models and applications for all industries.

Huawei also released a reference architecture for driving intelligent transformation at this year's event, as well as a number of related products and solutions. This reference architecture, has also been included in the company's new white paper, Accelerating Intelligent Transformation, which offers practical advice and references to help industries make the most of intelligence. For the past two decades, Huawei has worked with the industry to drive information and communications technology forward, first with its All IP strategy to support the informatization, and then with its All Cloud strategy to support digitalization. As artificial intelligence gains steam and its impact on industry continues to grow, Huawei's All Intelligence strategy is designed to help all industries make the most of new strategic opportunities presented by AI.

Key to this strategy, is providing the massive amounts of computing power needed to train foundation models for different industries. "Huawei is committed to building a solid computing backbone for China – and another option for the world," said Meng in her keynote. "We will keep strengthening the synergy between hardware, software, chips, edge, devices, and cloud to provide fertile ground for a thriving ecosystem. Our end goal is to help



meet the diverse AI computing needs of different industries." Meng also shared Huawei's next steps: "Going forward, Huawei will dive into the product and tech domains where we excel, and work closely with customers, partners, developers, and other stakeholders to provide cutting-edge, easy-to-use industry solutions."

By working together, we can help promote greater digital security and trustworthiness, and accelerate intelligence across all industries." Towards the end of her speech, Meng stressed: "Competence breeds confidence. And the future is one we build together." To succeed in the intelligent future to come: "There's strength in solidarity. And victory through grit." Meng was followed by David Wang, Huawei's Executive Director of the Board, Chairman of the ICT Infrastructure Managing Board, and President of the Enterprise BG, who took the stage to announce the launch of Huawei's new Atlas 900 SuperCluster. This new AI computing cluster, the latest offering in Huawei's Ascend series of computing products, makes use of a brand-

new architecture that's optimized for training massive AI foundation models with over one trillion parameters.

The Atlas 900 Super Cluster comes packed with Huawei's state-of-the-art Xinghe Network Cloud Engine XH16800 switch. With high-density 800GE ports, the SuperCluster's two-layer switching network can connect up to 2,250 nodes per cluster – equivalent to 18,000 NPUs – without oversubscription. The cluster's innovative super node architecture greatly boosts its overall computing power and takes the speed and efficiency of foundation model training to an entirely new level. In addition, Huawei has leveraged its strengths in computing, storage, network, and energy to systematically improve system reliability at the component, node, cluster, and service levels. System reliability is incredibly important for training massive foundation models, and this approach has effectively extended the cluster's ability to support continuous model training from several days to a month or more. "A new chapter of

intelligent transformation is unfolding," Wang said. "We now stand at the threshold of a new and intelligent world, with vast opportunities and challenges ahead of us. We need to work together, dig deep into industry-specific scenarios, and build a solid computing backbone to power countless new AI models and applications. Together, we can help all industries go intelligent, and help them do it faster." During his keynote, Wang launched nine new intelligent industry solutions based on Huawei's intelligent transformation reference architecture.

A joint effort between Huawei, its customers and partners, these solutions are designed to meet the specific needs of different industries, including finance, government, manufacturing, electric power, and railways. Wang also announced the release of a new white paper, Accelerating Intelligent Transformation. It's a collection of case studies and best practices aimed at helping all industries hit the ground running as they move to embrace new forms of intelligence. Huawei also partnered up with the China West Airport Group (CWAG) to develop a comprehensive intelligent transformation strategy. According to Lin Bin, CWAG's Deputy General Manager, his company has incubated 35 intelligent solutions for security, operations, services, and other scenarios using Huawei's high-performance computing power and open intelligent platforms, as well as advanced algorithms in the industry.

In particular, their intelligent ground handling solution issues predictions and alerts based on the real-time status of flights, passengers, and resources, helping the company more intelligently dispatch employees and schedule flights. This solution has improved ground handling efficiency by 20%, cutting turnaround times by 17%. Their intelligent solution for airport operations uses a flight planning optimization model to find the best fit between supply and demand and power AI-assisted operational commands.

Balochistan farmers get pulses seeds to enhance production

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) has

provided high-quality pulses seeds to farmers of Balochistan province in order to enhance the production of edibles in the country.

The other aim of the initiative was to enhance the farm income of small growers as well as to ensure food safety and security of the farming communities of such areas of the province, said Chairman PARC Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali.

Talking to APP here on Wednesday, he said that high-yielding pulse seeds have been distributed to farmers in 22 districts of Balochistan.

He further said that the council has played a pioneering role in the introduction and promotion of olive, saffron, pistachio, and other high-value fruit plants in Balochistan.

Chairman PARC reiterated the commitment of the Council, as the apex national agricultural research organization, to disseminate innovative agricultural research findings across the province to enhance farm income, particularly of the small farmers.

Dr Ali said that PARC has also planted approximately one million olive trees across eighteen districts of Balochistan and installed a drip irrigation system on 2,000 acres.

Our primary focus is on enhancing area under pulses crop in Balochistan to achieve self-sufficiency at the national level and to fulfill the dietary needs of the people of the province, he remarked.

Additionally, he said that PARC has launched multiple research programs for the cultivation of sesame and psyllium husk (Ispaghol) in various areas of the province, adding that it would also help in achieving sustainable agriculture growth in the country.

He stressed on the importance of modernizing agriculture in the province and pledged to allocate all available resources for this purpose.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad chaired a meeting on PIA in on September 20, 2023. Advisor to PM on Aviation was also present.



Ship anchors at Port Qasim with Bulgarian wheat cargo

News Desk

KARACHI: A ship carrying 35,000 metric tonnes of imported wheat cargo from Bulgaria has anchored at Port Qasim.

Offloading of the wheat cargo from MVC Bird has started.

Two more vessels carrying wheat from Russia, have also reached to the outer channel of the Port Qasim. Overall, three ships carrying over 1,40,000 metric tonnes of imported wheat, have reached Pakistan.

According to reports, wheat prices going down in

the market with arrival of the grain cargo. The price of wheat has dropped by Rs.7 per kilogram to reach 118 rupees after arrival of imported wheat in Karachi. The retail price of the wheat flour also expected to slide by 10 rupees per KG in the market with arrival of imported wheat.

Wheat, a staple food of most of Pakistanis, being imported to control shortage of the commodity, soothing bullish prices and to ensure sufficient supply of the commodity in the market to check hoarding and profiteering.

SECP, IGNITE ink MoU

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Dr. Umer Saif, envisaged setting up a government backed Venture Capital (VC) Fund of Fund to strengthen the startup and fintech ecosystems by providing financial support to new ventures and startups.

During his visit to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Dr. Saif showed a keen interest in the SECP's Regulatory Sandbox and the cutting-edge busi-

ness models being considered, such as asset fractionalization. Akif Saeed, Chairman SECP, presented a detailed briefing to the Federal Minister, outlining the organization's significant efforts in digitalization, innovation, regulatory support, capacity building, investment facilitation, and policy advocacy. The Chairman also informed Dr. Saif about the pioneering regulatory sandbox programme implemented by SECP to facilitate fintech, seamlessly embed technology into conventional financial services, and bring innovation

to them. The SECP Commissioner Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi, Executive Director Specialised Companies Ms Khalida Habib, CEO IGNITE Mr. Asim Shahryar Husain and other senior officials were also present.

Khalida Habib briefed the Minister on the regulatory requirements for the formation of a government backed VC Fund of Fund and provided detailed insights for effectively establishing a well-structured VC Fund of Fund. The minister also witnessed



the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SECP and IGNITE, focusing on awareness sessions, regulatory compli-

ance education, addressing challenges faced by Pakistani startups, fostering fintech innovation, and fostering investment-friendly environ-

ments. The MoU was signed by Mr. Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi, Commissioner SECP, and Mr. Asim Shahryar Husain, Chief Executive Officer of Ignite.

'Integrated Energy Planning' to help tackle energy crisis: Sami

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Wednesday said the 'Integrated Energy Planning' would help in tackling the energy crisis being faced by the country.

He made these remarks while addressing a workshop titled "Integrated Energy Planning for Sustainable Development, organized by the Energy Wing of the Planning Ministry here.

Under the vision 2025, the project IEP was envisioned to make a centralized Energy Planning and Resource Centre (EPRC) that meets

the demands of energy planning for the fast development in the world.

The minister said the outcomes of the Low Emission Analysis Platform (LEAP) model by the Integrated Energy Planning (IEP) would help in achieving high industrial growth, an export-led economic base and save the foreign exchange reserves.

The event was attended by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Jehanzeb Khan, the country's leading experts in the energy sectors and other stakeholders.

LEAP model is an effort to present a holistic integrated approach to Energy Demand and Supply Analysis; containing all components of integrated balances, used in comput-

ing long-term energy prices under various scenarios.

It is noted that in August 2022, the IEP for Sustainable Development took the initiative of providing an in-person LEAP training program where relevant energy sector stakeholders were invited to participate in the training process.

The EPRC working under IEP started working on Pakistan's first LEAP energy model using an integrated top-down approach.

During the workshop, three thematic sessions were held which include Underlying Assumptions for LEAP Model Estimation of Integrated Energy Demand, Power Sector Energy Mix to Meet Future Demand

Using the LEAP Model and Fuel Sector Planning to Address Future Demand Using the LEAP Model by the leading experts like Syed Akhtar Ali, former Member Energy, Planning Ministry, Dr Afia Malik, Senior Research Economist, PIDE, Sajid Akram, Director General Tariff, Khurram Lalani, Consultant on Energy, Omar Haroon Malik, Head Strategy Power Market Development CPPA-G.

Over the years, Pakistan has relied on imported oil, gas and coal to meet its energy needs and this reliance on imported energy commodities has burdened the foreign exchange reserves of the country, said the minister, while appreciating the

Energy Wing for successfully launching this model which will help in tackling the serious energy crisis.

Sami Saeed also asked the energy wing to follow the timelines of another milestone that the IEP project was going to achieve is the development of an Energy Information System (EIS).

The EIS will integrate the energy sector data into a single universally accessible energy portal.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Jehanzeb Khan said that this is the role of the Planning Commission in general and IEP, in particular, to make an inclusive and growth-centered energy policymaking in the country.

Shehroze Kashif achieves another milestone by scaling Mt. Manaslu

Spots Desk

ISLAMABAD: The unflinching determination of Pakistani climber Shehroze Kashif enabled him to achieve another feat when he successfully summited Nepal's 8,163 metres Mount Manaslu. "Congratulations to Shehroze on his amazing feat of climbing the eighth-highest mountain in the world, Manaslu. He is now the youngest climber to reach the summit of 12 summits over 8000 metres. It is really amazing," Secretary Alpine Club of Pakistan, Karrar Haidri said in a statement. "His commitment and the encouragement he's received from everyone are admirable. I hope he has a safe descent and more luck on his upcoming adventures," he added.



Summitting Mount Manaslu is a significant step towards his dream of becoming the youngest mountaineer to summit all 14 tallest peaks," the BARD Foundation, which sponsors Shehroze's expeditions said in a statement. Born on March 11, 2002, Shehroze made history by becoming the youngest climber in the world

to summit K2 on July 27, 2021. He also became the youngest Pakistani to summit Mount Everest on May 11, 2021. After the successful summit of Mount Everest, Sports Board Punjab made him the youth ambassador of Punjab. He summited Broad Peak at the age of 17, after which he was called 'The Broad Boy'. He start-

ed climbing mountains at the age of 11 with Makra Peak being the first one, followed by Musa ka Musalla and Chembra Peak at 12, Mingli Sar in Shimshal at 13, Khurdopin Pass at 15, and Khosar Gang in alpine style at 18 years of age. Shehroze currently holds two Guinness World Records for being the youngest to climb K2 and the youngest to climb Broad Peak. On May 5, 2022, he became the youngest in the world and the first Pakistani to reach the summit of Kangehenjunga - the third-highest peak in the world. On May 16, 2022, he summited the world's fourth-highest peak, Mount Lhotse (8,516m), in Nepal. On November 1, 2022, Shehroze was recognized by Guinness World Records for the year 2023 for summiting Mount Everest and K2. In May, 2023 he summited Nepal's Mount Dhaulagiri (8,167m), the seventh highest peak of the world.

In July 2022, Shehroze and Fazal Ali went missing between Camp 4 and Camp 3, after successfully summiting Nanga Parbat. However, the duo was discovered shortly after. Shehroze intends to summit all above 8,000m peaks before the year end.

Cheezious Honors Pakistan Blind Cricket Team

Spots Desk

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: Cheezious, the iconic fast-food brand that has been synonymous with spreading "cheezy khushiyian" (cheesy happiness) across Pakistan since 2012, is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its 30th branch, located at Kalma Chowk, Rawalpindi. This significant milestone underscores Cheezious' unwavering commitment to delivering mouth-watering and delectable food to the people of Pakistan.

In addition to its culinary success, Cheezious; a proud Pakistani brand is equally committed to making a positive impact in the community. As a responsible business, the brand actively participates in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. To commemorate the launch of the Kalma Chowk branch, Cheezious is proud to extend a warm welcome to the members of the Pakistan Blind Cricket Team. Five members of the Pakistan Blind Cricket Team will be the chief guests at this special event. In recognition of their brilliant achievements and championship win in Birmingham, Cheezious will be awarding cash prizes to these exceptional athletes, celebrating their outstanding contributions to Pakistani sports.

Mr. Zohaib Hassan, Head of Marketing of Cheezious, commented on this remarkable achievement, saying, "We are elated to celebrate a decade of culinary innovation and spreading joy through our cheesy creations. This 30th branch at Kalma Chowk, Rawalpindi, marks an important moment in our journey, and we remain committed to providing unparalleled taste experiences to our valued customers."

Since its inception, Cheezious has enjoyed exponential growth in the fast-food landscape, proudly representing Pakistan as the only food brand to expand remarkably within the last decade. With a passionate dedication to culinary excellence, Cheezious has captured the hearts and taste buds of countless customers, becoming a beloved fixture in the country's dining scene.

New Zealand to decide Tim Southee's World Cup fate after surgery

Spots Desk

New Zealand paceman Tim Southee's participation in next month's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will be decided after his surgery for a fractured and dislocated thumb, New Zealand Cricket said Wednesday.



Southee faces an operation on Thursday and his World Cup fate will be decided early next week, but New Zealand coach Gary Stead is hopeful the bowler can recover in time.

"We've got our fingers crossed the surgery goes well for Tim," Stead said.

Tim Southee, New Zealand's Test captain, will have pins or screws inserted in his thumb, Stead said.

"Providing the procedure is a success, it will be a matter of ensuring Tim can tolerate the pain and manage the actual wound when returning to train and play," Stead added.

The Black Caps coach hopes Southee plays in their World Cup opener against England in Ahmedabad on October 5.

Tim Southee suffered the injury last Saturday while dropping a catch off England's Joe Root in the final one-day international of the four-match series.

The New Zealander immediately looked to be in pain and left the field to go for a scan, failing to return.

The 34-year-old has taken 214 wickets in 157 ODIs.

"Tim's obviously a hugely experienced and important figure in our team. We want to give him every chance to be part of this World Cup campaign," Stead added.

New Zealand are bidding to reach a third straight final at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

The last edition's finalist New Zealand will travel to Bangladesh for a three-match ODI series, scheduled from September 21 to 26.

The Kiwis will be looking to win their first ODI series in Bangladesh in 15 years, having lost all seven matches to the hosts in the previous two series respectively in 2010 and 2013 but they will be without their key players including Tim Southee.

Bangladesh, who are yet to name their ICC Men's World Cup squad, also rested key players including regular captain Shakib Al Hasan along with all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz, batsman Mushfiqur Rahim, and pace trio Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud and Shoriful Islam.

Asian Games 2023: Pakistan's Zahid Iqbal advances to semi-finals in rowing

KARACHI: Pakistani rower Zahid Iqbal Khan on Wednesday advanced to the semi-finals of rowing in the ongoing Asian Games 2023 being held in Hangzhou, China.

Competing in the preliminary rounds of rowing's men's single sculls category, Khan showed exemplary prowess in the closely contested race.

The Pakistani rower completed the challenging 2,000-metre course in 7 minutes and 34.6 seconds securing a semi-final spot for Pakistan.

In contrast, in the doubles category, Pakistan's representatives, Asad Iqbal and Muzammil Shahzad, showed promise by clinching the third position in their heat. This achievement earned them a chance to compete in the Repechage round, where they will strive to secure a place in the finals.

Asian Games: Pakistan outwit Chinese Taipei in volleyball match

Spots Desk

HANGZHOU: Pakistan volleyball team showcased an exceptional performance as they secured a resounding victory against Chinese Taipei in the second and final pool match of the Asian Games at the Linping Sports Centre Gymnasium in Hangzhou, China on Wednesday. In a remarkable display of skill and teamwork, Pakistan dominated the court, winning all three sets with scores of 25-18, 25-20, and 25-19. This victory comes on the heels of their previous triumph against Mongolia, where they also registered a 3-0 win.



The Chinese Taipei team, which held the second position in the last Asian Games 2018, faced a formidable challenge from the Pakistani players. Pakistan team, previously ranked 8th in the Asian Games, has shown tremendous

improvement and determination in their recent performances. Meanwhile, Chairman of the Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF), Ch Muhammad Yaqoob, expressed his utmost appre-

ciation for the outstanding performance of the Pakistan volleyball team players and coaches. He commended their dedication and hard work, which has resulted in this impressive victory.

President of PVF Sohail Khawar Mir also extended his heartfelt congratulations to the entire team and the nation for this remarkable achievement. He emphasized the significance of the win in promoting the sport of volleyball in Pakistan and inspiring young athletes to pursue excellence. Team Manager of the Pakistan Volleyball Team, Naseer Ahmed, expressed his optimism for the team's future performances. He believed that the players' exceptional skills and unwavering determination would lead to even greater success in the upcoming matches. Pakistan team's triumph against Chinese Taipei marks a significant milestone in their journey towards becoming a force to be reckoned with in international volleyball. Their exceptional performance serves as a testament to their hard work, talent, and commitment to the sport.

Pakistan Women's team to face Indonesia in Asian Games quarter-final

A Sports

HANGZHOU: Pakistan Women's cricket team will take on Indonesia in the quarter-final of the Asian Games 2023 at Zhejiang University of Technology Pingfeng Cricket Field tomorrow.

The Nida Dar-led Pakistan earned direct qualification to the quarter-finals on the basis of being one of the top four-ranked T20 sides participating in the continental event.

On Tuesday, the Pakistan Women's cricket team conducted a robust training session at Zhejiang University of Technology Cricket field here.

The national players were engaged in rigorous fielding drills and also participated in the net sessions.

Pakistan last participated in 2010 and 2014 Asian Games and returned with the gold in each edition



Pakistan women's team will enter the Asian Games 2023 with momentum in their favour as they secured a historic white-wash against South Africa. "The team is in high spir-

its and every player is looking forward to the Asian Games. After practicing for two days here in Hangzhou, we are all set to play Indonesia tomorrow. The Asian Games hold a special place

in our hearts, and we are determined to bring home another gold medal," Dar was quoted as saying in a PCB press release.

"That we enter this tournament after having beaten South

Africa comprehensively in the T20I series will certainly help us and we look forward on carrying that momentum. The players are up for showcasing their skills on the field again."

The semi-finals of the cricket competition of the Asian Games 2023 will take place on September 24 while the final will be held on September 25 and also the third-place playoff for the Bronze medal.

Squad: Nida Dar (captain), Aliya Riaz, Anoosha Nasir, Diana Baig, Muneeba Ali, Najjha Alvi, Nashra Sundhu, Nataliya Parvaiz, Omaima Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiquar, Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah and Umm-e-Hani Player Support staff: Ayesha Ashhar (team manager), Mauhtashim Rashid (interim head coach), Saleem Jaffer (bowling coach), Taufiq Umar (batting coach) and Rifat Gill (physiotherapist).

ICC releases official anthem 'Dil Jashn Bole' for Cricket World Cup 2023

A Sports

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday, released the much-anticipated official anthem 'Dil Jashn Bole' for this year's Cricket Men's World Cup in India.

A collaboration between the Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh and coveted composer Pritam, the song named 'Dil Jashn Bole', which is just over 3 minutes, aims to capture the emotions of the widespread cricket community and unite them.

DILJASHN BOLE! #CWC23 OFFICIAL ANTHEM ARRIVING NOW ON PLATFORM 2023

BOARD THE ONE DAY XPRESS AND JOIN THE GREATEST CRICKET JASHN EVER!

CREDITS: MUSIC - PRITAM

LYRICS - SHLOKE LAL, SAAVERI VERMA SINGERS - PRITAM, NAKASH AZIZ, SREERAMA CHANDRA, AMIT MISHRA, JONITA... PIC. TWITTER.COM/09AK5B8STG - ICC (@ICC) SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

At the theme launch, Ranveer said it's an absolute honour to be a part of this, stating, as quoted by the official website.

"Being part of this anthem launch for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 is truly an honour. It's a celebration of the sport we all love.

"It's a celebration of the sport we all love," he said as quoted by ICC.

The 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will commence with defending champions England facing New Zealand at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad,

India on October 5.

The Green Shirts' will play a total of 11 matches in the World Cup, with four of them, including two warm-up matches and two group games, scheduled to take place in Hyderabad.

A total of 10 teams will participate in the ICC Men's World Cup - featuring 45 matches - and compete for the prestigious silverware across 10 venues from October 5 to November 19.

Like the previous edition, the ICC Men's World Cup 2023 will also be played in a round-robin format - each team playing nine matches with the rest of the opponents.

The top four teams by the end of the group stage will qualify for the semi-finals, scheduled to be held in Mumbai on November 15 and in Kolkata on November 16.

Whereas, the final of the tournament will take place

on November 19 at the grand Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Notably, all three knockout matches of the ICC Men's World Cup will have a reserve day.

Pakistan's schedule for the ICC World Cup 2023:

- October 6 - vs Netherlands in Hyderabad
- October 10 - vs Sri Lanka in Hyderabad
- October 14 - vs India in Ahmedabad
- October 20 - vs Australia in Bengaluru
- October 23 - vs Afghanistan in Chennai
- October 27 - vs South Africa in Chennai
- October 31 - vs Bangladesh in Kolkata
- November 4 - vs New Zealand Bengaluru (Day match)
- November 11 - vs England in Kolkata



The day matches will start at 10:00 am Pakistan Standard Time (PST) while all other matches will be day-night fixtures starting at 01:30 pm (PST).