

Gifted

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi presenting souvenir to former First Sea Lord Admiral Alan West of Royal Navy during Transfer Agreement Signing Ceremony of Ex Pakistan Navy Ship Tariq TO UK



PM lauds British Pakistani diaspora for their contributions

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Tuesday commended the dynamic British Pakistani diaspora for their significant contributions to both countries' development and urged them to consider the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as a valuable platform for investments in key sectors.



Lord Zameer Choudhry at the House of Lords, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The event was attended by a large number of British parliamentarians from various parties and a select group

of prominent members from the Pakistani community.

In his address, the prime minister assured the audience of Pakistan's resilience in the face of economic and political challenges, emphasizing the nation's strategic importance and youthful population.

Regarding Pakistan's democratic process, he reaffirmed the nation's commitment to democratic ideals, emphasizing the importance of an inclusive, free, and transparent election process.

The prime minister expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and underscored the enduring Pakistan-UK relationship grounded in shared values and aspirations.

The reception ended with a Q&A session, during which Prime Minister Kakar gave insightful replies to the questions from the British parliamentarians.

The event offered a great opportunity for a constructive dialogue on issues of shared interests

Sanjrani, Chinese Ambassador discuss bilateral ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zeidang discussed various matters of mutual interest, encompassing bilateral relations, economic collaboration, and coordination.

The determination to enhance bilateral cooperation across diverse sectors was reaffirmed, underlining the mutual benefits for both nations during the meeting, said a news release.

Furthermore, the meeting underscored the imperative for joint endeavors aimed at promoting peace, prosperity, and development in the region.

While extending his congratulations to Ambassador Jiang Zeidang on his new role, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani expressed optimism that the ambassador's substantial skills would contribute to stabilizing and fortifying the Paki-



stan-China relationship.

He commended China's commitment to regional peace and highlighted the necessity of bolstering cooperation in multilateral domains.

The discussions also encompassed the advancement of collaboration in agriculture and mining sectors.

Chairman Senate expressed his intent to draw inspiration from China's experiences in the realms of agriculture and mining, culminating in the potential strengthening of a "Strategic Cooperation Partnership" that would further enhance Pakistan-China relations.

He underscored the historical solidarity between the two nations, where they have consistently supported each other on various international platforms.

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani acknowledged the transformative impact of the "Pak-China Economic Corridor" project, ushering in a new era of joint development and prosperity.

Urging the expedited exchange of parliamentary delegations, he extended an invitation to the head of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China to visit Pakistan.

Chairman Senate high-

lighted Pakistan's investment-friendly environment and encouraged Chinese investors to explore opportunities for mutually beneficial projects.

Furthermore, the Chairman Senate noted that Chinese investments in Pakistan have generated valuable employment opportunities for the nation's youth and are instrumental in fostering regional development.

He expressed appreciation for the private sector investments from China in remote areas of Pakistan.

The chairman also recognized the global leadership

qualities of Chinese President Xi Jinping, commending his impactful writings, and suggested translating the book into Urdu.

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zeidang reaffirmed the close friendship between China and Pakistan, expressing China's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation.

He emphasized that China's experiences would contribute significantly to Pakistan's social and economic prosperity, expressing his happiness at being in Pakistan.

The ambassador also extended an invitation to Chairman Senate to visit China.

Additionally, he highlighted China's recent white paper titled "Common Future of Mankind," aimed at fostering global peace and development.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary Senate, Mohammad Qasim Samad Khan and Additional Secretary Asim Khan Guraya.

Pakistan Navy Ship Gifted To United Kingdom as Goodwill

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Transfer Agreement Signing Ceremony for the ex-Pakistan Navy Ship TARIQ to Falls of Clyde International (FOCI) of United Kingdom was organized at Pakistan High Commission in London. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the ceremony as Chief Guest. Former First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff Royal British Navy, Admiral Lord Alan West attended the ceremony as Guest of Honour. Ex PNS TARIQ was formerly decommissioned by Pakistan Navy on 4 Aug 23 and has been gifted by the Government of Pakistan to a UK based firm Falls of Clyde International (FOCI) that plans to convert the ship into a floating museum. The ship will be on static display at Clyde Maritime Heritage Centre in Glasgow as a symbol of common naval heritage of the Royal and Pakistan navies.

Speaking on the occasion, Admiral Lord Alan West said that the close relationship between the navies and nations of Pakistan and UK are clearly shown by the historic agreement focused on one ship that served both each countries over many years.

While addressing at the ceremo-

ny, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi acknowledged the meritorious services of PNS TARIQ for the defence of Pakistan. The Chief Guest hoped that handing over of TARIQ to FOCI will further strengthen the bonds of friendship between UK and Pakistan as the ship will continue to symbolize the shared maritime heritage of both the navies in times to come.

The historical ship served in the Royal Navy as HMS AMBUSCADE for 18 years and participated in the Falklands War before being inducted and re-commissioned in Pakistan Navy as PNS TARIQ in 1993. The ship served for over 3 decades in PN & distinguished herself on many operational deployments, earning the reputation of a versatile, agile and ever-ready combat ship. The ship was famously involved in Search and Rescue mission in Maldives during the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2005 which helped save precious lives of 377 tourists belonging to various nationalities.

The ceremony hosted by High commissioner of Pakistan to UK, H. E. Dr Mohammad Faisal was attended by Director FOCI, Mr David O'Neill, veterans from Royal Navy and representatives of Pakistani community in UK.

Jamal Shah proposes recommendations to fill gaps in ICESCO's initiatives

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Tuesday proposed several recommendations to enhance initiatives of Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) and emphasized the role of culture in transforming individuals into

productive contributors and agents of positive change. During his speech at the 12th Conference of ICESCO in Doha, the minister commended the host country, Qatar, Culture Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Abdulrehan bin Jasim Al Thani and Dr.

Salim M AlMalik, Director General of ICESCO, for organizing the significant conference.

According to a message received from Doha, he presented his recommendations to ICESCO, intending to address certain hidden gaps in their impressive list of initiatives.

Minister Jamal Shah suggested organizing a cultural caravan comprising tradition bearers from all member states.

This caravan would embark on a tour of member states, interacting with local counterparts in each country and creating transformative works of art and crafts.

The journey, he said, would culminate in the next cultural capital during the subsequent ICESCO conference, taking the form of a festi-

val and celebration, empowering children in the process.

He said that a similar initiative should target the youth of all member countries.

Leadership camps and talent hunt events would be planned to groom and empower young individuals as future leaders.

To infuse aesthetics among



students of religious seminaries and combat religious intolerance and extremism, Jamal Shah proposed teaching calligraphy.

The minister recommended creating huge Islamic public monuments in all capital cities of member countries.

These monuments would incorporate traditional and modern tools, including AI, virtual reality, as well as holograms and to serve as powerful sources to counter extreme views about art and culture.

Sarfarz Bugti visits police line HQs Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfarz Bugti here on Tuesday visited Police Line Headquarters and paid homage to the martyrs of the police.

He was received by Secretary Interior Aftab Durrani and ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan in police line headquarters where the minister laid the wreath on monument of martyrs and offered fatiha. Addressing the gathering, the minister said that the martyrs were blessed by the Allah almighty and were an asset for the country who sacrificed their lives for prosperous future of the nation.

He also inaugurated women driving center and visited central police office where he was greeted by the officers and briefed on the functioning of capital police. ICCPO informed the minister that capital police were actively running a campaign against drugs and smuggling and declining trend was witnessed in crimes.

Turkiye envoy, AJK Minister discuss bilateral relations

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR (AJK): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Minister Dr. Nisar Ansar Abdali Tuesday called on Türkiye's Ambassador to Pakistan Mehmet Paçacı in the federal metropolis and discussed matters of mutual interests including the exchange of bilateral cooperation between Türkiye and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The First Secretary, Trade Ambassador, and Education Council Minister of the Türkiye government were also present on the occasion. The minister extended congratulations to the Türkiye government, while the envoy warmly welcomed Dr. Nisar Ansar Abdali to the Türkiye embassy. Among the key topics discussed, there was a shared desire to establish a Turkish language center in Kashmir, promoting the Turkish language and culture. Additionally, plans were made to facilitate admissions for students in Turkish medical institutions. Highlighting opportunities for collaboration, Turkish companies were invited to engage in construction projects in Azad Kashmir. These projects encompassed crucial



areas such as hydraulic power generation, infrastructure development, waste management, and municipal services. In the fields of health, education, and agriculture, both sides emphasized the importance of technology transfer and regulatory aspects in joint projects. Dr. Nisar Ansar Abdali proposed a training visit for newly elected local representatives from Kotli district, Azad Kashmir, to Turkey, organized under the district government's management. Additionally, an invitation was extended to the Turkish Ambassador to participate in the Khoi Ratta Mela, with a commitment to full cooperation and involvement. This meeting signals a promising step toward enhanced collaboration and cultural exchange between Turkey and Azad Kashmir. Both parties expressed their commitment to furthering these initiatives for mutual benefit.

Speculations on petroleum products prices be avoided, says Solangi

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said that speculations regarding prices of petroleum products be avoided.

Using his X account, formerly Twitter, while tagging a news item of Khaleeq Kiani he said he appreciated the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) for asking everyone to avoid speculations.

Thanking Khaleeq Kiani the minister said, "I was not in the business of speculations. During a presser, I was asked if the prices of POL were about to go up north. I clearly said the prices of petroleum products are mainly determined keeping in the prices in the international market and the dollar-rupee exchange rate."

The minister clarified that he did mention a published report the same day predicting a price cut, without saying if that possibility was around the corner or not.

Murtaza Solangi said it remained



the domain of OGRA and it was the only body to make any announcement about the petroleum products prices.

The minister said he did not hint at what was reported in a national English daily. He said it would help both the newspaper and Khaleeq Kiani to listen to the question asked to him and his complete answer before making any conclusion about it.

The minister also shared a paragraph from the news report: "Interestingly, the hints at price reductions were made by caretaker commerce Minister Gohar Ijaz and Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, both of whom have no role in determining the prices."

India involved in state-sponsored terrorist activities in various countries: AJK President

Bureau Report

MIRPUR (AJK): Azad Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has said that India was not only involved in terrorist activities in the Indian-occupied Jammu & Kashmir but also in other countries.

The AJK president said this while speaking to a delegation of British Members of Parliament at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Tuesday.

The delegation was comprised of British MP and Chairman of Labor Friends of Kashmir UK Andrew Gwynne, Naz Shah, Sam Terry, and others.

Referring to the killing of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada by the agents of Indian spy agency RAW, he said, "The incident has proved beyond any reasonable doubt that India is a terrorist state that uses terrorism as a tool to achieve its objectives.

He said that the cold-blooded murder of the Sikh leader evoked widespread condemnations.

He said that many countries of the world, including the United States, Britain, and Europe have voiced their anguish over the killing and demand-



ed an independent investigation into the incident.

Referring to the precarious situation in the Indian-held territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the president said that it was high time the United Kingdom took a tough stand against

the systematic human rights violations being committed by the Indian forces against the Kashmiris.

He said that there was a dire need to counter India's negative propaganda against Kashmiris' legitimate struggle.

He said that the Modi government

was in the habit of spreading lies to whip up anti-Muslim sentiment in India to boost its electoral gains.

During the meeting, it was decided that a resolution on Kashmir would be passed in the Labor Party conference to be held in Great Britain on October 8.

Below the poverty

RAWALPINDI: An elder vendor is selling Beads (Tasbeeh) to earn bread and butter for his family alongside Murree Road in the city.



Photo: Online

PESCO recovered 43 lakhs in Tank, 26 FIRs registered

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: XEN PESCO Tank under the leadership of Rizwanullah Marwat is carrying out a grand operation against (Kunda) direct hook mafia and electricity thieves without discrimination.

XEN Said, PESCO has received fines of more than 43 lakh rupees from electricity thieves and deposited the amount in the national treasury, while the connections of 39 transformers have also been disconnected.

XEN Rizwan Marwat said that till now, cases of electricity theft have also been registered against 26 people.

XEN said, in a special conversation with the media, that the operation is



ongoing against electricity thieves on a daily basis.

He said, in the light of the instructions of the Secretary Power Division and the federal government, with the cooperation of the district administration and the police a tough operation is underway against electricity thieves.

Rizwan Marwat said, while talking to the media has said that a grand operation has been launched against electricity thieves in Tank District in different cities and areas.

He said, A special operation is underway in the city under the supervision of SDO Rehmat Ullah Burki,

Line Superintendent Fahim Ullah LS Adnan Khan, LS Kaleem Ullah, Divisional Chairman Gul Janan and General Secretary Hussain Ahmed Marwat.

He said, that electricity thieves will not be forgiven in any case and load shedding is being done due to electricity theft

He said, the lesser of theft, the more relief will be given to the consumers.

Rizwan Marwat further said that electricity thieves will not be spared in any way, and my office doors are open to the public.

He said, no one will be unnecessarily disturbing, God willing, Tank will be made a city of lights.

LCCI calls for export Raw Material Authority for export-oriented industries

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Progressive Group in the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry has called for establishing an "Export Raw Material Authority" in the country to promote such industries and sectors which can produce raw materials for export-oriented industries.

Group's central leader and LCCI Executive Committee member Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer in a statement issued here Tuesday said an authority could help in the efficient management of a country's natural resources. By regulating and controlling the raw materials, the authority could ensure that these resources were not depleted too quickly or unsustainably exploited.

An authority could encourage or mandate the processing of raw materials within the country before export. This could lead to the creation of more value-added products, which could fetch higher prices in the international market and create jobs domestically, he added.

He proposed that the government should extend a 10-year tax exemption to the industries producing raw materials for the export-oriented sectors. Similarly, these industries or sectors should be given loans on a priority basis and against low mark-up. Such units should also be given a one-time duty exemption on import of machinery of their use, while for setting up factories plots should also be given on 10-years easy installment.

Ejaz was of the view that this way government could generate revenue by imposing export taxes or royalties on the export of raw materials. This revenue could be used for public services, infrastructure development, or other national priorities.

However, he stressed that the success of an Export Raw Material Authority depends on effective governance, transparency, and a clear understanding of the country's economic goals and priorities. Additionally, it should be designed and implemented in a way that minimizes bureaucracy and corruption while maximizing the benefits for the country and its citizens, Ejaz concluded.

PM says Azad Kashmir funds to be equally distributed to ensure uniform development

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWLAKOT: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Ul Haq has said that funds would be distributed equally to ensure uniform development across the state.

Prime Minister Haq said this while addressing a review meeting of divisional and district officers held during his visit to Poonch Division here on Tuesday.

"Development funds were being released on the basis of equality for all the 33 constituencies of Azad Kashmir," he said.

The PM said that District Monitoring Committees (DMCs) were being formed to monitor electricity theft and progress on development projects including hospitals, schools, BHUs.

The DMCs, he said, would be comprised by local body representatives, media, political and civil society representatives.

He said that a biometric attendance system would be introduced in all government institutions to ensure that all employees mark their attendance on a daily basis.

He said that government employees would face music in case they fail to perform their duties properly.

Stressing the need for early completion of ongoing development projects, he said, there would be no problem with funds.

He said that a fifty crore rupees grant has been provided to each MLA for the development of their constituencies.

He said that the Prime Minister's House was open to all and anyone could visit it at any time.

He asked the officials of the Road and Highways Department to visit construction sites and check the work of the projects on the spot.

The PM also directed the Department of Physical Planning and Housing to release money for various ongoing schemes in the division.

"If we want cheap electricity, then we will have to stop electricity theft in Azad Kashmir", he said.

The review meeting was attended by former President and PM Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, Senior Minister Colonel Retired Waqar Noor, Faheem Akhtar Rabbani, Sardar Amir Altaf, Hasan Ibrahim and others. Whereas

Commissioner Poonch Division Sardar Sohail Azam, DIG Poonch Region Shehryar Sikandar, Deputy Commissioner Poonch Mumtaz Kazmi, Chief Engineer Highways and other senior government officials were also present at the meeting.

AIOU to celebrate World Teachers Day on Oct 5

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that the nations who give due respect and honor to their teachers always progress and flourish. AIOU is organizing a mega event on account of World Teachers' Day in collaboration with UNESCO and Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) on November 5, 2023, to pay tribute to teachers and Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi will grace the event as chief guest.

Director General, PIE, Dr. Muhammad Shahid Saroya, representatives of UNESCO, Ministry of Education, Directorate of Education and teachers from various colleges and universities will participate in this event. A meeting was held yesterday to review the preparations for the event and seven different committees have been formed to finalize the preparations. 6 Teachers will share their success stories along with a panel discussion among the teachers. This event will be telecasted live at the regional offices of AIOU in Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, Gilgit and Muzaffarabad where local teachers will also participate.

Trans Fats and Non-Communicable Disease in Pakistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs), including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, and diabetes have assumed a frightening proportion in Pakistan over the years.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO-2016), 6 out of 10 deaths are attributed to NCDs in the country.

More than 33 million Pakistani adults are now living with diabetes (IDF 2021), making it the third-largest concentration of affected people in the world.

It would be shocking to know that more than 400,000 people are dying every year in the country, due to complications from chronic diabetes.

On the other hand, every 4th person out of ten is overweight or obese (Step Survey 2014-15).

Cardiovascular diseases have also

risen sharply during the decade (2009-19) due to obesity and overweight, whereas Ischemic heart diseases have become the 2nd biggest cause of death now.

Even the younger ones are not safe, as the prevalence of overweight among children under five has almost doubled from 2011 to 2018.

Several research studies have stated that the consumption of Ultra-Processed Foods (UPFs) and drinks such as "fast food", "convenience foods", soft drinks, sugary drinks, processed meat, and others is associated with obesity and several chronic NCDs.

UPFs are commonly described as processed ingredients typically combined with sophisticated use of additives to make them edible, palatable, and habit-forming.

Health experts believe that there is also a strong connection between rising NCDs and the consumption of

"Trans-fatty Acids" (TFAs), predominantly sourced from 'Partially Hydrogenated Oils' (PHOs).

The consumption of PHO, a primary source of TFAs, remains widespread in Pakistan, posing a significant threat to public health.

That is why local health experts are calling for the adoption of a hybrid approach, combining global best practices, and developing a comprehensive indigenous strategy that involves legislative and administrative actions, government leadership, civil society engagement, and media advocacy.

It is imperative to adopt a hybrid approach, encompassing both WHO-recommended strategies to effectively address the crisis.

While the government has taken initial steps to regulate the production and supply of unhealthy foods by setting limits on TFAs in certain products, there are still gaps to be addressed.



Evidence from successful policy transformations in other countries underscores the critical role played by government commitment.

Achieving these objectives necessitates a multi-pronged strategy that combines legislative and administrative measures.

Government leadership is pivotal,

with a need for strong ownership of the policy changes.

For instance, setting a maximum limit on industrially produced TFAs ensures that the food industry adheres to strict TFA content standards.

Simultaneously, a ban on PHO eliminates a major source of TFAs from the food supply.

The effectiveness of these regulations remains contingent on comprehensive implementation.

Civil society engagement acts as a linchpin in driving policy change.

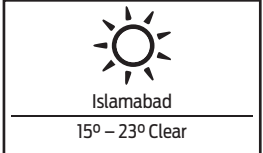
Coalitions comprising diverse stakeholders, including health experts, advocacy groups, and concerned citizens, are essential.

These coalitions wield influence by uniting constituents with various strengths to advocate for trans-fat elimination and other health priorities.

The media's role is equally important and serves as a potent tool for disseminating information, raising awareness, and mobilizing public opinion.

Building and demonstrating broad support for trans-fat elimination requires media advocacy and social mobilization as well.

Engaging the media effectively can generate significant momentum for policy change.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:35 am
Zohr 11:59 am
Asr 4:17 pm
Maghrib 6:00 pm
Isha 7:23 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib Joins BISP as New Chairperson

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman BISP, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, was comprehensively briefed about BISP and its multi-faceted initiatives aimed at uplifting the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable segments of society, which includes Benazir Kafalat, Benazir Taleem Wazaf, and the Benazir Nashonuma Programme.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss the pivotal role of the National Socioeconomic Registry (NSER), Dynamic Registry in the registration of impoverished families in BISP. Furthermore, the discussion extended to the forthcoming Hybrid Social Protection initiative, which promises to bring transformative changes in the lives of beneficiaries and non-formal workers.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, the newly appointed Chairman BISP, Board, emphasized the need to promote financial literacy and social agenda among BISP beneficiaries. He expressed a strong desire to enhance the image of BISP by improving payment mechanisms through banks and addressing the grievances of beneficiaries. He called for unwavering support from the BISP team to collectively move in the right direction.

Chairperson BISP also stressed the importance of ensuring transparency, missionary spirit and credibility within the organization, making it more appealing for both organizations and individual philanthropists to contribute towards its noble cause.

A Commitment to a Greener Future, Sustainable Hospitality and Tourism in Pakistan

Message by Deputy Chairman & CEO, Hashoo Group, Murtaza Hashwani, on World Tourism Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's hospitality & tourism industry is poised for a remarkable transformation. From the enchanting northern valleys to the historical treasures in the south, our nation offers a diverse tapestry of experiences for travellers. As we celebrate World Tourism Day 2023 under the theme "Tourism and Green Investment," it is an opportune moment to reaffirm our collective dedication to sustainable and eco-conscious tourism, a sector with boundless potential for our country and the world.

This global observance underscores the critical importance of channeling investments into initiatives that benefit People, through education and skill development, Planet, via sustainable infrastructure and accelerated green transformation, and Prosperity, by foster-

ing innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship.

At Hashoo Group, we ardently believe in investing in people and society. The Hashoo Foundation has been providing training and capacity building to over 10,000 individuals in the tourism sector, covering areas such as hotel management, professional culinary arts, food & beverages services, and reception operation services. These training programs have played a pivotal role in assisting local communities in developing the skills and knowledge necessary for the sustainable management of tourism.

In addition to this, through the recent establishment of the Hashoo School of Hospitality Management (HSHM) in various cities, we are actively contributing to the creation of a skilled workforce and generating numerous opportunities for the youth of Pakistan.



Moreover, we are staunch advocates for investing in our planet. The Hashoo Foundation has been actively promoting

the green economy through a multifaceted approach that includes the advancement of Sustainable Methods and Resilient Technology (SMaRT) villages and the encouragement of environmentally friendly green tourism. The village projects in Gurnjor and Minapin have significantly improved the lives of more than 10,000 villagers. These projects have granted villagers access to clean water and sanitation facilities, assisted farmers in adopting more sustainable agricultural practices, and successfully installed renewable energy systems within the villages.

Our comprehensive Net-Zero initiatives spanning all our properties and our ongoing tree plantation campaigns at our resort hotels, as well as the recent tree plantation collaboration with the Capital Development Authority in Islamabad, exemplify our unwavering commitment

to green investment. The natural beauty of Pakistan and the warmth of its people should not only be cherished by the present generation but also safeguarded for posterity. Our commitment to sustainability holds the power to redefine the sector, elevating it from a mere source of revenue to a potent catalyst for positive change.

Together, let us embark on this voyage toward sustainable tourism and green investment. In doing so, we ensure that Pakistan's pristine landscapes, culturally rich heritage, and unmatched hospitality endure as everlasting gifts to the world. Let us collectively envision a future where tourism and green investment are not disparate endeavours but harmonious forces, working in tandem to preserve the beauty and vitality of our precious planet. Together, we can turn this vision into a reality. Happy World Tourism Day!

Action

ISLAMABAD: Workers are cutting trees' stems along the Margala Road, in the name of tree shaping, which needs the strict action and inquiry to prevent the natural beauty of Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Strengthening stakeholder collaboration, inclusiveness and digitalized access of climate related data stressed

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: "We have failed at the federal level to develop a comprehensive coordination mechanism needed for effective and efficient mobilization of sub-national disaster management authorities" said Ahmed Kamal, Chairman, Federal Flood Commission. He was speaking at a seminar titled "Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Policy Implementation in Pakistan in line with the Sendai Framework" jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Oxfam and partners here today.

Syed Moez Kakakhel, Country Director, HelpAge International, said that "It is an unfortunate fact that most of the climate action policies are devised taking into consideration the needs and



demand of youth, leaving them less responsive to the needs of elderly and other vulnerable groups undermining resilience".

Fahim Ahmed, Program Development Manager, SPO, our response to disasters has been reactive and not anticipatory which undermines the resilience of local communities. He said that at the national and global levels, DRR chal-

lenges are similar and must be addressed by adopting a multi-hazard approach to build the capacity and resilience of local communities.

Author of the paper, Salman Danish, Research Associate, SDPI pointed out that global community responding to 2022 floods in Pakistan with debt financing instead of humanitarian aid, lack of adequate humanitarian action

skills and capacity have resulted in many gaps in the alleviating the sufferings of the victims. He stressed that DRR policies must ensure inclusiveness in addressing the needs of elderly end differently-abled persons, improve timely access to information and increase awareness of local communities.

Alishba Khan, Operations Analyst, UNDP, the project design should be inclusive and must address the needs of not only women and differently-abled persons but transgenders by adopting a community pull model. She stressed that ensuring financial sustainability by exploring diverse climate finance services and integrating technological innovation are crucial for effective disaster risk resilience.

We must explore financing mechanisms other than GCF.

Fatiha Khwani held to pay tribute to NPC members and their deceased relatives



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Press Club Islamabad organized a collective Fatiha Khwani in which PFUJ President Afzal Butt, NPC President Anwar Raza, Qaim Maqam was organized to pay tribute to NPC members and their deceased relatives. Secretary Waqar Abbasi, Leader of Pakistan People's Party Syed Sabbatul Haider Bukhari, General Secretary RIUJ Tariq Ali Work, Secretary Finance Kashan Akmal, Senior Journalist Hafiz Tahir Khalil, Former President RIUJ Aamir Sajjad Syed, Former President RIU Jay Mubarak Zeib Khan, Member Governing Body Aamir Rafiq Butt, Raja Bashir Usmani, Jafar Ali Balti, Ehtsham Kayani, Senior Vice President of RIUJ Izhar Khan Niazi, Syed Mohsin Raza, Sharjeel Amjad Rao, Faisal Hakeem, Rana Zahid Hussain along with a large number of people belonging to different schools of thought, including senior journalists of the twin cities, political and social figures, attended the event. Ms. Wife of Gulzar Khan of Akhbar Haq, Ms. Mother of Jawad Faizi of PTV, Ms. Father of Jahan Pakistan Chief Reporter Asim Jilani, Ms. Father of Chaudhry Qurban, Ms. Wife of Late Tariq Mehmood of Hum News, Ms. Mother of Umar Hayat of Bol News Mother of Amjad Sati, Mother of Khanzeb Mehsud of Online, Father of Hanif Abid of Lead Pakistan, Father of Rana Kamran Safdar, Mother of Chief Editor Syed Saqib Hussain Rizvi of Daily Zikr Jahan, Brother of Shujaat Ali of Sama TV, mother-in-law of Nacem Ahmed Khan of APP, father-in-law of Syed Qaiser Zulfikar, father-in-law of Javed Shah, father-in-law of Zahid Farooq Malik of Bol News, sister-in-law of Tanveer Shahzad of Dawn News, cousin of Syed Qaiser Shah of Daily Dunya, B. Izhar Khan Niazi's cousin, cousin of Center's Kamran Ali Abbasi, brother-in-law of Sun News Rana Zahid Hussain, aunt of The News' Asim Yasin, nephew of Rana Kausar Ali, maternal uncle of Waqar Kazmi and cousin of Muhammad Shafiqat. Cousins included.

SECP amends AML/CFT Regulations, 2020

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has introduced important amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Regulations, 2020. The notified amendments aim to enhance the scope of regulations to effectively combat financial crimes, control money laundering, and combat the financing of terrorism (CFT) while ensuring the integrity of its financial system. The amendments to the SECP AML/CFT Regulations 2020 are the outcome of the National Risk Assessment 2023, in which SECP conducted a self-assessment of its AML/CFT regulatory framework against the criteria used in the FATF Assessment Methodology for assessing Technical Compliance of its AML/CFT regulatory framework. The amendments, introduced post stakeholder's consultation, demonstrate SECP's commitment to enhancing the country's regulatory framework and aligning it with international best practices. The amendments to the SECP AML/CFT Regulations 2020 primarily focus on expanding the regulatory framework to encompass measures specifically tailored for Customer Due Diligence (CDD) requirements related to account opening of Mentally Disordered Person.

Launching ceremony of STEM initiative successfully held at Lahore

City Desk

LAHORE: The Launching ceremony of STEM education was successfully held at the Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) in Lahore. The event commenced at 9:00 am and was organized by the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC). The Launching ceremony was attended by Honorable Mr. Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman, Governor Punjab, as Chief Guest, Engr. Muhammad Najeeb Haroon, Chairman, PEC and Prof. Dr. Shagufta Naz, Vice Chancellor, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore (LCWU), Ms. Sania Kamran, PEC Governing Body Members (GB) and other eminent dignitaries.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Governor Punjab, Honorable Mr. Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman. He first extended warmest greetings to Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) for conduction of the launch ceremony

of STEM initiative. Further, he mentioned that a significant milestone has been taken today in our journey towards fostering a culture of innovation, scientific exploration, and technological advancement in our nation. STEM education is the cornerstone of progress in the modern world, and by investing in it, we are investing in the future of our nation.

Engr. Muhammad Najeeb Haroon, Chairman, PEC congratulated engineering fraternity on the launching ceremony of STEM education. He further mentioned that it is momentous occasion as we gather here to celebrate the launch of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. This initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering a brighter future for our youth and our nation as a whole.

Prof. Dr. Shagufta Naz, Vice Chancellor, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore (LCWU), marked

the event a momentous occasion as we gather here to celebrate the launch of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. This initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering a brighter future for our youth and our nation as a whole. STEM education is the cornerstone of progress in the modern world. It equips students with the critical skills needed to navigate an increasingly complex and technology-driven global landscape. It empowers them to dream, innovate, and create solutions to the challenges of our time.

Engr. Mir Masood Rashid, Convener-PPDC applauded its team for conduction of successful launching of STEM Education. He further presented PEC Pakistan Development Committee Ten (10) projects initiated till date. Moreover, he apprised that with STEM education as our compass, we can steer our nation towards a future filled with innovation, prosper-



ity, and limitless potential. Hence, let us work together to nurture the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators.

Ms. Sania Kamran, also appreciated the efforts of PEC Pakistan Development Committee (PPDC) and thanked Governor Punjab for attending the event. She also highlighted the importance of STEM education being implemented by PEC across the nation.

Engr. Prof. Dr. Aqsa Shabbir, LCWU, Lahore also highlighted the importance of STEM education and briefed LCWU, Lahore dedication towards the implementation of STEM initiative and ensured their full support.

At last, in Urdu speeches 1st prize was given to Muhammad Ayan of Government Model Boys School Shadman, Lahore, 2nd Prize was given to

Muhammad Ali & Irtza Kamran, City School Khanewal & Boys Crescent Shadman, Lahore and 3rd prize was given to Zitmer, Zainab Tahir & Maham Shafiq of Girls Campus Progressive Wahdat Road, Lahore & SHE Schools

Moreover, in English speeches 1st prize was given to Maryam Azeem, SHC School, 2nd Prize was given to Faraz Mehmood & Mehanhil Fatima, IVY prep & The Punjab School and 3rd prize was given to Yashfa Tahir, Amam Tanveer & Abdullah Azeem, Fair Filed High School, Forbels International & City School Model Town link Road Campus

The Launching ceremony of STEM Education was ended with the enthusiasm for promotion of STEM education by all concerned stakeholders with a view that STEM is not just a set of disciplines; it is a gateway to understanding and improving the world around us.

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Corridor Contest

India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor Vs BRI

Dr. Hasan Yaser Malik

Ever since the construction of Suez Canal in 1869 and Marshall Plan 1948 the economic corridors are emerging and Chinese BRI since 2013 is expanding as the largest one which is not only affecting the US but is also challenging for US supported Europe. Since the start of China-US economic war in 2018, Washington has been asserting to influence Beijing in Asia-Pacific Region with help of its allies in form of various military and economic alliances like AUKUS and QUAD; whereas with a view to counter Chinese diplo-economic influence in the Hydrocarbon rich Middle Eastern Region and to avoid the implications of Chinese 4500 km long Sixth Island Chain in Atlantic from Trinidad to Tobago; Washington concluded Abraham Accord between Israel, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain on September 15, 2020 which has ultimately led to idea of India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC); a multimodule geo-eco and strategic initiative basing on supply chain and trade, announced during G-20 conference on 10 Sep 2023. The plan details involving government commitments, custom and tax considerations among eight member coun-

tries are likely to be finalized by the end of 2023. However, a few of its significant facets includes incentivising new investments by connecting Asia and Europe for primarily exporting of clean energy, strengthening supply chains and ensuring food security through a Ship-Rail Transit Network with only a 300km long Jordan-Haifa railway line left under construction. The 20 bn USD initiative is expected to not only cause 40 per cent increase in trade between India and Europe but will also reduce traveling time by 40 and commodity price by 30 per cent.

While comparing this US backed initiative with BRI it is worth mentioning that BRI involves 150 countries, 30 international organisations worth 1 trillion USD, whereas IMEC consists of only eight countries. Moreover, IMEC includes BRI members like UAE, KSA and Italy. BRI is being projected as debt trap as it includes agreement between a global power and under developing countries whereas IMEC due to its built geo-eco facet promotes autonomy of all members.

The recent expansion of BRICS including the KSA, Egypt and Iran will emerge as challenge for the IMEC as KSA is part of BRICS as well and is the second largest oil exporting country while exporting 1.9 million barrels of oil per day to China, moreover since

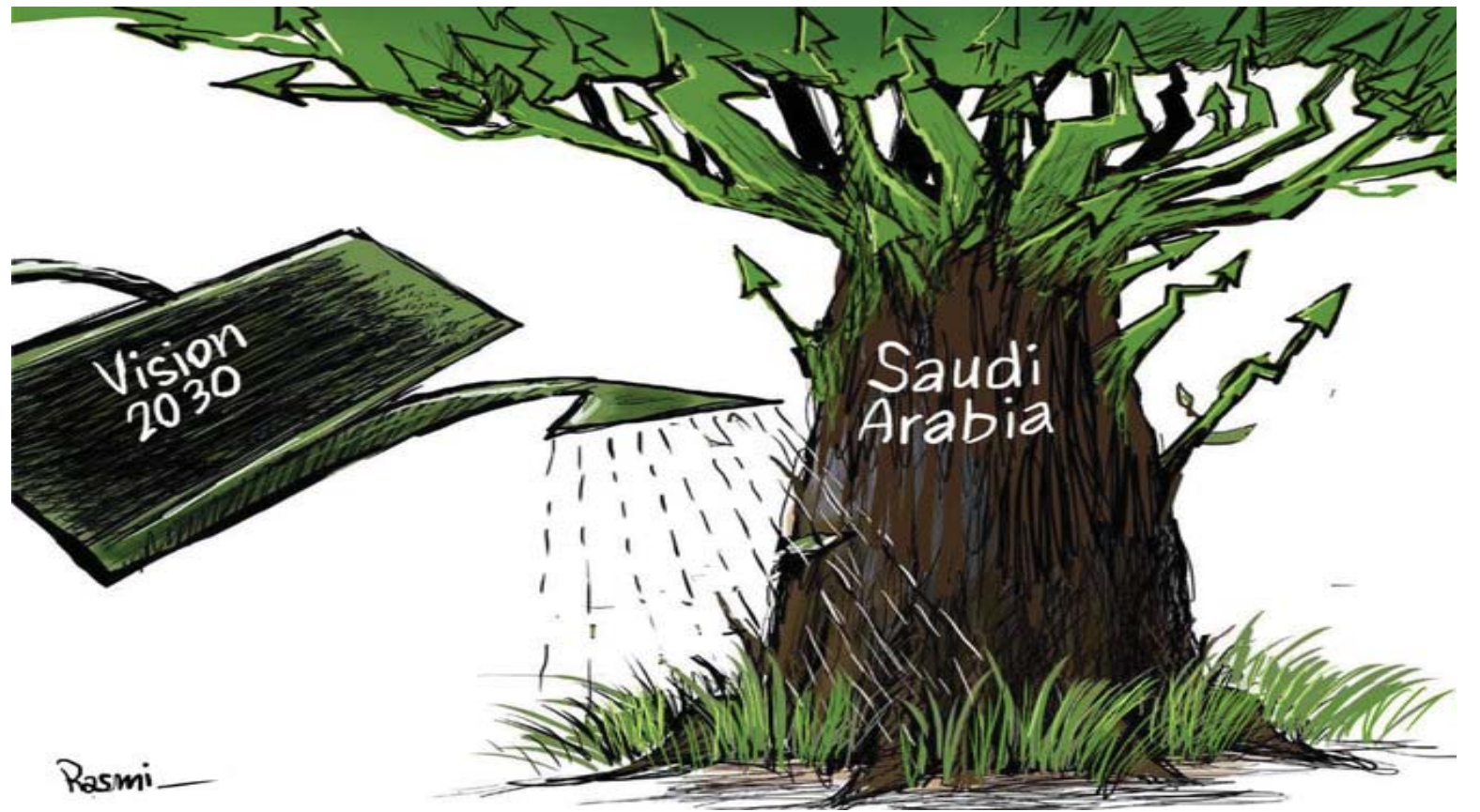


adoption of Iran-China 25-Year Comprehensive Strategic Partnership worth 400 billion USD the IMEC objective of energy transportation will not be able to make any substantial influence in the region or even beyond.

Indian eco commitments and dependence in the Muslim ports and countries as part of IMEC can be leveraged for the interest of Indian Muslims and Kashmir in later time frame. Moreover, being US backed IMEC will have to tackle Chinese overtures as well. IMEC does not appear to eco-challenge for Beijing as China holds eco control over more than 100 ports around the world including Piraeus (67 per cent shares) which is IMEC's primary European terminus. The envisaged expansion of IMEC in South China Sea by making efforts to involve Taiwan in IMEC on Washington's behest will definitely be countered by Beijing. The initiative is likely to make the Indian aspiration of International North South Transportation Corridor and Chabahar

port development as superfluous. Considering the Indian, KSA and Israel's growing geo-eco involvement with China it seems that IMEC will indirectly be supporting BRI and ultimately the CPEC in a decade or so. It is noteworthy to understand that a regional Eurasian country Turkey has not been involved into it, perhaps due to Middle Corridor between China and Europe through Caspian Sea. The good thing is that no military Cooperation has been pronounced as part of IMEC initiative and it can soon be operationalised as only 300 km long under construction railway is left out of 1440 km and rest 80 per cent which has already been completed. Considering the ever emerging global geo-economic dependence and Chinese increasing global diplo-economic influence the corridor contest will ultimately be directly or indirectly supporting BRI and CPEC.

Write is Ph. D in International Relations and Fellow Research Member with Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transportation (UK), Member Board of Advisor "The Beacon" Research Journal of Pakistan Navy War College, Fellow Research Member with Environ Monitor, Fellow Research Member with National Foundation for Environment Education & Research, Research Member with ResearchGate, Director Thinkers Forum of Pakistan



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

Recognition of Israel on the Anvil - II

Pakistan's stance against Israel appears to be self-contradictory when viewed in the context of its foreign policy. It's worth noting that there are indeed some notable paradoxes in Pakistan's approach to international relations. Ironically, the Palestinian issue bears a striking resemblance to the Kashmir issue; both involve the desire for self-determination. Palestinians seek emancipation from Israeli occupation, while Kashmiris aspire to freedom from India's rule. Yet, Pakistan maintains full diplomatic relations with India, engaging in both formal and informal channels of communication, even during challenging times, to advocate for its stated position on Kashmir.

India and Israel have established a robust defense partnership, characterized by the supply of advanced military technology, including missile defense systems and surveillance equipment from Israel. This sensitive surveillance and antiterrorism technology acquired by India is blatantly used in Kashmir to maintain control over the region. This has raised concerns about its impact on the Kashmiri population and their aspirations for self-determination. Pakistan faces challenges in acquiring similar technology to effectively counter terrorism from its own soil and lacks the influence to prevent Israel from providing such technology to India for use in Kashmir.

Interestingly, Pakistan has no direct border or conflict with Israel. Its opposition to Israel primarily revolves around the Palestinian issue, making its stance seem disproportionate and lacking regional or international implications. In contrast, neighboring countries with Israel, despite facing complex issues such as territorial, religious, ethnic, water-related, and social and cultural conflicts, are either recognizing Israel willingly or succumbing to pressure from the United States and the Western world.

Given these contradictions, Pakistan's approach to Israel should align more closely with its stance on India or even adopt a more pragmatic and balanced approach in the interest of regional stability and international diplomacy.

In this backdrop, the policy statement by our caretaker foreign minister in the USA carries a much softer position. Instead of repeating the same senseless, public pressure driven statement, he said that the decision of Pakistan to recognize Israel will be based upon the interests of the Pakistani and Palestinian people.

The recognition of Israel is a complex and sensitive issue with both potential benefits and drawbacks. Such decisions in international relations are influenced by a multitude of factors, including political, economic, social, and strategic

Devaluation of the currency of Pakistan and its impact on the local trade - II

Attiya

Taken together, these factors contribute to the devaluation of the Pakistani rupee, affecting the country's economy and trade.

The devaluation of the currency in Pakistan can bring several advantages to the country's economy. While devaluation may initially lead to certain challenges, such as increased import costs and inflationary pressures, it can also offer significant benefits in the long run. Here are some advantages of currency devaluation in Pakistan like, Boosting Export Competitiveness, Reducing Trade Deficit, Attracting Foreign Investment, Boosting the Tourism and Services Sector:

It is important to note that currency devaluation should be managed carefully to mitigate any adverse effects, such as inflation. Effective policies and measures should be implemented to ensure that the benefits of devaluation are effectively channeled into sustainable economic growth, job creation, and development.

The devaluation of the Pakistani currency can also bring about certain disadvantages and challenges for the country's economy. While devaluation may offer short-term benefits, it is essential to consider its potential negative consequences. Here are some disadvantages of currency devaluation in Pakistan:

Inflationary Pressures, Higher Import Costs, Debt Burden, Negative Impact on Standard of Living. It is crucial for policymakers to implement comprehensive strategies to mitigate the potential disadvantages of currency devaluation. Measures such as controlling inflation, promoting domestic production and investment, and diversifying the export base, help minimize the negative impacts and ensure a balanced approach to currency management.

The devaluation of the Pakistani rupee has a significant impact on local trade within the country like Boost to Export Competitiveness, Increased Export Earnings, Import Substitution, Increased Demand for Local Products. The devaluation of the rupee can act as a catalyst for promoting domestic consumption and supporting the "Buy Made in Pakistan" initiative.

Overall, the impact of currency devaluation on local trade in Pakistan is a mixed bag. While it can provide benefits to exporters and boost competitiveness, it may also pose challenges for importers and contribute to inflationary pressures. Effective policy measures and a

balanced approach to currency management are crucial to harnessing the advantages of devaluation while mitigating its potential negative effects on local trade and the broader economy.

To mitigate the disadvantages of the devaluation of the Pakistani currency, several measures can be taken to support local trade and the overall economy:

Development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs): Encourage major investments from countries like China and others in SEZs that focus on export-oriented industries. This approach will stimulate export growth and attract foreign direct investment, leading to job creation and technology transfer. Infrastructure Development by Investing and improving the infrastructure surrounding SEZs and industrial areas. Upgrading transportation networks, logistics, and supply chain systems, and ensuring reliable power and water supply will enhance the efficiency of production and export processes. Discouraging Hoarding: Regulate and monitor hoarding activities to prevent artificial scarcity and price inflation. Boosting Foreign Remittances: Promote mechanisms for overseas Pakistanis to send remittances back home. Focus on reducing unnecessary imports while ensuring the availability of essential goods. Analyze import patterns, prioritize domestic production, and support local industries to meet the country's basic needs. This will reduce dependence on imports and strengthen self-sufficiency.

Prudent Fiscal Policies: Shift away from a debt-driven economy and adopt prudent fiscal policies to reduce budget deficits and promote savings. Encouraging investment in productive sectors will lead to sustainable economic growth and reduce reliance on external funding sources. Exploring the alternative trade arrangements, such as barter agreements, to obtain goods and resources at more favorable terms. This can reduce dependence on conventional trading routes and provide cost advantages for businesses, ultimately contributing to economic growth. Finally, encouraging investment by creating an investor-friendly environment by implementing policies, incentives, and favorable business conditions to attract both domestic and foreign investment.

By implementing these measures, Pakistan can mitigate the disadvantages of currency devaluation and foster a resilient economy that promotes stability, growth, and prosperity for its people.

The writer is a Civil Servant and a Chevening Scholar. She can be reached at attiyajad@yahoo.com

PAEC Hospital NORI designated as IAEA "Anchor Centre"

PAEC Hospital NORI, Islamabad is designated as IAEA "Anchor Centre" to Enhance Member States' Capabilities in Cancer Research which is a significant achievement.

At a signing ceremony held in Vienna, organized on the sidelines of the 67th Session of the General Conference of the IAEA, Pakistan's Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI) has been designated as an Anchor Centre under the IAEA's "Rays of Hope initiative".

On behalf of Pakistan, the Anchor Centre Agreement was signed by Dr.

Raja Ali Raza Anwar, Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) alongside the Director General of the IAEA, Rafael Mariano Grossi, said a news release.

Anchor Centres are designated cancer treatment facilities which work with the IAEA to support and provide relevant expertise in the respective region.

These centres are part of the IAEA's Rays of Hope (RoH) initiative, which aims to assist Member States in establishing or expanding their capacities in radiotherapy and multimodality medical imaging.

Moreover, the designated Anchor Centres will train fellows, organise training courses for healthcare providers, participate in IAEA Coordinated Research Projects, promote networking, and provide experts and mentorship to other radiotherapy and medical imaging centres in their region.

Along with Pakistan, Anchor Centre Agreements with cancer institutes from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Turkiye were also signed during the ceremony.

Within the health sector in Pakistan, the PAEC has used nuclear and other advanced techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of cancerous and allied diseases.

It is actively involved in the national cancer awareness, prevention, and diagnosis and treatment program.

NORI, one of the 19 cancer hospitals run by PAEC, established in 1983 in Islamabad, is a state-of-the-art facility and the only fully fledged tertiary care cancer hospital of Pakistan specifically designed for diagnosing and treating cancer patients, equipped with state of the art equipment including Cyberknife.



Qamar Bashir

China to consolidate cooperation, mutual trust with Egypt: senior CPC official

Xinhua

CAIRO: China will work together with Egypt to implement the important consensus reached by the two countries' heads of state and consolidate political mutual trust, said a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) during his visit to Egypt.

Li Xi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks here when meeting with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi.

Li paid an official friendly visit to Egypt from Saturday to Monday.

Conveying cordial greetings of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Sisi, Li noted that the two heads of state in recent years have conducted in-depth exchanges on bilateral ties, multilateral cooperation, and governance, providing fundamental guidance for the development of bilateral relations against the backdrop of ongoing global changes.

China will continue to extend mutual support with Egypt on issues concerning each other's core interests, said Li, adding that China will promote the synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and Egypt Vision

2030.

Li, also secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, expressed the hope that the two sides will enhance interparty exchanges and anti-corruption cooperation.

China congratulates Egypt on being invited to join the BRICS cooperation mechanism, and stands ready to cement coordination and collaboration with Egypt on global and regional affairs, he said.

Sisi asked Li to convey his good wishes to Xi, hailing China's remarkable development achievements scored under the leadership of Xi, and noting China's development is unstoppable.

Speaking highly of the fruitful China-Egypt Belt and Road cooperation, Sisi said Egypt is willing to strengthen cooperation with China in such areas as infrastructure, agriculture, tourism and finance. He stated that more Chinese companies are welcome to invest in Egypt.

Egypt always firmly adheres to the one-China principle, said Sisi, expressing gratitude to China for support Egypt in joining the BRICS. Sisi also spoke highly of the global initiatives proposed by Xi and expected China to play a bigger role in international affairs.

During talks with Speaker of the Egyptian Senate and Chairman of the Nation's Future Party Abdel-Wahab Abdel-Razeq, Li said that in recent years, under the leadership of the two heads of state, bilateral political mutual trust has become more solid, cooperation achievements have become more fruitful, people-to-people exchanges have been strengthened, and people's hearts have become closer.

Li said that the CPC attaches great importance to strengthening friendly exchanges with Egypt's Nation's Future Party and other political parties, supports Egypt in exploring a development path that conforms to its national conditions, and is willing to share the development opportunities brought by China's modernization drive.

"We hope that both sides can fully leverage the role of interparty exchanges in deepening conceptual exchanges, promoting practical cooperation, and promoting people-to-people communication, in order to raise China-Egypt comprehensive strategic partnership to a higher level," Li said.

Li also expressed the willingness to enhance anti-corruption cooperation with Egypt.

Abdel-Razeq said Egypt's Nation's



Future Party attaches great importance to exchanges with the CPC and hopes to strengthen exchanges and mutual learning in cadre training,

poverty alleviation, anti-corruption and other fields. During his stay in Egypt, Li visited the Central Business District (CBD)

project in the new administrative capital, which is being constructed by Chinese companies. Li also traveled to Aswan province in the south.

UAE ties with Dutch

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and Dutch PM Mark Rutte in Abu Dhabi. (WAM)



British Council IELTS launches One Skill Retake in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: British Council IELTS test takers who do not achieve their desired results first time around will no longer have to resit the full test, after the launch of a game-changing new feature. One Skill Retake increases a test taker's chances of success by offering them the opportunity to retake just one section of the IELTS test, whether it's Listening, Reading, Writing, or Speaking. The format and timing of the test is the same as the section which examines the individual skill in a normal IELTS test, but test takers can save time cutting out the need to complete the other three skills.

Andrew Mackenzie, Director of IELTS at the British Council, said One Skill Retake was created after listening to IELTS customer feedback: "We know that with the right preparation and support, our test takers can achieve their best score on test day."

Spike in allergies identified at Maroof Int'l Hospital's Free Medical Camp



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Maroof Int'l Hospital placed a follow up Free Medical Camp at Resham Berkat Memorial Hospital Nala Musalmana; a hilly & marginalized locality in Tehsil Rawalpindi with limited medical facilities. The aim was to provide comprehensive health check-ups, and free medicines especially in the wake of rising virus of skin disease, diarrhea & conjunctivitis among others, due to environmental changes. The camp featured medical professionals in Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, Pulmonology, General Surgery & Pediatrics.

About 300 patients of the local community were consulted among which, 258 were women & children and the remaining 42 were men. These patients were from the community of Nalla Musalmana & surrounding villages like Doberan Kalan, Garhala, Sohar, Pind Bhinsu, Nimal, Dubiran Kalan and neighboring towns. Attendees got opportunity to have blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and BMI checks. Around 90% patients were diagnosed with Scabies. Dr. Maria Saleem Consultant Dermatologist said; "Scabies is a contagious skin condition caused by the Sarcoptes scabiei mite. It is characterized by intense itching, redness, and small raised bumps or blisters on the skin, often in the webbing between the fingers, wrists, elbows, and other body folds."

Dr. Bilal Hassan said; "These allergic reactions are spreading due to environmental changes among including skin diseases, Conjunctivitis, Bronchitis, and many others." We observed that there is no concept of EPI Vaccine of children in this area. Children are malnourished. Several factors contribute to our communities' high risk of infectious disease epidemics, including unclean drinking water, inadequate sanitation, poor socioeconomic conditions, and low vaccination coverage. He added.

Ch. Naseer Ahmed Chairman MIH said that, "We welcome our community members and provide them with the support they deserve. We've taken significant steps towards better community health, ensuring that everyone has access to the care they need. Let's continue this journey of care and well-being together."

Dr. Sohail Naseem, Dr. Mir Abdul Waheed, Dr. Bilal Hassan, Dr. Maria Saleem, Dr. Usman Khan, Dr. Adil Shafi, Dr. Mehvish Choudhry, Dr. Bilal Hassan, Dr. Hamid Zafar, Dr. Zoufeen Shahid, Dr. Anjali, Dr. Syed Baqir Ali Shah and Dr. Saima were the consultants in the medical camp. Whilst among the local notables Master Raja Najabat Ali Director Resham Barkat Memorial Hospital, Master Arshad Mehmood Bhatti Ex-Secretary Punjab Teachers Union Kalra-sydan, Haji Mehrban Khan, Sultan Mehmood, Raja Muhammad Nawaz and Begum Nasreen Nawaz, Raja Abdul Halim Raja Arsalan Jameel, Dr. Saranzeb Khan and Khurram Ayaz Hussain participated in this medical camp.

President Xi an important partner of Olympic Movement, says IOC Vice President

Xinhua

HANGZHOU: Chinese President Xi Jinping is an important partner of the global Olympic Movement, International Olympic Committee (IOC) vice president Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr. said here on Monday.

Samaranch Jr. made the remarks during an exclusive interview with Xinhua in Hangzhou on the sidelines of the 19th Asian Games.

"His commitment, his support to sport and the role that sports and Olympics can play for the youth, for the entire society, I think, is what I would take as most important," said Samaranch Jr..

"It's great to have such an important partner for sports and international Olympic matters."

Samaranch Jr. attended the welcome banquet hosted by President Xi last Saturday ahead of the



Asiad opening ceremony near the famed West Lake.

As the Chairman of the IOC Coordination Commission for the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic

Winter Games, Samaranch Jr. witnessed the entire process of Beijing 2022. He was deeply impressed by how President Xi led the Chinese people to contribute to the develop-

ment of the Olympic Movement.

"I remember President Xi said that the legacy Beijing 2022 could hopefully leave is to involve 300 million Chinese people in winter sports," Samaranch Jr. recalled. "But this very ambitious legacy, ambitious target was achieved even before the Games."

Samaranch Jr. said that he was also impressed after watching gymnastics competition on site at the Huanglong Sports Center Gymnasium on Sunday.

"It was a great performance by the national team. It was thrilling," he said.

"It's also very important how respectful the Chinese public was with the rest of the competitors. Of course, they cheered for China, but they also applauded, respected and encouraged the gymnasts from other countries. That was a good show of sportsmanship."

European Union-funded community empowerment programme successfully conducted

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The six-year European Union funded Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment (BRACE) Programme successfully concluded with a final dissemination workshop organised by Rural Support Programmes Network. BRACE is the largest EU investment (Euro 45 Million) for community empowerment in Balochistan, directly working with 300,000 households in 10 districts.

The EU-funded programme was implemented by the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) and National Rural Support

Programme (NRSP) encompassing one-third of Balochistan and employed a mix of transactional and transformational approaches for social mobilisation, capacity building, and civic oversight, creating agency and voice for the vulnerable communities, with a particular emphasis on empowering women.

"Income Generating Grants: PKR 668 million has been disbursed to 13,968 extremely poor participants, 72% of them women."

The Programme mobilized 300,000 households, half of which were categorized as economically disadvantaged. The initiative established a cohesive network of approximately 26,375 Community Organisations, 5739 Village Organisation and 237 Local Support Organisations across ten districts namely Jhal Magsi, Kech, Khuzdar, Killa Abdullah, Chaman, Loralai, Pishin, Washuk, Duki and Zhob in Balochistan. The programme was implemented in collaboration with the Local Government and Rural Development Department (LGRDD), Government of Balochistan, (GoB).

The Final Dissemination Workshop was presided by the Federal Minister for Interior, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti who himself hails from Balochistan.

Mr Jeroen Willems, the Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan reiterated EU commitment to supporting the vulnerable



communities in the Balochistan province. These communities, grappling with the adverse effects of climate change, surging inflation, and persistently low human development indicators, are at the forefront of the EU's assistance efforts.

"The EU firmly believes in the values of inclusivity, accountability, and sustainability, placing great importance on the active engagement of local communities, civil society organizations, and marginalized groups

in decision-making processes. I am happy that the programme has strengthened communities, rebuilt much needed rural infrastructure, enhanced human capital and helped create livelihood opportunities."

"BRACE Programme provided Technical & Vocational Education and Trainings to 3,187 youngsters, 58% of them women. 51% of these skilled graduates have pulled their families out of poverty."

Mr Zahoor-ul-Hasan Shay highlighted the need for continued support to the Balochistan government in its mission to strengthen its local governance systems now that the province has promulgated its Community Led Local Governance

(CLLG) Policy, paving the way for community's engagement in planning and implementation of development schemes at the village level."

During her address Shandana Khan, CEO of RSPN highlighted that women made majority of the beneficiaries across all programme interventions. "The most visible legacy of this programme that I am proud of is that we have evidence through third-party that women have a larger role as decision-makers in their own households," she added.

The Final Dissemination Workshop concluded over the distribution of shields among the leaders of BRACE Programme and a vote of thanks by RSPN.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
46,277.65	46,393.67	
Day's High	Day's Low	
46,503.82	46,258.96	
Index Value	Change	
5,145,628,864	-116.02	
Percentage	Time	
-0.25%	26 Sept, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,625.72	+1.73	
Percentage	Time	
+0.023%	26 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,711.15	-295.73	
Percentage	Time	
0.87%	26 Sept, 1:19 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
32,315.05	-363.57	
Percentage	Time	
-1.11%	26 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	190	192
Bahrain Dinar	778.84	786.84
Canadian Dollar	220	222.20
China Yuan	40.22	40.62
Danish Krone	41.83	42.23
Euro	310	313
Hong Kong Dollar	37.93	38.28
Indian Rupee	3.57	3.68
Japanese Yen	1.78	1.86
Kuwaiti Dinar	945.27	954.27
Malaysian Ringgit	62.62	63.22
New Zealand \$	174.58	176.58
Norwegians Krone	27.87	28.17
Omani Riyal	762.31	770.31
Qatari Riyal	80.69	81.39
Saudi Riyal	77.05	77.8
Singapore Dollar	208	210
Swedish Korona	26.62	26.92
Swiss Franc	323.01	325.51
Thai Bhat	8.12	8.27
U.A.E Dirham	81.5	82.3
UK Pound Sterling	361	364.5
US Dollar	289.15	292

Planning Meeting for Annual Technical Conference & Exhibition 2023

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Planning meeting regarding 29th Annual Technical Conference (ATC) and Exhibition was held at Islamabad. Leaders of the E&P Industry of Pakistan were invited for briefing over the various events planned and to seek their participation. The response was overwhelming with a number of participants from different companies in Pakistan who will continue to support the event.

Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Pakistan Section and Pakistan Association of Petroleum Geoscientists (PAPG) are holding Annual Technical Conference (ATC) and Exhibition on 7th and 8th November 2023 at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The theme of this year's conference is "Exploring the Unexplored: High Risk Plays and Economic Challenges". ATC is a mega event of Petroleum Industry of



Pakistan which is held annually and attracts over 1200 delegates from local and international E&P Companies, Services Companies, Regulatory Authorities and academia who bring and share their experience along with 35 stalls where global exhibitors display their technology.

inDrive Accelerates Growth, Expanding to Five New Cities in Pakistan

News Desk

KARACHI: In a move set to redefine the transportation landscape, inDrive, Pakistan's leading ride-hailing service, is thrilled to announce its expansion into five new cities, including Larkana, Kamoke, Sheikhpura, Hafizabad, and Okara. This strategic expansion is a testament to inDrive's commitment to providing seamless, convenient, and reliable mobility solutions to an even broader audience across the country.

With this expansion, inDrive is poised to transform the way residents of these cities travel, work, and explore. The inclusion of Larkana, Kamoke, Sheikhpura, Hafizabad, and Okara in the inDrive network reflects the company's dedication to bringing innovative transportation options to both urban centers and suburban areas. The launch of inDrive in these cities marks a significant milestone, further solidifying the company's position as the go-to choice for modern, efficient, and budget-friendly mobility.

"Our new service offers city residents the convenience of accessing transport from their homes, eliminating the need to venture out in search of it. Both drivers and passengers stand to gain significant benefits, including time saved and the elimination of challenges associated with street hailing. This service addresses issues such as locating rides during odd hours like early mornings or late nights," stated Sidra Kiran-PR Manager inDrive.

Plantation

Islamabad: Khushhali Microfinance Bank Limited President & CEO, Mr. Aameer Karachiwala, and the KMBL Management conducted a tree plantation drive in the vicinity of their new Corporate Office in Gulberg Greens, Islamabad.



Spokesman Photo by Raja Farid

Pakistan and Germany sign Convention for Elimination of Double Taxation



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue initiated re-negotiations on the Agreement for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Federal Republic of Germany. In this connection tax delegations of both the countries met at Islamabad for the first round of negotiations from 18-22 September, 2023. The first draft of the Agreement was initiated by the respective heads of delegation on 22nd September, 2023 at Islamabad after detailed consultations and mutual agreement on key articles of the draft Agreement.

It is pertinent to mention that the existing Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation between Paki-

stan and Germany in practice was signed in 1994 and requires revision to cater to changing tax rules and regulations as per international and domestic needs. The revised Agreement once finalized will not only strengthen the existing safeguards against double taxation on the income of the residents of both the countries without creating opportunities for non-taxation or reduced taxation through abusive arrangements. It will also promote economic cooperation, strengthen the existing bilateral economic relations and enhance investments in both countries while ensuring adequate certainty in respect of taxation rules applicable to cross-border business transactions. Taxpayers of both countries will get relief from double taxation resulting in boosting up the trading activities in both the countries.

Cheezious Partners with WWF to Combat Food Loss and Waste on International

Awareness Day

LAHORE: Cheezious, a leading name in the food industry, is thrilled to announce its partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) on the occasion of International Awareness Day of Food Loss and Waste. This collaboration reflects Cheezious commitment to social responsibility and its dedication to addressing critical global issues, such as food loss and waste.

WWF Climate and Energy Coordinator Fatima Khan, Marketing Manager Shahzeb Farooq, HRK Regional Director Zarar and Regional Food Safety Head Hisham Bin Shaikat were also present at the event held in Lahore.

Food loss and waste have emerged as significant chal-



lenges on a global scale, impacting economies, the environment, and people's access to food. Recognizing the urgency of the matter, Cheezious has joined hands with WWF to raise awareness and initiate action within its communities.

As part of this partnership, Cheezious is organizing an awareness session which

will serve as an opportunity to engage, sharing insights on the importance of reducing food loss and waste. Experts from both Cheezious and WWF will be present to lead discussions and provide valuable information on sustainable practices that can be adopted both at the individual and organizational levels.

"Cheezious is committed to making a positive impact on the world, and addressing food loss and waste is a crucial aspect of our corporate social responsibility," said Mr. Zohaib Hassan, Head of Marketing at Cheezious. "Our partnership with WWF underscores our dedication to sustainability and community involvement. We believe that through awareness and education, we can encourage meaningful change and reduce the impact of food loss and waste."

The partnership between Cheezious and WWF is a testament to the power of collaboration in addressing pressing global issues. By taking such initiatives under its CSR umbrella, Cheezious aims to inspire others to join the cause and contribute to a more sustainable future.

KT Bank receives SBP approval to introduce digital banking services in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023: KT Bank, an under formation digital bank has received In-Principle approval from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in a ceremony recently organized by SBP. The approval was handed over by Mr. Jameel Ahmad, Governor SBP in an elegant ceremony organized at the SBP Museum. Deputy Governor, Dr. Inayat Hussain and Executive Director SBP, Mr. Akhtar Javed were also present on this occasion.

KT Bank is primed to harness cutting-edge technology and deploy digital channels to provide a wide array of banking services and products, encompassing digital payments, online account management and personalized financial



solutions. Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Ali Mukhtar, Director at Fatima Group and Sponsor of KT Bank said, "Pakistan's vast demographic and economic potential enables it to stand at the threshold of a financial renaissance. KT Bank, is pioneering a new trajectory for the financial landscape of

Pakistan. The bank will leverage the strengths of its consortium partners to make unparalleled benefits available to all of Pakistani citizens, including the companies' millions of collective users. Particularly through Fatima Fertilizer's agricultural connectivity and City School Group's insights into the education industry, KT Bank plans to

introduce customized financial solutions that will enable farmers to access latest farming technology. The digital bank will also develop effective education finance solutions.

Tooran Asif, Transaction Lead and Designated CEO (subject to regulatory approval) of KT Bank stated, "I would like to extend a heartfelt gratitude to the State Bank of Pakistan which for so long has served as a beacon of visionary leadership in the realm of financial inclusion and branchless banking. The Bank will drive the financial inclusion agenda of SBP by building digitally enabled simplified accessibility and convenience for all prospective customers. KT Bank is proudly built upon the foundational strengths of its consortium members."

CDA asked to start development works in G-9 Markaz on priority



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that G-9 Markaz Karachi Company has grown into one of the largest commercial centres of the federal capital, but due to lack of better development, its traders are facing multiple problems. He stressed that CDA should start the development works in G-9 Markaz on priority basis including carpeting of roads, construction of a parking plaza, repair of footpaths, construction of filtration plan & public toilets and restoration of street-lights. He said that the 40 years old sewerage system in G-9 Markaz has deteriorated and is leaking from various places. He urged that the CDA should replace the old sewerage system with a new one. He said this while addressing a delegation of Traders Welfare Association, G-9 Markaz, Islamabad that visited ICCI led by its President Raja Javed Iqbal, Haji Zafar Secretary General, Ch. Abdul Ghaffar Senior Vice President and others were in the delegation.

Speaking on the occasion, Raja Javed Iqbal President and Haji Zafar Secretary General, Traders Welfare Association, G-9 Markaz, Islamabad highlighted the major issues of their market. They said that G-9 Markaz is generating largest chunk of revenue for CDA, but CDA is not focusing on better development of this major commercial centre, which is unfortunate. They urged that CDA should start development works in Karachi Company without further delay to facilitate the traders in promoting business activities. They assured that they would work with ICCI for the welfare of the trading community of Islamabad. Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that resolving the key issues of the business community is the top priority of Ahsan Bakhtawari and assured that he would work harder in his remaining tenure for the development works in markets including G-9 Markaz Islamabad.

Jazz, NUST to power Pakistan's first '5G Innovation Hackathon'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's largest digital operator, and the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) have partnered to bring Pakistan's first '5G Innovation Hackathon'.

The groundbreaking initiative aims to harness the immense potential of 5G technology and other cutting-edge innovations. It will surely augur well for addressing critical challenges in Pakistan's key sectors, including health, education, financial services, disaster management, climate change, agri-tech and Industry 4.0. Jazz and NUST have also welcomed Code for Pakistan (CfP) as the implementation partner, having many years of experience in holding successful hackathons. In addition, National Information Technology Board (NITB) and Opps, a mobile & consumer electronics manufacturer, have also joined hands for the hackathon.

Syed Fakhar Ahmed, Chief Regulatory Affairs Officer at Jazz, said, "Empowering a

developing nation like Pakistan to overcome its long-standing challenges lies in the pursuit of viable solutions through digital technology, a mission championed by events like the 5G Innovation Hackathon.

Dr. Hammad Cheema, Principal & Dean, SINES, NUST, said, "We are thrilled to host the 5G Innovation Hackathon at NUST, an event that brings together the brightest minds in innovation and technology to ignite creative sparks that will shape the future."

Baber Majid Bhatti, CEO NITB, said, "The 5G Innovation Hackathon is not just a gathering of brilliant minds and tech enthusiasts; it is a testament to our unwavering commitment to propel Pakistan into the forefront of the digital era."

Code for Pakistan's Chief Executive Officer, Shaji Ahmed, expressed excitement about the upcoming event, saying, "The 5G Innovation Hackathon represents a significant step towards harnessing technology for the betterment of society."

England's ODI clash with Ireland washed out after Ben Duckett ton

Sports Desk

LAHORE: England's final one-day international against Ireland was abandoned due to rain after Ben Duckett smashed a century for the hosts on Tuesday.

Duckett's maiden ODI hundred and Phil Salt's blistering 61 were the highlights of a curtailed match in Bristol as England won the three-match series 1-0.

Ben Duckett's 107 not out off 78 balls included 12 fours and two sixes, while Salt's 61 from 28 deliveries featured seven fours and four sixes.

In a remarkable first over of the match, Salt hit 18 runs off Mark Adair before the bowler sent down a wide to make it England's highest-ever opening over in ODI cricket.

It also equalled the world record of 19 set by South Africa in 2003 when



Graeme Smith demolished England's James Anderson. England's stand-in captain Zak Craw-

ley, deputising for regular white-ball skipper Jos Buttler, also contributed with 51 from 42 balls.

Batting first after Ireland won the toss and elected to field, England had reached 280-4 in 31 overs when torrential rain sent the players scurrying back to the pavilion.

Barely half an hour after the teams came off, the match was officially abandoned even though the ground would be bathed in sunshine soon afterwards.

It was the second match in the series to fall victim to the weather after the first game at Headingley last week was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Crawley's side won the second game by 48 runs at Trent Bridge on Saturday. England's squad for the Ireland series featured fringe players as their established white-ball stars rested ahead of next month's 50-over World Cup in India.

Their World Cup title defence starts with a rematch of the 2019 final against New Zealand on October 5.

Karachi Stallions Clinched KHA U-15 Challengers Cup title

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Karachi Hockey Association congratulates Team Stallions to win the KHA Under -15 Boys Hockey 5As Challengers Cup 2023 by beating Team Dolphins by 3-2 in the final at KHA Sports Complex, the Tournament is being organized by the Karachi Hockey Association in collaboration with Education and Sports Technologies.

Honorable Syeda Shehla Raza former Sindh Minister for Women Development and currently the President Women Wing of Pakistan Hockey Federation with Olympian Hanif Khan, Haider Hussain Secretary General PHF, Akbar Qaimkhani Secretary General Sindh Hockey Association and many other guests watched all the matches including the final. She met all the teams and also distributed the prizes/awards to the winners, participants and officials.



KARACHI: Chief Guest Former Provincial Minister Shehla Raza giving the winning trophy to the captain of the winning team of KHA U-15 Challengers Cup along with Secretary of Pakistan Hockey Federation Haider Hussain.

Runners up: Dolphins (Dolphin) Best Defender Umer Hassan (Falcon) Best Midfielder M. Huzaifa (Leopards) Best Forward Asad Haider (Stallions) Emerging Player M. Taha (Stallions) Player of the Final Siddique Mehdi (Stallions)

Tournament Director Imtiaz ul Hassan, Organizing Secretary Ausaf Rabbani, Technical Committee Faizan and Mr Arsalan Baig, Media Coordinator Miss Batool Kazim, Umpires Manager Dr Samar, Umpires Mr Rizwan Khan and Mr Imran Khan.

Today four matches were played including the all exciting Final. Results are as follows:

Match 1: Stallions beat Falcon by (5-0)

Stallions goal Scorer 3 Mubashir Atif 1 Asad Haider 1 M. Taha

Match 2: Dolphin beat Markhor by (2-0)

Dolphin goal Scorer 2 Farhan Jamil

Match 3: Leopards vs Stallions Match Draw by (2-2)

Leopards goal Scorer 2 M. Huzaifa Stallions 1 Tanveer Hassan 1 Asad Haider

Final Match: Stallions beat Dolphin by (3-2)

Stallions goal Scorer 1 M. Taha 1 Siddique Mehdi 1 Asad Haider Dolphin goal Scorer 1 Shahid Balti 1 Nazim Hussain.

Tamim Iqbal left out of Bangladesh's squad for ICC World Cup 2023



A Sports

LAHORE: Bangladesh squad for the ICC World Cup 2023 will not feature their best batter Tamim Iqbal, who has been left out due to his persistent back injury.

According to the details, Tamim Iqbal had notified the selectors a few days ago that they should consider his persistent back injury before selecting the final squad.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), however, did not officially clarify the decision to exclude Tamim from their ICC World Cup 2023 squad.

Bangladesh squad for the ICC World Cup 2023 was originally scheduled to be announced at 5:45 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time) but the BCB later postponed the announcement until following the third ODI between Bangladesh and New Zealand.

Tamim scored 44 runs in Bangladesh's 86-run defeat against New Zealand in the second ODI on Saturday, his comeback international match, after reversing his retirement decision in July.

Tamim Iqbal disclosed that he still felt discomfort in his injured back in the second ODI against New Zealand, which the team physios were trying to help him recover from.

Besides Tamim's exclusion, the rest of the Bangladesh squad is almost identical to what featured in the Asia Cup 2023, led by Shakib Al Hasan while Litton Das will serve as his deputy.

Bangladesh finished third in the six-team Asia Cup 2023 as they concluded the Super 4s stage with two points, which came courtesy of their victory against India.

A combined bowling effort, followed by Shakib Al Hasan and Towhid Hridoy's half-centuries powered Bangladesh to a stunning six-run victory over India.

Bangladesh Squad for ICC World Cup 2023: Shakib Al Hasan (c), Mushfiqur Rahim, Litton Das (vc), Najmul Hossain Shanto, Towhid Hridoy, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam, Nasum Ahmed, Mahedi Hasan, Tanzim Hasan, Mahmudullah

Sri Lanka announce squad for ICC World Cup 2023

A Sports

LAHORE: Sri Lanka will be without their key all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga as they announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC World Cup 2023, scheduled to commence on October 5.

Wanindu Hasaranga suffered a hamstring injury during the Eliminator game between B-Love Kandy and Jaffna Kings in the Lanka Premier League (LPL) last month. He was then ruled out of the Asia Cup 2023, and now may require surgery, after aggravating his hamstring tear during rehab.

The chairman of Sri Lanka's medical committee, Arjuna de Silva, had earlier hinted that it is highly unlikely for Wanindu Hasaranga to participate in the ICC World Cup 2023.

"He picked up a grade 2 tear in the



LPL, but he re-aggravated it during rehab. It's now a grade 3 tear. What also complicates the matter is that it is also a T-junction hamstring injury," said Arjuna de Silva.

"We are consulting foreign doctors to see whether he needs surgery or not. If he does, he will be out for at least three months. At the moment, the situation is not that great and it's highly unlikely if he can play the World Cup," he further added.

Besides Hasaranga, right-arm pacer

Dushmantha Chameera has also been ruled out of the ICC World Cup 2023 as he failed to recover from his shoulder injury. On the contrary, Dilshan Madushanka and Lahiru Kumara are back in the Sri Lanka squad after missing the Asia Cup 2023.

Whereas, another key Sri Lankan spinner Maheesh Theekshana, who missed the Asia Cup final against India, has also been named in the squad.

Sri Lanka Squad for ICC World Cup 2023: Dasun Shanaka (c), Kusal Mendis (vc), Kusal Perera, Pathum Nissanka, Dimuth Karunaratne, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Dushan Hemantha, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Kasun Rajitha, Matheesha Pathirana, Lahiru Kumara, Dilshan Madushanka

Travelling reserve: Chamika Karunaratne

Pakistan team receives visas for ICC World Cup 2023

A Sports

LAHORE: Pakistan team players and officials have received their Indian visas to participate in the ICC World Cup 2023 in India, commencing on October 5.

Pakistan Cricket Board received visas and other travel documents of the national players and officials issued by the Indian High Commission (IHC).

After receiving the visas Pakistan team, will depart from Lahore to Dubai early Wednesday and then travel to Hyderabad, where they will take on New Zealand in their first warm-up fixture of the ICC World Cup 2023.

Earlier on Monday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) recorded its protest by writing a letter to the International Cricket Council

(ICC) over a delay in the issuance of Indian visas.

According to the details, the PCB sent a stern letter to the cricket governing body and raised concerns over the ongoing visa debacle and reminded the regulatory body about the Host-Member agreement.

"We have been discussing this issue for three years. No one paid attention to our concerns. And now the situation has gotten to the point where we are yet to receive visas," the letter stated.

"We are in a state of uncertainty due to ignorance of concerned authorities. We had to stay in Dubai for two days but due to this visa issue, we had to cancel that [trip]."

"Whenever we contacted the concerned authority, we were told that the visas would be issued in

24 hours. "And now, with every passing day, the uncertainty is increasing and it is worrying everyone."

Pakistan squad for ICC World Cup 2023

Babar Azam (c), Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Haris Rauf, M Wasim Jnr, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Saud Shakeel, Salman Ali Agha.

Travelling reserves: Mohammad Haris, Abrar Ahmed, Zaman Khan

Pakistan's warm-up matches schedule:

September 29 — vs New Zealand in Hyderabad

October 3 — vs Australia in Hyderabad

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).

Lahore to have 14 sports academies

Our correspondent

LAHORE: Adviser to Punjab Chief Minister on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz in a statement on Tuesday has announced to establish sports academies and training camps on the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.



Wahab Riaz said that 14 sports academies are being established in Lahore while six academies will be established in the remaining districts. "The registration fee for swimming training camp will be Rs 5,000 and Rs 2,000 for other sports," he added.

He further said that the academies will work three days a week keeping in mind the busy schedule of the schools. "The young athletes can join the academies on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 4pm to 6pm where expert coaches will train the young athletes in the academies," he elaborated.

Revealing the duration of camps, Wahab informed that the training camps will continue from October 5 to January 27. "These camps and academies will help a lot in nurturing talent at the grassroots level. The registration process for academies will start on Sept 27. For more information, the aspiring athletes can visit Sports Board Punjab's website".

New Zealand claim series win over Bangladesh to wrap World Cup preparation



Sports Desk

LAHORE: New Zealand gave themselves a perfect boost ahead of the ICC World Cup 2023 by defeating Bangladesh in the final one-day international in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Will Young and Adam Milne starred with bat and ball respectively, with Young hitting 70 off 80 balls to guide New Zealand to 175-3.

Milne's 4-34 restricted the hosts to 171 in 34.3 overs at Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Stand-in skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto scored highest with 76 runs for Bangladesh, but was unable to give the hosts a competitive score with a lack of support from the other end after he opted to bat first.

New Zealand made light of their target despite losing Finn Allen (28) and Dean Foxcroft (0) to Shoriful Islam in consecutive balls, as Young put on 81 runs with in-form Henry Nicholls for the third wicket.

By the time left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed bowled Young, New Zealand were well in control.

Nicholls, who made 44 and 49 runs in the previous two matches, went on to complete 50 this time, with a single off Mahmudullah Riyad.

Tom Blundell (23 not out) hit a boundary to take New Zealand home, with 91 balls to spare.

Cole McConchie and Trent Boult earlier complimented Milne, who was playing his first match of the series, claiming 2-18 and 2-33 respectively to deny Bangladesh any serious momentum in the contest.

New Zealand, who lost the previous two series in Bangladesh 4-0 in 2010 and 3-0 in 2013, won the second match by 86 runs on Saturday. The first match was washed out by rain.

"The World Cup is just around the corner — to come up with the first win since 2008 is great," said Young, the man of the match, in a briefing afterwards.

"This group plays a lot together, we gel well and it's a lot of fun," he added.

Young said that while he could not predict what conditions the Kiwis would face in India when the ICC World Cup 2023 opens on October 5, he hoped "it's similar to these".

Bangladesh initially rested key players but, with the series at stake, they brought back stalwarts Najmul, Mushfiqur Rahim and Shoriful Islam. However, it did little to improve their performance.

Najmul, leading Bangladesh for the first time, held down one end to score his fifth ODI fifty but wickets kept falling regularly from the other end.

"Our batsmen didn't score big runs," Najmul said. "Hopefully, next time batters take responsibility and bat long."

Milne and Boult struck early for New Zealand to reduce Bangladesh to 35-3, before Najmul and Mushfiqur offered a brief resistance with a 53-run fourth wicket stand.

Mushfiqur's dismissal to Lockie Ferguson for 18 put New Zealand back on top and the visitors did not lose the momentum again.

McConchie ended any real chance of Bangladesh lodging a fighting score by dismissing Najmul with his second ball of the day, with the left-hander hitting 10 fours in his 84-ball innings.

