Barkat Rice Mills

Pakistan welcomes OIC's joint communique on Palestinian issue

Pakistan welcomes the joint communique released by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) after its extraordinary open-ended meeting of the Executive Committee on Palestine held in Jeddah. (Details on Page 8)

Only 11 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan

been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants

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All-weather strategic partners

BEIJING: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar meets Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday.



Belt and Road Forum

Pakistan, China to strengthen all-weather strategic partnership

PM Kakar terms Pakistan-China relationship as a factor of peace and stability in the region

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chinese President Xi Jinping have agreed to further strengthen and deepen high-level dialogue and exchanges for mutual benefit of two countries.

Consensus to this effect was emerged during their meeting at the Great Hall of People on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum in Beijing on Thurs-

The Prime Minister congratulated President Xi Jinping on the successful holding of the 3rd Belt and Road Forum and complimented him on his eight point direction and scope of the Belt friends.

China to work with Pakistan for global peace: Xi

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday said China will work with Pakistan, which he said is an "iron-clad friend." to make new contributions to safeguarding peace and stability and promoting pros-

and Road Initiative.

The two leaders reaffirmed the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China and underlined the strategic significance of this partnership in the evolving international situ-

The Prime Minister underscored that Pakistan and China agenda relating to the future are reliable partners and steadfast perity in the region and the world. Over the past decade, the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has yielded fruitful results and vigorously promoted Pakistan's economic and social

Reaffirming Pakistan's support to China on its core issues, the Prime Minister termed the Pakistan-China relationship as a factor of peace and stability in the region.

President Xi underlined that Pakistan is an iron-brother, trusted friend, and partner in peace and

development. He said China accorded special importance to Pakistan in its

ue to support Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and development.

development, making the corridor

a signature project of the Belt and

Road Initiative, Xi said when meet-

ing with Pakistan's Prime Minister

Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar in Beijing.

The two leaders discussed bilateral cooperation for enhanced regional connectivity and economic development which was the shared vision of two countries.

Prime Minister said Pakistan would continue working with China to promote regional connecforeign policy and would contin- tivity and for socioeconomic devel-

opment of the people of Pakistan. President Xi expressed Chinese continued support for Pakistan in harnessing its geo-economic

potential and emerging as a hub of regional trade. The leaders emphasized the importance of steady pace of CPEC and to make it a corridor of growth, livelihood, innovation. openness and green development

for a sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development. The two leaders also discussed the regional and global developments and noted the commonality of views on major world issues.

dovetailed with Pakistan's vision

They agreed to further deepen strategic communication at all tiers, and enhance bilateral cooper-

ation at the multilateral fora.

Pakistan dispatches aid to Gaza via Egypt as Israel's rampage continues



A picture of the relief assistance that Pakistan is sending to Gaza via Egypt can be seen, on October 19, 2023. Radio Pakistan

the first consignment carrying relief assistance to Gaza as Israel's indiscriminate bombardment continues on the Hamas-ruled strip, killing thousands and displacing

The relief assistance, carrying one thousand winter tents, four thousand blankets, and three tonnes of medicines, will reach Palestine via Egypt in a chartered aircraft, the Foreign Office said in a statement.

Israel's unabated airstrikes on Gaza have claimed nearly 3,500 lives while thousands of others are injured. Entire city blocks have been levelled, water, food, and power have been cut off, and over one million people have been displaced.

has set off a wave of fury across and its Western allies.

At the media briefing today, earliest.

Pakistan Thursday dispatched FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan remains deeply concerned about the situation of "our Palestinian brothers and sisters" in Gaza.

> "We strongly condemn the Israeli aggression and blockade, particularly the recent attack on a Gaza hospital. Israel's actions violate international humanitarian and human rights law," she added. The FO spokesperson

further said deliberate attacks against civilian targets constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. 'We call for an immediate

ceasefire; an end to the siege of Gaza: and the facilitation of humanitarian corridors for unrestricted relief supplies." The development came as

Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel agreed on a deal for an Israel has claimed more than initial 20 trucks carrying relief 1,400 lives — and the conflict goods to cross the shuttered Rafah crossing from Egypt the Middle East against Israel into Gaza, with the first deliveries expected Friday at the

Six terrorists killed in NW operation

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Six terrorists including a high value target named Hazrat Zaman alias Khawarey Mullah have been killed by security forces in an operation at general area of Gharyoum in North Waziristan district.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations, the ringleader was actively involved in multiple terrorist activities in the area and was highly wanted by the law enforcement agencies.

However, three military personnel including Lance Naik Tabbasum UI Haq, Sepoy

Naeem Akhtar and Sepoy Abdul Hameed also embraced shahadat while fighting gallantly against terrorists.

In another operation at general area of Asman Manza in South Waziristan District, Sepoy Farman Ali also embraced shahadat in the line of duty.

Sanitization is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area.

In a statement, the ISPR said that security forces are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our

In Avenfield, Al-Aziza graft references

Nawaz granted protective bail till Oct 24

Authorities barred from arresting PML-N supremo on arrival; arrest warrants in Toshakhana gifts case suspended

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) granted on Thursday Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif protective bail till October 24 in the Avenfield and Al-Aziza cases

The move comes after an accountability court suspended the perpetual non-bailable arrest warrants issued for his arrest in the Toshakhana gifts case ahead of the thrice-ousted former premier's arrival in Pakistan, slated for Octo-

The trial court suspended the arrest warrant till October 24 and restrained the authorities from detaining Nawaz at the airport. The PML-N supremo's return to the country would mark an end to almost four years of self-imposed

zia and the Avenfield corruption and Al-Aziza graft references. references by an accountability court on July 6, 2018. He was awarded 10 years imprisonment. accountability court has suspended In October 2019, the IHC granted him bail on humanitarian grounds and he went to London for medical treatment. However, after failing to return

He was convicted in the Al-Azi-

to Pakistan and as his bail expired, the IHC declared him a proclaimed offender and absconder. Prior to today's decisions, he was facing non-bailable arrest warrants in the Al-Azizia and Avenfield corruption cases as well as the Toshakhana gifts case.

On Thursday, an IHC divisional bench, led by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and comprising Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb, took up the former premier's plea seeking protective bail in the Avenfield

Nawaz's lawyer Azam Nazir Tarar apprised the bench that the perpetual arrest warrants.

Meanwhile, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) maintained that the prosecution holds no objection to protective bail being granted. "Our stance remains that if he [Nawaz] wishes to appear before the court he may do so," said the prosecutor.

"On whose directives are you stating this," inquired the court. To this, the NAB lawyer replied that he was acting on the directives of the anti-graft watchdog's prosecutor-general. The court instructed him to submit this in writing.

The NAB prosecutor stated that the court had in its written order

stated that the appellant can revive his appeal once he returns to the country. "NAB's current stance is that we have no objections to Nawaz's return to the country, added the prosecutor.

The court accepted Nawaz's plea seeking protective bail and granted the same till October 24 while restricting the authorities from arresting the PML-N chief on his arrival to the country while seeking a written reply from NAB on its stance.

Meanwhile, accountability court Judge Muhammad Basheer announced the reserved verdict on Nawaz's plea to suspend his perpetual arrest warrants, granting the ousted premier relief till October 24.

The court accepted Nawaz's request and directed him to appear before the court on October 24.

Afghan Interim Govt intends to join CPEC, BRI

KABUL: The interim Afghan administration has expressed desire to formally join Chinese President Xi Jinping's huge 'Belt and Road' infrastructure initiative and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Afghanistan's acting commerce minister Haji Nooruddin Azizi told British News Agency Reuters that Kabul will send a technical team to China for talks.

Last month, China became the first country to appoint an Ambassador to Kabul.

Afghan Commerce Minister said we have requested China to allow us to be a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Belt and Road Initiative. Agencies

PTI urges ECP to issue order on election symbol

41 days passed but detailed decision not issued yet: PTI's counsel

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has urged the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to issue its verbal order regarding issuance of election symbol and reminded the electoral body of its constitutional duty to hold free and fair elections in the country, The News reported on Thursday.

Senator Barrister Syed Ali Zafar, the party's counsel, on Wednesday filed an application with the Election Commission requesting for issuance of a detailed written order in the interest of justice and fairness.

The party has urged the Election Commission to issue a detailed decision without delay in light of its announcement concerning issuance of

According to Senator Zafar, the Election Commission had

election symbols.

issued a notice to the PTI for refusing to issue the symbol of "bat" on the basis of intra-party elections. He insisted the commis-

sion's notice on the basis of inter-party elections was a serious mistake, as the PTI had held intra-party elections on June 9, 2022 as per its constitution. He maintained that the

ECP had no justification of depriving the PTI of its symbol after holding the intra-party elections, as the electoral body had never objected to the intra-party elections but identified some defects in the submitted document, which had been removed.

The Spokesman

Interactive session

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi speaking to journalists during an interactive session on Breast Cancer, at Aiwan-e-Sadr,



Pakistan welcomes OIC's joint communique on Palestinian issue

FO says UNSC must play its role in bringing immediate end to ongoing bombardment in Gaza

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomes the joint communique released by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) after its extraordinary open-ended meeting of the Executive Committee on Palestine held in Jeddah.

At her weekly media briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, while replying to a question, said the meeting reflects the consensus of the OIC countries and it has called for immediate cessation of the hostilities, lifting siege and opening humanitarian corridors for the people of Gaza. Replying to another ques-

tion, she said we are naturally disappointed with the results of the debate at the United Nations Security Council. We believe that the UN Security Council should play its designated role in bringing an immediate end to the ongoing situation and bombardment in Gaza and continuing blockade that is creating a humanitarian catastrophe for the Palestinian people.

Answering yet another question, the Spokesperson said Pakistan also welcomes all



initiatives that contribute to ultimate objective of immediate ceasefire, lifting of blockade and provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. We hope that the initiative of Turkiye and other countries will be discussed and debated and consensus would reach which would contribute to the ultimate outcome which we all

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan is sending humanitarian assistance for our Palestinian brothers and sisters. A charted aircraft carrying one hundred tons of humanitarian supplies including tents, blankets and essential medicines will depart from Islamabad to Egypt today from where these assistance will be transferred to

people of Gaza. She said Pakistan position is clear that we do not believe in escalation in Gaza. We believe that the international community needs to work together to ensure that peace prevails and ceasefire is obtained and the World Cup.

humanitarian assistance is allowed to go into Gaza.

Replying to a question, the Spokesperson said it is responsibility of India, as the host of ICC World Cup, to provide a safe and conducive environment to the teams which are participating in the World Cup including the Pakistani Cricket team.

She said keeping our concerns with regard to recent developments, we also believe that it is also responsibility of the International Cricket Council to ensure that India complies its obligations as host of the

APC pleads for practical steps by Muslim Immah to mitigate Gaza people's miseries

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Conference (APC) on Thursday called for practical steps and measures by the Muslim Ummah to ensure full support and assistance to the war-affected Palestinian people, who are undergoing unprecedented agony and turbulence in the wake of Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.

The APC participants

stressed upon the Government of Pakistan to play a proactive role in order to champion the Palestinian cause and clearly convey the anger and anguish of the entire Muslim Ummah over the injustice and Israeli brutalities with the Gaza

role of Pakistan at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to bring the Israeli reign on terror on the Gaza area to an end. They also condemned Khaqan Abbasi, Hafiz Masood the international human Kamaluddin and Chaudhry Palestine issue with the active his remarks, expressed his sion. APP

Chinese firm

to invest in

shows interest

steel industry

Pakistan's copper



ing silence instead of playing their due role to uphold the rights of Palestinian people.

The All Parties Conference, hosted by Ms Uzma Gul at They called for a leading the Palestinian Embassy, was addressed, besides Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabei, by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leaders Shahid

ich, Head of Ansar Ummah Maulana Fazlur Rahman Khalil, MQM's Haider Abbas Rizvi and others. Ms Uzam Gul, in her address, expressed gratitude to the participants for expressing their collective dedication to the Palestinian

She emphasized the significance of the resolution of

nity across the globe. The hearts of Muslims all over the world beat in unison with their Palestinian brethren, she

She cautioned the Muslim countries against dereliction towards the current crisis as it might spill over to across the region Palestinian Ambassaheartfelt gratitude to the Pakistani people for showing solidarity with the Palestinians as evident from the protests against the Israeli aggression held all across the country.

"I am grateful to my Pakistani brothers and sisters, especially the honourable Ms Uzma Gul, General Hamid Gul's daughter, who has consistently expressed solidarity with the Palestinian brothers and sisters, and stands with Palestine." Ambassador Rabei highlighted the Israeli aggression and ensuing grave humanitarian crisis in Palestine, saying over 30,000 people had been killed, 74% of them were women and children. He said Pakistan was one of the first four countries to extend aid to Palestine, and expressed the Palestinian people's unwavering resolve dor Ahmed Jawad Rabei, in to withstand Israeli aggres-

Senior jurist SM Zafar passes away

Information Minister Murtaza Solangi grieved over sad demise

Our Correspondent

BEIJING: A renowned Chinese firm Amer International on Thursday expressed its keen interest to invest in Pakistan's age of 93, his family members copper and steel industry. in Lahore confirmed on Thurs-The matter was discussed in a meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar and Chair-

Wang Wenyin here. The prime minister welcomed the Chinese firm's interest to invest in Pakistan and apprised the company head of the Special Investment Facilitation Council. He said under the SIFC, a facility of one-window operation has been introduced to attract investment in the mining and mineral sectors. APP

man of Amer International

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Senior Pakistani jurist and former Senator Syed Muhammad Zafar, popularly known as SM Zafar, passed away at the

The family revealed that the legal expert had been ailing for a long time.

"We are deeply grieved to announce the passing away of S. M. Zafar, beloved husband, father, and grandfather. May his soul be received in light and love by our Rabb. May he be granted the highest place in jannat," a statement from the family read.

Zafar's funeral prayer will be offered in Lahore, it added. Also known as one of the most prominent Pakistani

human rights activists and noted lawyer, Zafar was the father of Barrister Ali Zafar — a top leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) — and served as the federal minister for Law and Justice from 1965

The veteran jurist was born in Burma on December 6, 1930, and began his career graduating from University Law College.

With his legal career spanned over six decades, Zafar left an indelible mark on the country's judiciary, politics, and the advocacy of human rights.

government in 1968, he started his own law practice and hung Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, the the boots as an active law prac-

titioner in 2014.



as a lawyer in the 1950s after landmark cases in Pakistan's Supreme Court and was known for his unwavering commitment to justice. Apart from his legal pursuits, he also served as a senator and was an influential voice in the realm of Pakistani politics.

Some of his major legal After retiring from the contributions include the acquittal of Pakistani Scientist discussion and draft of the 1973 Constitution, and participa-He represented various tion in the drafting of the 18th on law, governance, and rights.

constitutional amendment. Besides being a Nishan e Imtiaz (2012) holder, Zafar received several other awards and souvenirs for his services

to the country.

His commitment to human rights was unparalleled. He was an active proponent of minority rights, women's rights, and was vociferous against honor killings, blasphemy laws, and any form of oppression. His role as a co-founder of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan further highlighted his dedication to the cause.

Zafar was also an academic, imparting his vast knowledge to young minds at Punjab University Law College, his alma mater, where he also served as a dean. He penned several books, shedding light

WHO welcomes **US-Israeli** accord to allow aid to enter Gaza

UNITED NATIONS: UN chief Antonio Guterres has called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the Middle East to ease the "epic human suffering" in the Israel-Gaza conflict. Later, the head of the UN health agency (WHO) said he welcomed the reported agreement between the US and Israel, which would allow food, water and medical aid into the ravaged enclave via the Egyptian border.

Speaking in Beijing, on Wednesday, the UN chief said that a ceasefire would provide sufficient time and space to realize two essential appeals which he made earlier this week to Hamas, for the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages held in Gaza, and to Israel, to immediately allow aid to enter the sealed-off enclave in the throes of a devastating humanitarian crisis. "The region is on the precipice," he warned. The call came a day after hundreds were killed in a strike at Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, which Mr. Guterres strongly condemned, stressing that hospitals and all medical personnel are protected under international law. US President Joe Biden met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv. Biden said he was "deeply saddened and outraged" by the lethal explosion at the hospital in Gaza City. Biden also announced that Israel had agreed to let limited aid into the Gaza Strip across the border news reports. In response, WHO tive, he added.

chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus tweeted that he welcomed US leadership and the Israeli decision allowing essential aid into Gaza saying that "many lives depend on this happening." The head of the UN Palestine refugee agency, Philippe Lazzarini addressed an emergency meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and said "an unprecedented catastrophe is unfolding before our eyes." "Gaza is being strangled and the world seems to have lost its humanity", he added. "Every hour we receive more and more desperate calls for help from people across the Gaza Strip. Thousands of civilians were killed over the last 12 days, including women and children." Trucks carrying lifesaving aid, still remain lined up at the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt. In a post on social platform X early Wednes $day, WHO\ chief\ Tedros\ deplored\ that$ WHO supplies have been 'stuck' at the

border for four days. "Every second we wait to get medical aid in, we lose lives," he said. Relentless diplomatic efforts by senior UN officials in favour of humanitarian access were set to continue, with the organization's relief chief Martin Griffiths on the ground in Cairo, where he will be joined by Secretary-General Guterres on Thursday. Mr. Griffiths wrote on X on Wednesday that providing aid to the people of Gaza is a matter of life or death. Doing so in with Egypt, which was confirmed a sustained, unimpeded, predictable by Netanyahu's office, according to manner is a humanitarian impera-

CJP hints at taking up pleas on election, military court trials

Remarks came during hearing of Pak Arab Refinery case

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday hinted that the Supreme Court may take up the petitions seeking timely elections and challenging the trial of civilians in military courts soon.

The CJP passed the remarks while discussing the adjournment of a case related to Pak Arab Refinery's employees when the lawyers for the petitioners asked the top judge to adjourn the last week of January 2024. hearing for 15 days.

"Cases seeking tim tions and trial of civilians in military courts will be fixed soon. Difficult cases are about to come in the Supreme Court and it will be tough to schedule other cases [during this period]," remarked CJP Isa.

He further stated that they would fix the employees' case after two months.

The Shehbaz Sharif-led government dissolved the National Assembly on August 9, while Sindh and Balochistan assemblies were also prematurely dissolved to allow the electoral authority to hold elections in the country within 90 days.

Had the assemblies been dissolved on time, the electoral body was constitutionally bound to hold polls in 60

However, the ECP decided against holding polls within the stipulated time as the Council of Common Interest (CCI), days before the dissolution of the assemblies, approved the 7th Population and Housing Census 2023.

The CCI approval made it mandato-

ry for the commission to hold elections following fresh delimitations in light

of the results of the census. Subsequently, on August 17, the ECP announced the schedule of new delimitations to be carried out as per the new census approved by the CCI.

But in September, the commission announced that general elections in the country would take place in the

However, before the announcement, multiple petitions were filed in the Supreme Court against the delay

Among the petitioners are the Supreme Court Bar Association, Jamaat-e-Islami and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). All three petitioners have been asking the apex court to ensure that polls are held within 90

These petitions were filed during the tenure of former chief iustice Umar Ata Bandial, however, they were not fixed

The other petition that CJP Isa hinted about is related to the trial of civilians in military courts who were arrested in connection with attacks on army installations during the May 9 protests.

In response to the move, PTI Chairman Imran Khan, former chief justice Jawwad S Khawaja, lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan, and five civil society members, including Piler Executive Director Karamat Ali, requested the apex court to declare the military trials "unconstitutional".

Govt prays SC to dismiss verdict in NAB amendment case

ISLAMABAD: The Federal government Thursday submitted detailed arguments to the Supreme Court in the appeal against the decision about NAB amendments.

The Ministry of Law and Justice through Makhdoom Ali Khan Advocate requested the top court to declare the decision void, adding that the verdict pertaining to the NAB amendments was against the constitution and the law.

It said that the petitioner was allowed to present and respond to 22 hearings over a period of 6 months, while the federal government was restricted to answering the questions raised by the court.

Petitioner Chairman PTI was given three months' time to submit the reports while federal government was not given even three weeks' time.

The request of the federal government to constitute a full court with reference to the hearing of the case was also not accepted, it added. It further stated that after the

NAB amendments, the cases of many

persons are pending at various forums.

Chairmen NADRA, FBR discuss data sharing ofeligible taxpayers

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amied Zubair Tiwana on Thursday held a meeting with Chairman National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Lieutenant General Muhammad Munir Afsar at FBR Headquarters.

During the meeting, matters pertaining to data sharing of eligible taxpayers were discussed, said a news release

It was agreed to continue coordination on taxation affairs between FBR and NADRA.

Chairman FBR reiterated that the Revenue Division is committed to maximising tax compliance and promoting tax culture across the country for increased revenue generation.

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Friday, October 20, 2023

Azad Kashmir Development Working Party discusses revised project on drainage in Muzaffarabad

MUZAFFARABAD: The second meeting of Azad Kashmir Development Working Party was held at Kashmir Plan House under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary Development of Azad

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Fayaz Ali Abbasi. In which, apart from the senior officers of the Planning Commission and the Finance Department, the secretaries of the relevant departments and the officers of the Planning and Development Department attended the meeting

In the meeting, the revised project of the Election Commission's automation, prepared by the Information Technology Department, costing more than Rs. Revised project of tion of remaining bridges of Local in district Jhelum Valley and Kotli lishing weight measurement stations opment schemes of the North Zone Revised plan for establishment of



construction of revenue complex in Government Department costing by Road Department. In addition to at the entrances of Azad Kashmir of the Roads Department costing 01 Muzaffarabad worth 36.37 million 34.25 million rupees, 02 revisions the project costing 61 crore 58 lakh cost 38 crore 86 lakh rupees and 05 billion 72 crore rupees, of the Departrupees, Revised project of construction of 23.19 km roads rupees, the revised project for estab- projects to extend the period of devel- ment of Industries in Muzaffarabad.

weights and measures lab costing Rs.05 crore 35 lakhs, besides extension of the period of the project worth more than Rs.05 crores 20 lakhs for training of farmers under silk department, design of sewage system in Muzaffarabad under department of physical planning and housing. In addition to the feasibility study, the project for the development of additional water reservoirs for Muzaffarabad water supply at a cost of 11 crore 67 lakh rupees, the tripartite research project of the ongoing water supply schemes in Azad Kashmir at a cost of 08 crore 59 lakh rupees and the office building for the accountability bureau at the location of Lower Chhatra Muzaffarabad. Construction project costing 12 crore 92 lakh rupees, Environment Department of Azad Kashmir 04 ongoing revision projects related to water quality testing and environmental stability cost-

Independence Day

ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest of the event Federal Minister for Food Security and Research Dr Kauser Abdulla Malik and Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan Adam Tugio cut the cake along with others during the celebrations of the 78th Independence Day and Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Indonesia at local hotel in Federal Capital.



Sindh Agri University consultative seminar highlights need to boost urban agriculture

👺 Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Sindh's agricultural and irrigation experts, exemplary settlers and social reformers, activities to conserve rainwater in the lower areas of Sindh, support urban and vertical agriculture and settle 50% of Sindh's agricultural lands through drip irrigation.

While recommending joint ventures with public and private institutions and farmers to ensure adequate use of water for food and Sindh Agricultural University and Development Foundation (RDF) and WealthingerHealth (WHH), a consultative seminar titled "Food and

was organized. In his address, Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Mari said that there has been no significant development in agricultural production for the past 30 years.

Therefore, we have to pioneer urban agriculture systems and ensure more efficient use of water, and bring modern agricultural technologies to the common farmer in view of future water scarcity and growing popula-

Syed Nadeem Shah, leader of the agriculture. Under the auspices of Sindh Abadgar Board, said that even in the big cities of developed counwith the support of Research and tries, it is a common practice to grow vegetables for cooking at home and preserve food for a long time.

He said that the resources of agri-

changing. Dean of the Faculty of Agrisaid that in order to save the rainwater and flood water in Laar, the saline water should be taken out of the large pits that are already there, and they should be converted into storage tanks to save water. 1300 liters of water is being used for the production of wheat and 2500 liters of water for rice, while since the 1980s the farmers have not given importance to the drip irrigation system.

Sida General Manager Transition Ghulam Mustafa Ujjan said that after the 18th amendment, students should participate in research on agricultural, economic, water and water policy, while the government, private institu-

Water Link: Connecting the Dots" cultural land in the colonies are tions and farmers should work together on water, RDF Executive Direccultural Engineering, Dr. Altaf Sial, tor Ashfaq Soomro said that there is a need to correct the use of canal, rain and spring water in agriculture, households and food.

WHH program manager Sarwan Baloch said that food products are produced in rural areas, while they are consumed in urban areas, now food products will also have to be produced in cities, said Dr. Dilip Kumar, an expert in food technology. By 2050, the population will reach 9.2 billion and due to the lack of attention of the consumers, the food and its quality will not improve until then. Prof. Wahida Baloch, Dr. Munir Ahmad Mangrio, Niaz Sial, and others also

PRCS conducted global hand washing day at SW Upper

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On thursday in Govt High School Chaghmalai of District South Waziristan Upper, Pakistan Red Crescent Society newly merged districts organized a function regarding "Global Hand Washing Day" under the direction of Engineer Rao Hassan.

Tribal elders and teachers along with students participated in the event.

Speakers said that many diseases can be prevented due to cleanliness, and students emphasized the importance of hand washing through painting.

Pakistan Red Crescent Society South Waziristan Upper District Program Officer Sher Mohammad said, that they will soon start working on hand washing projects in different areas.

Although where along with hand washing, people will also be given awareness about cleanliness.

He said that we have the best team in terms of hygiene, who provide sanitation sessions to the local people on a daily basis.

Tribal elders participating in the event thanked Pakistan Red Crescent society for providing excellent health facilities in Upper South Waziristan, and said that thanks to the excellent staff, the best treatment is available not only at the doorstep,

Rather, the best awareness of disease prevention is also being provided.

At the end of the ceremony, students, teachers and tribal elders also took a walk regarding the global hand wash-



Jammu Kashmir Joint People's Action Committee demands end of electricity bills after talks with govt

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The members of the Jammu and Kashmir Joint People's Action Committee negotiated with the government reconciliation committee in Muzaffarabad yesterday. After mutual negotiation, the Government Reconciliation Committee, in order to continue the negotiation process, accepted the demand of Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee that before the negotiation process, all the cases established during the last 5 months of public movement should be eliminated and the government reconciliation Committee has assured to withdraw all the cases as a goodwill gesture to make the negotiations meaningful and also assured to take the negotiation process forward gradually. This stated in Press release issued here yesterday by the joint Awami action committee. The Jammu Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee will continue its protest movement as per its schedule.

Jammu and Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee appeals to the public to boycott the current month's electricity bills and try as much as possible to take the bill boycott to 100 percent Press release said.

Joint Kashmir Global Council Protests Israeli war on Gaza

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Farooq Siddiqi the President of the Kashmir Global Council, has expressed his deep concern about the human tragedy and the policies of countries considered prestigious in Palestine over the past week. Thousands of children, women, and the elderly have been killed within hours, and now more than ten million people are being slowly killed. However, global institutions and nations that claim to uphold the principles of humanity do not seem to be concerned. He stressed that humanity should be saved without discrimination. He said, setting aside historical and regional complexities, Sadiq emphasized that millions of citizens are being instructed to flee their homes overnight, and their safety arrangements are extremely limited. Even the secure shelters are under constant bombardment by Israeli forces. He pointed out that Israel is not only violating the principles of war at this time but has also abandoned humanity. Thousands of people are severely injured in hospitals, and thousands of elderly individuals are disabled. These families are being told to leave Gaza. Access to clean water, food, and fuel is becoming increasingly scarce, pushing the population to the brink of starvation. Sadiq described this as a social punishment and emphasized that there is no justification for targeting the entire Palestinian population due to the actions of a single organization. However, Farooq Sidiqi stated that raising a voice for the lives of one million people is not a political, territorial, or religious issue. Instead, it is a humanitarian issue. To stop the indiscriminate killing of humanity, all decision-makers will need to take action.

Chaudhry Shaukat Ali announces meeting of Regional Committee on National Action Plan



Bureau Report

MIRPUR: The meeting of the Regional Committee of National Action Plan was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Chaudhry Shaukat Ali and Commander of Pakistan Army Brigadier Zaka Ashraf, in which officials of Pakistan Army and security agencies, Deputy Commissioner Mirpur Chaudhry Amjad Iqbal, Deputy Commissioner Bhimbar Mirza Arshad. Mahmood Jaral, Deputy Commissioner Kotli Chaudhry Haq Nawaz, SSP Mirpur Raja Irfan Saleem Khan, SSP Bhimbar Raja Muhammad Akmal Khan, DSP Kotli Muhammad Ilyas, In-charge Special Branch Raja Javed Ur Rehman, District Information Officer Muhammad Javed Malik, Security The officials of the agencies participated in the meeting. Under the National Action Plan, instructions were given to completely eliminate the activities against the interest and security of the country and the state and bring those who spread unrest in the society to justice. According to the government instructions, measures should be taken to send foreigners who are staying illegally and without any documents in any of the districts of the division to their native countries by October 25. Any foreigner without visa and legal permission. One cannot reside in the state without a certificate. In this way, the government policy and the National Action Plan should be implemented regarding currency exchange and registration of schools. All possible steps should be taken regarding security to end terrorism. No conces $sion\, should\, be\, made\, regarding\, bringing\, people\, involved\, in\, crimes\, to\, the$ role of infidels, no one is allowed to spread disorder and religious hatred in the society, nor is any sect allowed to take the law into their hands.





SERVICES Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

EIMEIZOEIZO I
Rescue (Police)15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 10
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 445112
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police

Stations				
9222596				
270601-20				

ENQUIRY

HOSPI1	
WASA Rawalpindi	
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
Railway Inquiry	117
PIA Cargo	9280979

CMH	56111
MH	56111
MH	56111
Cantt Hospital	9270907-
DHQ	5556311-
RGH	9290301-
Holy Family	9290322-

Ufone 4G introduces **VoLTE for** HD voice & video calling experience over 4G network

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani mobile operator, Ufone 4G is set to introduce a seamless voice and video calling experience for its customers with its newly launched Voice over LTE (VoLTE) service. VoLTE delivers a superior voice and video calling expe rience with crystal-clear voice quality and enhanced call connectivity over cellular networks.

Ufone 4G's VoLTE service aims to cater to the increasing demand for HD voice and video calls by redefining the way its customers communicate with their loved ones across the country and overseas. The initiative mirrors Ufone 4G's relentless commitmen to fostering digital innovation and customer satis-

One of VoLTE's significant advantages is its ability to eliminate the need to switch to 2G or 3G networks during voice and video calls, a regular feature of the standard network protocol. This ensures a consistently high-speed data connection during voice and video calls, resulting in quicker call setup times and superior call quality, even in areas with comparatively weaker reception.

The VoLTE service is currently available for a selected range of handsets in Pakistan. Users may check their handset's compatibility and receive necessary updates for an enhanced calling experience.

This initiative aligns with Ufone 4G's core mission of empowering its customers with state-of-the-art technology and delivering exceptional services to elevate their overall user experience.

Mushaal urges world powers, OIC to swiftly act to prevent humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick called upon international community, the UN bodies and OIC to adopt a proactive and unequivocal policy approach to prevent the looming humanitarian catastrophe, as the war frenzy Israel put the war-battered Gaza under total siege, halting food, water and fuel to 2.3m people.

Speaking at a Roundtable titled "Gaza Under Siege: Humanitarian Catastrophe of Israel Aggression" organized by Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Mushaal pointed out that the inhuman Israel was hellbent on annihilating the entire Palestinian population after forcibly and unlawfully occupied their land.

The SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment lamented that the Zionist regime had no respect for the international laws, as it was targeting hospitals, residential areas and shelter homes with complete impunity, as Gazans were being subjected to genocide.

man tactics to muzzle the dissenting voices by unleashing a reign of terror, besides the people of Palestine.

cutting the besieged Gaza from the rest

Mushaal said that the war-ravaged region continued to face worst humanitarian crisis due to the ongoing Israeli aggression and blockade, as war-weary people had left with no food and water amid the indiscriminate non-stop airstrikes by the fascist occupation forces, killing children and women and elderly people.

She criticized that Israel's backers were responsible for encouraging the Jewish state to commit atrocities in the war-torn Gaza with impunity.

The SPAM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment made it clear that the notorious Indian government and the Zionist regime were pursuing the policies of genocide and had been committing war crimes in their respective occupied territories for the last over seven-decades but the world powers and the UN bodies instead of taking practical and tangible measures to stop these aggressors and occupiers from committing inhuman acts, they worked as their facilitators

She demanded that the muslim coun-She recalled that like Hindutva Indian tries should severe their diplomatic government, brutal Israeli government ties with the inhuman Israeli state and also adopted similar coercive and inhu- imposed oil embargo until, it did not recognize the just right to self-determination of



community to act swiftly and to hold the Israeli occupation forces accountable for these heinous war crimes against the Pales-

Mushaal urged the international tinian people, calling for immediate inter- be held accountable for the war crimes vention to halt the massacre to prevent the humanitarian catastrophe.

She demanded that the Israel should

and practical measures should be taken to ensure permanent solution to the Palestine issue as per two state solution.

Performance

ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Artists are performing during the celebrations of the 78th Independence Day and Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Indonesia at local hotel in Federal Capital.



Islamia University of Bahawalpur faculty in top two percent of scientists worldwide

Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR: Stanford University USA has released the ranking of two percent of the best scientists in the world. 27 teachers (researchers) the Islamia University of Bahawalpur have joined the top two percent Chancellor Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar was also declared as the best scientist. The researchers of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur researched and wrote theses on solving the problems of pharmacy, chemistry, mathematics, agriculture, physics, computer science, engineering, on the basis of which they were included among the best scientists in the world.

Researcher from the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Warsi Department of Chem- Azhar Khan Associate Profes-



Akhtar Department of Pharmaceutics, Prof. Dr. Saeed Ahmed Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Prof. Dr. Asadullah Madani Department of Pharmaceutics, Prof.

of scientists worldwide. Vice including Prof. Dr. Naveed istry, Prof. Dr. Wajid Naseem Department of Agronomy, Prof. Dr. Magshoof Ahmad Department of Soil Sciences, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nadeem Akhtar Institute of Chemistry. Dr. Humira Arshad Dr. Muhammad Atif Depart- Associate Professor Department of Pharmacy Practice and ment of Computer Sciences, Director ORC, Prof. Dr. Riaz Dr. Ghulam Abbas Associate Hussain Department of Pathol- Professor Department of Mathogy, Prof. Dr. Zaheer Abbas ematics, Dr. Majid Niaz Akhtar Department of Mathematics, Associate Professor Institute Prof. Dr. Muhammad Farooq of Physics, Dr. Muhammad

sor Institute of Physics, Dr. Muhammad Shakeel Associate Professor Institute of Physics, Dr. Murtaza Hassan Associate Professor Department of Biotechnology, Dr. Abdul Rehman Assistant Professor Department of Agriculture, Dr. Muhammad Aadil Assistant Professor Institute of Chemistry, Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza Assistant Professor/Director National Intercropping Research Institute, Tauseef Manwar Lecturer Institute of Physics, Faisal Zulfigar Lecturer Horticulture Department and Muhammad Umar Lecturer Software Engineering Department in the list. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar and Deans congratulated and soon a ceremony will be held in honor of these scientists.

TB Control Program KP Committed to Eradicate TB from the Province

👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: As a part of its initiative towards preventing tuberculosis (TB) in Pakistan, Mercy Corps, in collaboration with TB Control Program Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Association for Community Development (ACD), and Greenstar Social Marketing (GSM), organized a one-day seminar titled 'Advocacy and Awareness Seminar on TB Preventive Treatment (TPT)'. Mercy Corps and its implementing partners with the financial support of The Global Fund are actively implementing a comprehensive TB program in 120 districts of Pakistan.

Over the years, Mercy Corps has been engaging the private health sector, boosting community awareness, and conducting outreach activities, including remote areas of Pakistan through collaboration with the National TB Control Program (NTP) and Provincial



TB Control Programs (PTPs), Health Departments, and its implementing partners. The TPT initiative is a pivotal component of Mercy Corps' strategy aimed at curtailing the spread of TB.

The seminar in Peshawar commenced with a profound sense of purpose and dedication, as attendees gathered to address the pressing issue of TB. The event started with a welcome address and opening remarks by Dr. Muddassar Shahzad, Project Director, Provincial TB Control Program, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that set the tone for an insightful and

impactful day.

"Pakistan ranks 5th among the high burden countries affected by TB, with Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR TB) posing as a major challenge, leading to prolonged treatment of affected patients." said Dr. Muddassar Shahzad. He emphasized the need for using TPT to reduce the burden of TB in the province and in Pakistan.

Fayyaz Sherpao, Special Secretary Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ensured all stakeholders of his support to spearhead the efforts for the eradication of TB.

Habibullah, Special Secretary Budget and Development appreciated the efforts of Mercy Corps and its implementing partners for the eradication

Dr. Adeel Tahir, Senior Program Manager at Mercy Corps, while sharing the background and objectives of seminar said, "In the quest to combat TB, our unified efforts are crucial. This seminar serves as a platform to share knowledge and foster collaboration, bringing us closer to a future free from the burden of TB."

Dr. Akmal Naveed, Director ACD, emphasized the significance of collective action, saying, "Addressing tuberculosis requires a multifaceted approach. Through collaboration and awareness, we aim to not only curb the spread of TB but also empower communities with the knowledge and tools to protect them-

Tourist Information Center will be established at New Gwadar International Airport, says Wasi Shah

ISLAMABAD: In a surprised visit to the New Islamabad International Airport, Minister of State for Tourism, Wasi Shah, expressed strong displeasure with the current arrangements and took action to address

During his visit, Minister Wasi Shah noticed a malfunctioning screen at the Tourist Information Center (TIC) in Islamabad International Airport. He promptly issued orders to replace the screen within two days to ensure a seamless tourist information experience.

The Minister was also briefed on the performance and services provided by the TIC, emphasizing that the establishment of this center aims to provide tourists with comprehensive information. Furthermore, $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left($ Minister Wasi Shah highlighted the growing significance of Gwadar as a tourist destination, attracting visitors from across Pakistan and around the world.

He stressed the vital role that modern and efficient tourist information centers play in promoting tourism globally, emphasizing the need for state-of-the-art facilities. Minister Wasi Shah made it clear that he will not tolerate any incompetence within his ministry, underscoring his commitment to improving the tourism experience for all

Spotify unveils Smart Shuffle in Pakistan for more personalized and tasteful playlists

ISLAMABAD: Spotify is adding another touch of personalization to its portfolio with a groundbreaking feature, Smart Shuffle, designed to transform how users experience their personalized playlists. Smart Shuffle is set to elevate this connection by keeping those cherished playlists fresh and exciting, infused with personalized recommendations tailored to the playlist's unique vibe. Smart Shuffle offers a new way to experience your favorite playlists. It intelligently reshuffles tracks and seamlessly introduces brand-new recommendations that harmonize with the playlist's original mood, breathing new life into your carefully curated collections. This innovative feature not only enhances your favorite playlists but also adds a fresh dimension to your 'Liked Songs' playlist.

Mazhar Thathal meet with Ambassador of Pakistan



Mazhar Hussain Thathal CEO of GTEC & Convener National trade and business development committee Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, led business community delegation to Pakistan Embassy in Paris, have cordial meeting with Ambassador of Pakistan to France discussed Pakistan's trade & business opportunities in European countries for Pakistan's business community, in the presence of delegation member Farzana Shaheen Senior Member Rawalpindi Women chamber of commerce, Kamran Yousaf Senior Member LCCI, Senior Member KPKCCI, along with business community and others at Paris, France.

CBD Punjab right on track to meet CM Punjab's Timeline for Ghora Chowk Flyover

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), is making commendable progress on the Ghora Chowk Flyover, a pivotal infrastructure initiative aimed at easing traffic congestion and enhancing connectivity in the region.

Under the unwavering leadership of Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, the project is swiftly progressing to meet demanding timelines. The pier work is now on the brink of completion, with four piers in total, one of which has recently undergone the final concrete pour, leaving only three remaining to be finalized. Furthermore, the successful completion of both abutment walls represents a significant milestone in the construction journey. As the boundary wall nears completion, the initiation of slip road and drainage system construction demonstrates the project's comprehensive approach towards enhancing the region's overall infrastructure.

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Exports increase by 25.54 percent to over Rs.2 trillion in Q1

■ he exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 25.54 percent during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Exports during July-September (2023-24) were recorded at Rs.2,013,533 million as against Rs.1,603,869 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 25.54 percent, according to provisional data released by

On a year-on-year basis, the exports during September 2023 increased by 31.27 percent and were recorded at Rs. 737,295 million compared to the exports of Rs.561,643 million in September 2022. On a month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 6.06 percent when compared to the exports of Rs. 695,136 million in August 2023. The main commodities of exports during August 2023 were commodities of exports during September, 2023 were knitwear (Rs. 103,029 million), readymade garments (Rs. 74,608 million), bed wear (Rs. 69,234 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 51,891 million), oil seeds, nuts and kernals (Rs.46,571 million), cotton yarn (Rs.33,815 million), rice others (Rs.32,324 million), towels (Rs.25,116 million), rice basmati (Rs.19,008 million) and madeup articles exclueing towels and bedwear (Rs.16,922 million). On the other hand, imports during July- September (2023 FY2023-24) totaled Rs. 3,560,763 million as against Rs. 3,650,269 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing a decrease of 2.45%. On a year-on-year basis, imports into Pakistan during September 2023 amounted to Rs.1,189,167 million as against Rs.1,219,956 million in September 2022, showing a decline of 2.52 percent. On a month-on-month basis, imports into the country witnessed an increase of 10.62 percent in September 2023 when compared to the imports of Rs.1.330.458 million in August 2023. Main commodities of imports during September, 2023 were petroleum products (Rs. 162,087 million), petroleum crude (Rs.146,179 million), natural gas, liquified (Rs. 75,331 million), palm oil (Rs. 61,388 million), plastic materials (Rs. 49,628 million), electric machinery & apparatus (Rs.44,699 million), iron & steel (Rs.44,191 million), mobile phones (Rs.37,093 million), iron & steel scrap (Rs.27,299 million) and pulses/leguminous vegetables (Rs.22,208 million).

Significant visit of OIC Special Envoy in context of current situation in Occupied J & K - IV

Abdul Basit Alvi

Al-Dubeay has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to human rights, advocating vocally for the rights of the Kashmiri people. He has persistently raised concerns about human rights abuses in the region, drawing international attention to the suffering of Kashmiri civilians and emphasizing the imperative need for accountability in cases of abuse

Under Al-Dubeay's leadership, the OIC has maintained a steadfast position in supporting the right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir. This principled stance aligns with United Nations Security Council resolutions and underscores the OIC's dedication to upholding international law and championing the democratic aspirations of the Kashmiri population.

Yousef al-Dubeay has also been actively involved in facilitating humanitarian assistance to the people of Kashmir, particularly during times of crisis. This aid encompasses support for healthcare, education, and relief efforts in the wake of natural disasters and conflicts. His initiatives have had a positive impact on the lives of Kashmiri residents, offering much-needed relief during their times

Through his unwavering advocacy and diplomatic efforts, Al-Dubeay has played an indispensable role in raising international awareness of the Kashmir issue. He has effectively encouraged global discussions on the situation in Kashmir, exerting pressure on the parties involved

hroughout his tenure, to take substantive steps toward a peace- Muzaffarabad and called on political ful resolution.

Furthermore, Yousef M Al Dobeay emphasized that the OIC has strongly condemned the unlawful actions taken by India on August 5, 2019, and has consistently called for their reversal. In expressed deep gratitude to the OIC for the LOC. Suffering of Kashmiri Muslims

its consistent and unwavering support for the Kashmiri cause. While referencing the Indian atrocities in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi pointed out that the current Indian leadership is committed to prolonging India's occupation of

the region. He highlighted that a significant number of political activists and human rights defenders have been arbitrarily detained, with their total count reaching around four thousand. Referring to the illegal and unilateral steps taken on August 5, 2019, he stressed that the ultimate aim of these actions is to disempower Kashmiris and turn them into a minority in their own homeland. He emphasized that the timely and full implementation of decisions made under OIC resolutions and the action plan adopted by the Contact Group can help alleviate the suffering of the Kashmiri people and lead to a lasting resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The delegation also visited Chakothi Sector, Jammu & Kashmir Monument

leadership of AJK.

Delegation visited Chakothi-Uri Crossing Point of Line of Control (LOC). Major General Muhammad Irfan, GOC Chinar Division welcomed the diganitiries at LOC and comprehensively response, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary briefed about prevailing situation along

living in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were highlighted in detail besides atrocities of Indian occupation forces in the garb of Cordon and Search operations. Delegates were also informed about welfare measures undertaken by Pakistan Army for

the betterment of people of Azad Kashmir. The delegation also met and interacted with victims of Indian Ceasefire violations including victims of prohibited cluster munition, members of village defence committee and local civil administration at Chakothi.

Ambassador Yousef Muhammad Al Dobeay also laid floral wreath at Jammu & Kashmir Martyr's Monument at Muzaffarabad.

While talking to the locals at Chakothi, Yousef Al Dobeay said that Kashmir issue is not only of Kashmiri people but of whole Muslim ummah and we will highlight suffering of IIOJK people during upcoming session of OIC. Voice of Kashmiris would be conveyed to the Islamic world and the international community

will also be taken on board in this regard. Kashmir is a part of the OIC and it is our responsibility to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully and according to the wishes of Kashmiris. I assure you that we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Kashmir in their struggle for securing their right to self-determination. Today we have got an opportunity to visit the LoC and talk to the victims of the Indian aggression. The world needs to be told more about the human rights violations taking place in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Being the representative of Islamic countries, it is our responsibility to highlight the Kashmir issue and solve it. We will solve this problem together with friendly countries to ensure durable peace in the region. Delegates also visited a refugees Camp near Muzaffarabad where they were briefed about socio-economic development of refugees.

Readers, what is noteworthy about the OIC Special Envoy's visit is that he personally observed the ground realities on both sides, underscoring the significant difference between the situations in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the oppression faced by the people in occupied Kashmir due to Indian actions. He will prepare a comprehensive report on the situation in Kashmir and present it to the OIC Rabta Group. This visit to Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir has been highly praised by the people on both sides of the Line of Control. It is seen as a sincere effort that brings the prospect of the Kashmiri people exercising their right to self-determination closer to reality.





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

Analyzing the Dynamics of Inflation in Pakistan: Causes, Consequences and Policy Implications - VI

the first thing that is most likely to take place is public dissatisfaction which when inflation erodes purchasing power and living standards, can lead to public dissatisfaction and protests. Governments may face increased pressure to address inflationary concerns. Furthermore, managing inflation tries and international organizations can help can be politically challenging. Tough measures to control inflation, such as raising interest rates or reducing government spending, can be unpopular but may be necessary to curb rising prices. Above all, persistent inflation can contribute to

economic environment and investor confidence. Understanding these consequences of inflation is crucial for policymakers in Pakistan to implement effective measures that strike a balance between economic growth and price stability. Managing inflation is not only an economic imperative but also a key factor in ensuring social and political stability in the country.

Next up global economic policies should be taken into consideration for example, Pakistan should diversify its export markets and reduce reliance on specific commodities. Efforts to expand the range of exportable goods and services can reduce vulnerability to global price fluctuations. Moreover, maintaining an adequate level of foreign exchange reserves is crucial. These reserves serve as a buffer against excessive exchange rate volatility and speculative attacks on the currency. Inclusive policies and public awareness are vital as well, invest in education and healthcare to improve human capital and reduce inflation's impact on healthcare and education expenses. Developing robust social safety nets to protect vulnerable addition to this, Prioritizing transparency in poli-

cal consequences due to inflation: manage inflation expectations. Lastly, promoting financial literacy to empower individuals to make informed financial decisions amid inflation.

However, the most substantial policy would be international collaboration as it would be the most effective in overcoming inflationary hurdles. Collaborating with neighboring counaddress common inflationary challenges, particularly related to food price fluctuations. Sharing information and best practices can lead to more effective responses. Supremely, engaging in trade agreements and regional economic initiatives can macroeconomic instability, affecting the overall promote economic stability and reduce inflation-

ary pressures. Expanding trade opportunities and diversifying trading partners can enhance resilience to global economic fluctuations. These detailed policy implications and recommendations are designed to guide policymakers in Pakistan as they work to effectively manage inflation and create an environment of economic stability and improved

living standards for the population.

Abdullah Anwar

In this final section, we provide a summary of the key findings and insights from our analysis of the dynamics of inflation in Pakistan, its causes, consequences, and policy implications. In this final section, we provide a summary of the key findings and insights from our analysis of the dynamics of inflation in Pakistan, its causes, consequences, and policy implications. Monetary policy, including interest rate management and exchange rate stability, plays a critical role in controlling inflation. Fiscal policies that address budget deficits and subsidy reform are equally vital. Supply-side policies, such as infrastructure investment and agricultural sector improvements, populations from inflation's adverse effects, in can mitigate inflationary pressures. Diversifying exports and maintaining foreign exchange

ltimately we will see the politicies and communicating openly with the public to reserves are important in managing external shocks. Inclusive policies, including social safety nets and investments in education and healthcare, are crucial for protecting vulnerable populations from the adverse effects of inflation. Public awareness, transparency, and financial literacy are essential for managing inflation expectations and empowering individuals to make informed financial decisions. International collaboration, both regionally and through trade agreements, can enhance economic stability and reduce inflationary pressures.

To effectively manage inflation in Pakistan and ensure economic stability and improved living standards for its citizens, policymakers must adopt a holistic and coordinated approach. This includes prudent monetary and fiscal policies that respond to inflationary pressures, additionally, Supplyside measures that enhance productivity and reduce production costs. Investments in education, healthcare, and social safety nets to protect vulnerable populations are vital too. Transparent communication with the public to manage inflation expectations and above all, active engagement in international collaboration and trade agreements to reduce external vulnerabilities. Nevertheless, continued research and adaptation of policies are essential to address the evolving dynamics of inflation in Pakistan. Monitoring global economic conditions, commodity price trends, and regional developments will be crucial for effective poli-

This research paper provides a comprehensive analysis of inflation in Pakistan, shedding light on its causes, consequences, and policy implications. By understanding the complex dynamics of inflation, policymakers, economists and stakeholders can develop effective strategies to mitigate its adverse effects and promote sustainable economic growth and social development in Pakistan.

> $(The writer is \ an A \ Level \ student. \ He \ can \ be$ reached at chabdullah2005@gmail.com)

The Palestinian Issue and the slavish Foreign Policy of Islamic Countries - II

sia have condemned the Israeli brutality. In Islamic countries. there has been widespread public outrage. Large-scale protests have been seen on Friday. Howev- Pakistan's stand on the issue of Kashmir er, the reaction that should have come from and Palestine due to the coming and going the rulers of five dozen Islamic countries of political governments is what Quaid-

could not come. It can be estimated from this how independent the foreign policy of Islamic countries is. Najmuddin Erbakan was said:

"There are one and a half billion Muslims waiting for Swallowed to come and save our lives from 8 million Israelis. By God, if Swallowed comes today, they should not kill fellow Jews, but the Muslims!"

In fact, the foreign policy of Islamic countries is slavish to the West. Islamic countries surrounded by economic problems are enslaved by the West in every respect. Economically, India has certainly succeeded to some extent in asserting its importance due to its importance and the flattery of the West. This is the reason why the opinion of the Islamic countries is divided on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan is perhaps the only country in the world which has been competing with India for the past seventy-five years regarding the issue of Kashmir, Junagadh and Manavadar. From the last words of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah till today, Pakistan has stood with Palestine and God willing will continue to stand. Unfortunately, due to the political and economic crisis and the return of Afghan refugees,

akistan, Turkey, Qatar and Tuni- Pakistan has become entangled in internal issues to such an extent that our foreign policy has also been affected. Pakistan's position regarding the Palestine issue is very clear and Pakistan will continue to play its full role.

> e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said while dying. According to Ms. Fatima Jinnah, the last time Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had the words of refugees, Kashmir and Palestine on his lips, after which he recited the Kalma and died. Every **Shah Muhammad Awan** honorable citizen of Paki-

stan has a clear position regarding Palestine. Russia and China are stepping up to maintain their effectiveness vis-à-vis the Western block. Islamic countries are leaning towards China under the guise of One Belt One Road. But China's priorities are its own economic policies and secure access to global markets. At this time, it is obvious that peace at the global level is possible only by solving the issue of Palestine or Kashmir. Masjid Al-Aqsa is very important for all Muslims. All Islamic countries will have to come on the same page to protect the First Qibla. The OIC platform should isolate Israel and its facilitators in the world. If Islamic countries do not revise their slavish foreign policy, it is not far-fetched that one country after another will become Palestine.

The writer is M.A.L.L.b and working as an Editor of Daily Soon Times Newspaper from Pakistan

The Spokesman 5

3,478 Palestinians killed by Israel as aid stuck on border

President Xi says China to work with Egypt to help stabilise Middle East

GAZA: Egypt agreed to reopen its border the US embassy in Beirut, TV footage the opening, but US national secucrossing with the Gaza Strip to allow aid to reach Palestinians, the US said, as the humanitarian crisis worsened for the 2.3 million people trapped in the enclave and anti-Israel protests flared across the Middle East.

The region remained volatile in the aftermath of an Israeli air strike at Gaza's Al-Ahli al-Arabi hospital late on Tuesday, which Palestinian officials said killed 471 people.

The Gaza health ministry said 3,478 Palestinians have been killed and 12,065 injured in Israeli air strikes on the besieged enclave since Oct 7.

Demonstrations erupted in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian West Bank, Iran, ing humanitarian aid into the enclave, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and elsewhere amid outrage across the Middle East over the hospital attack. Lebanese security after Israel unleashed a blockade and forces fired tear gas and water cannons at protesters throwing projectiles near

showed.

Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinian teenagers in the West Bank during protests, Palestinian officials said, while Palestinian official news agency WAFA said Israeli forces killed a Palestinian man during a raid on the West Bank village of Budrus

US President Joe Biden discussed aid for Gaza with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi by phone late on Wednesday, while flying home from a less than eight-hour visit to Israel. Biden told reporters that Sisi agreed to open the Rafah crossing from Egypt to Gaza to allow about 20 trucks carrywhere people are desperately short of food, water, fuel and other essentials air strikes 12 days ago.

Biden did not give a timeline for

rity spokesperson John Kirby said it would occur in the coming days following repairs to the road. Amid fears the conflict could spread beyond Gaza, Biden had planned to meet Arab leaders. But Jordan called off his planned summit there with Egypt and the Palestinian Authority after the hospital attack.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also highlighted the risk the Gaza conflict might become regional, and Russia was in contact with Turkey over the matter, the Interfax news agency reported. UN aid chief Martin Griffiths told the Security Council that the organisation sought to bring aid deliveries to Gaza back to 100 trucks a day, the level before the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Biden was due to speak from the White House at 8 p.m. ET on Thursday (0000 GMT on Friday) about the



A Palestinian civil defence member stands through a crack in a collapsed building hit by Israeli bombardment while searching for victims and survivors, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip. AFP

US response to Hamas' attacks against effort with international organisations the West Bank. Israel and Russia's war against Ukraine, the White House said. Also on Thursday, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was due to visit Israel.

Egypt, which previously said the Rafah crossing was not technically closed but was inoperable due to Israeli air strikes, said Sisi and Biden agreed to provide aid to Gaza "in a sustainable manner." They were coordinating an aid

under the United Nations.

During Biden's visit, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel would let food, water and medicines reach southern Gaza via Egypt. Biden faced intense global pressure to secure an Israeli commitment to ease the plight of civilians in the small, densely populated coastal enclave. He pledged \$100 million

Mark Negev, an adviser to Netanyahu, said on CNN that Israel had agreed to allow aid to Gaza via Egypt "in principle" but "we don't want to see Hamas stealing aid that's directed towards the civilian population. It's a real problem." Israel reiterated it would not allow in aid through its crossing with Gaza until Hamas released about 200 captives in US assistance for civilians in Gaza and seized during its cross-border raid.

Taliban say plans to formally join China's BRI project

Last month, China became the first country to appoint ambassador to Kabul after Taliban's take over in 2021

BEIJING: The Taliban administration wants to formally join Chinese President Xi Jinping's huge 'Belt and Road' infrastructure initiative and will send a technical team to China for talks, Afghanistan's acting commerce minister said on Thursday.

Beijing has sought to develop its ties with the Taliban-run government since it took over in 2021, even though no other foreign government has recognised the administration.

Last month, China became the first country to appoint an ambassador to Kabul, with other nations retaining previous ambassadors or appointcredentials to the government.

allow us to be a part of the



ing technical issues today," ed heads of mission in a charge acting Commerce Minister "We requested China to ended in Beijing.

Corridor and Belt and Road flagship section of the Belt holding Afghanistan back.

Initiative... (and) are discuss- and Road Initiative (BRI) in Afghanistan's neighbour.

Azizi said the administrad'affaires capacity that does not Haji Nooruddin Azizi told tion would also send a techinvolve formally presenting Reuters in an interview a day nical team to China to enable after the Belt and Road Forum it to "better understand" the issues standing in the way of they were still ongoing. "The omy and green development The Pakistan "economic it joining the initiative, but Chinese company has made on the sidelines of the Belt and China-Pakistan Economic corridor" refers to the huge did not elaborate on what was a huge investment, and we Road Forum on Wednesday.

Afghanistan could offer China a wealth of coveted mineral resources. Several Chinese companies already operate there, including the Metallurgical Corp. of China Ltd (MCC) which has held talks with the Taliban administration, as well as the previous Western-backed government, over plans for a potentially huge copper mine.

"China, which invests all over the world, should also invest in Afghanistan... we have everything they need, such as lithium, copper and iron," Azizi said. "Afghanistan is now, more than ever, ready for investment."

Asked about the MCC talks, Azizi said discussions had been was near a historical site, but support them," he added.

Investors have said security remains a concern. The Dai'ish group has targeted foreign embassies and a hotel popular with Chinese investors in Kabul.

Asked about the security challenges, Azizi said security was a priority for the Taliban-run government, adding that after 20 years of warwhich ended when foreign forces withdrew and the Taliban took over-meant more parts of the country were safe.

"It is now possible to travel to provinces where there is industry, agriculture and mines that one previously could not visit... security can be guaranteed," Azizi added.

Afghanistan and 34 other delayed because the mine countries agreed to work together on the digital econ-

A Pakistani constructor of China-Pakistan health corridor

JINAN: Muhammed Shahbaz is a native of Sargodha, Pakistan. Ever since he was a child, Shahbaz dreamed of bringing better medical service to those who live in remote areas and are unable to afford medical expenses.

In 2006, Shahbaz enrolled in Shandong University. He earned the bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in surgery successively before finishing his postdoctoral research in October this year. Shahbaz is now committed to the construction of China-Pakistan health corridor.

The China-Pakistan health corridor is a multidisciplinary group composed of hospitals, nursing and auxiliary medical institutions, research and training centers, IT, and pharmaceutical industries. Through mobile hospitals, laboratories, pharmacies, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and big data, this group shares the achievements of Chinese medical development with Pakistan.

"I hope that China and Pakistan go further in medical cooperation, and I will make every effort to promote exchanges and cooperation between China and Pakistan through science, technology and medical care," said Shahbaz, Xinhua

Bali island declares drought emergency status for 14 days

JAKARTA: The regional government of Bali province, a famous resort island in Indonesia, declared on Thursday an emergency alert status of drought that would stay effective for 14 days, following the escalation of the recent drought disaster in the region.

"We have decided to set the status of disaster emergency preparedness for 14 days ahead, starting today," said Bali's Acting Governor Sang Made Mahendra at his office in Bali, as quoted by local media.

Mahendra said that the extreme weather conditions in Bali from July to October had caused 113 villages to suffer from clean water shortage and caused forest or land fires in 10 areas, including Denpasar, the province's capital city.

We will make efforts to extinguish the fires which are still burning at the moment, including providing assistance to areas experiencing drought and preparing the equipment needed to modify the weather. If we cannot handle it properly, we are afraid that the impact will spread wider," Mahendra said. Agencies

At least 20 injured in Czech tram collision



PRAGUE: At least 20 people were injured after two trams collided on Thursday in the western Czech city of Pilsen.

The accident occurred around 12 noon at Karlovarska Street in the city. Firefighters secured the scene, the local fire rescue service said on social media, adding that there were about 20 injuries.

Rudolf Spotak, governor of the Pilsen Region, later said on social media that 29 injured people had to be hospitalized with light injuries.

Xi meets Thai PM

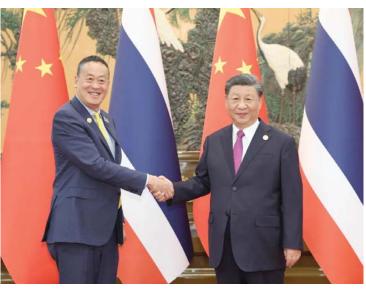
Pledging to add new dimensions to family-like bilateral relations

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday met with Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin. who is in Beijing for the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and an official visit.

Srettha made China the first country outside the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for an official visit, which fully reflects the great importance that the new government of Thailand attaches to bilateral relations. Xi said. China stands ready to work with

Thailand to continuously add new dimensions to their family-like relations, and transform advantages of the traditional friendship into a driving force for win-win cooperation, Xi said.

He said that the two sides should speed up construction of the China-Thailand railway, expand



cooperation in fields including digital economy, green development and new energy, and step up efforts to crack

down on cross-border crimes such as telecom fraud and online gambling to create a safe environment for the development of the two countries.

Xi said China is willing to share opportunities in China's vast market and high-level opening-up to inject positive energy into Asia's develop-

Srettha noted that Thailand will work with China to build a more stable, prosperous and sustainable Thailand-China community with a shared future.

He said Thailand will do its utmost to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens in Thailand, and welcomes more Chinese enterprises to invest and more Chinese citizens to visit Thailand.

Senior Chinese leaders including Cai Qi and Wang Yi were present at the meeting. Xinhua

Iran urges regional countries to stop US arms transfer to Israel

TEHRAN: A top Iranian military official has urged regional countries to stop the United States from transferring arms and equipment to Israel from its bases in the Middle East, the official news agency IRNA reported on Thursday.

Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Baqeri made the remarks in a phone call with Qatar's Defense Minister Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah, the IRNA reported, without disclosing the exact date of the phone call.

Baqeri warned if the Israe-



ities," any reaction will be possible from "resistance groups.

In another phone call with Russian Defense Minisli side continues its "brutal- ter Sergei Shoigu, Bageri

expressed grave concern over the continuation of the widespread violations against civilians in Gaza, the IRNA

Shoigu said Russia's posi-

tion on the need for a cease fire and preventing harm to civilians was clear and regretted that some Western countries blocked Russia's initiative to end the crisis in the UN Security Council.

The latest round of violence between Israel and Hamas, which rules Gaza, began on Oct. 7 when Hamas launched a rare surprise attack on southern Israel close to the border with Gaza. Israel retaliated with airstrikes and a blockade that cut off water, electricity, fuel and other supplies to Gaza.

The conflict has killed more than 4,000 people on both sides. IRNA

😂 In general elections

Zimbabwean president rejects rigging allegations

HARARE: Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa has denied allegations of election rigging in the presidential election held at the end of August, saying that his victory was based on the merits of his accomplishments over the preceding five years, local media reported Thursday.

The president told business leaders that the government's position was earned through merit. "I can assure you, we did not rig. We are where we are by merit, total merit, just like yourselves," Mnangagwa was quoted by The Herald, a leading daily newspaper in the southern African country, as saying.

Mnangagwa secured the election with 52.6 percent of the vote, surpass-



ing his challenger, Nelson Chamisa of the Citizens' Coalition for Change, who garnered 44 percent, according to the imbabwe Electoral Commission.

Chamisa, however, contested the results, alleging that the electoral body's data were inaccurate and that the elections were marred by irregularities. In response to the assertion, the government said it encouraged the parties seeking to challenge the validity of the vote to go through legal channels. According to the report, Mnangag-

wa outlined some of his plans for the next five years, emphasizing the government's commitment to implementing pro-business policies to foster a conducive environment for increased production while reducing the cost of doing business.

He pledged to introduce sector-specific initiatives to sustain the current surge in production, assuring that his administration aimed to meet the aspirations of Zimbabweans for improved living conditions and inclusive development. Xinhua

Bull & Bears

Index Fluctuation					
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index					
Current	Prev. Close				
50,365.15	49,431.47				
Day's High	Day's Low				
50,399.92	49,436.92				
Index Value	Change				
11,110,159,762	+ 933.68				
Percentage	Time				
+1.89%	19 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm				
Europe: FTSE 100 Index					
Index Value	Change				
7,499.53	-88.47				
Percentage	Time				
-1.17%	19 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1				
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average				
Index Value	Change				
33,570.41	-94.67				
Percentage	Time				
-0.28%	19 Oct, 12:34 pm GMT-4				
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average					

Open Market Forex Rates

Change

-611.63

Time

19 Oct, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Index Value

31,430.62

Percentage

-1.91%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	175.15	176.9
Bahrain Dinar	735.94	743.94
Canadian Dollar	203.15	205.15
China Yuan	37.98	38.38
Danish Krone	39.28	39.68
Euro	293.1	296.1
Hong Kong Dollar	35.61	35.96
Indian Rupee	3.35	3.46
Japanese Yen	1.47	1.54
Kuwaiti Dinar	894.58	903.58
Malaysian Ringgit	59.08	59.68
NewZealand \$	164.88	166.88
Norwegians Krone	25.28	25.58
Omani Riyal	718.74	726.74
Qatari Riyal	76.49	77.19
Saudi Riyal	73.7	74.4
Singapore Dollar	200.5	202.5
Swedish Korona	25.47	25.77
Swiss Franc	307.55	310.05
Thai Bhat	7.68	7.83
U.A.E Dirham	77.15	77.9
UK Pound Sterling	341.7	345.1
US Dollar	279.25	282

Mr. Mohamed Essa Al Taheri joins U Microfinance Bank as Acting President & CEO

Commerce Desk



ISLAMABAD: U Microfinance Bank is pleased to announce the

appointment of Mr. Mohamed Essa Al Taheri as the Acting President & CEO of U Bank. We welcome him onboard!

Mr. Al Taheri has been associated with U Bank as a Member of the Board of Directors and worked with e& Group as the Group EVP Financial Policies and Systems. He holds a Master's degree in International Business from the University of Wollongong, Dubai, and brings over 20 years of professional experience from working with HSBC Bank, Dubai Commercial Bank, and the Development Board of Dubai Government.

The appointment of Mr. Essa Al Taheri comes soon after the resignation of Mr. Kabeer Naqvi, who earlier held the position of President & CEO of U Bank. Mr. Naqvi leaves behind a remarkable legacy of progress, innovation, and exponential growth during his tenure at the bank. He was associated with U Bank since 2015 and led it with vigor and a drive to create an impactful difference in the microfinance industry of Pakistan.

Nestlé Pakistan posts third quarter results

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Nestlé Pakistan recorded a revenue of PKR 151,153 million for the third quarter of 2023, an increase of 24.9% as compared to the same period last year. This increase in revenue can be attributed to broad-based growth across our products and demand generating activities. The results were shared at the end of the Company's Board of

Directors' meeting at its Head Office. Despite headwinds - high inflation and limited foreign exchange availability for imports, among others - a tighter control on fixed costs by the Company as well as focus on localization of raw and packaging materials led to an improvement in the operating profit.

Trade Expo Indonesia paves the way for booming economic partnerships with Pakistan

JAKARTA: The Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, in collaboration with 20 distinguished business delegates from Karachi, Pakistan, has embarked on a vital journey to the 38th "Trade Expo Indonesia" held in Jakarta Indonesia. The 38th Trade expo was inaugurated by the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs of Indonesia, Airlangga Hartarto, marking a monumental stride in fostering Indonesia-Pakistan trade relations.

A significant moment of the expo was the meeting between the Indonesian Consul General H. E Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat and Abid Nisar, Chairman Pakistan Indonesia Business Council (PIBC), with the Honorable Vice Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, H. E. Dr. Jerry Sambuaga

In this meeting, the Consul General briefed the Vice Minister about the growing trade relations between the two countries in which Indonesian side experiences surpluses. Consul General Hadiningrat stated that as economtrade dynamics between Indonesia and Pakistan encompass a range of industries that reflect the diverse strengths of both nations. The bilateral value of Indonesia-Pakistan

trade in 2022 was \$4.5 billion and \$2.2 billion from Jan-June in the current year. This shows a significant increase in bilateral trade between two countries over the years.

"Pakistan is one of the biggest palm oil ic partners with a history of cooperation, the importers from Indonesia. It reflects almost 90 percent of shares in Pakistani market. Other than palm oil, Pakistan imports from Indonesia includes; coal, textile products, consumer goods and more. Whereas Indone-

sia is planning to import more than 240,000 MT. of rice from Pakistan."

In the meeting with the Vice Minister, the Consul General also shares an info about the Pakistan Edible Oil Conference, going to held in 13-14 January 2024 in Karachi, Pakistan.

In his response, the Vice Minister, who showcased a keen interest in the upcoming edible oil conference in Karachi, highlighted Indonesia's vision for sustainable palm oil. benefiting both countries immensely.

As the world moves towards sustainability, Indonesia's palm oil stands out as a beacon for economic and eco-friendly palm oil industry globally. The Vice Minister also praises the efforts of all parties in both countries, without which bilateral trade cooperation does not reach the current state. He also believes that more potencies of both countries in trade remain to develop.

During the meeting, Abid Nisar, Chairman Pakistan Indonesia Business Council conveys his thought and congratulated the Vice Minister for the convening the Trade Expo Indonesia this year. In addition to high-profile meetings. Nisar added that the event served as a vital platform for Pakistani businessmen, to getting to know prospective suppliers in various products including palm oil, agricultural products, flavors, and more.

After the inauguration, the Pakistani businessmen visited the exhibition which spans in seven halls of showcasing various products. Some business deals have been reached in the first day of the event. In the later day, the Pakistani delegate visited embassy of Pakistani in Jakarta, and discussed the hurdles in promoting the Pakistan's export to Indonesia. Indeed, this trip to the Trade Expo displays a synergy promising a dynamic shift in trade relations,

Consumers Choice Award

Karachi: Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie, the President and CEO of National Bank of Pakistan, received the award for "CEO of the Year" at the 17th Consumers Choice Award ceremony, held at the Sindh Governor House in Karachi. The Nation's Bank also received the distinguished 'Best Commercial Bank in Pakistan' award in the Personal Loan Category.



Pakistan, China discusses state of markets after securing China as strategic partner

E Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Competition Commission of Pakistan Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu and Vice Minister of State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR), China, engaged in fruitful discussion on the current state of markets and regulations in China and Pakistan. Both decided to collaborate to provide training and capacity building, exchange of knowledge to detect cartels and engage in research projects to enhance efficiency of the regulatory bodies.

2.12B in Taxes & more than Entities. 192,000 direct jobs.

Asia by enhancing regional Competition forum.

connectivity and economic development.

China has lifted population of 1.4B out of sheer poverty. This remarkable accomplishment has only come about by organising their markets. China's SAMR has played a vital role in achieving this task.

CCP can learn a great deal from Chinese example. CCP is also mandated to remove obstacles and impediments from all sectors of economy. curb market abuse manipulation and collusive behaviour.

From nationalization to privatization, Pakistani China is Pakistan's markets are fragmented and all-weather strategic partner. characterized by domination CPEC has brought about total of few players. China has been of 25.4B direct investment in very successful in controlling Pakistan. 17.55 B in revenue, Cartels and its State-Owned

Dr. Gan Lin invited Dr. It is a game-changer since Sidhu and his colleagues it benefits the entire South to China on International

Metro Pakistan bags two awards at Pshrm 'Best Places to Work in Pakistan 2023'

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: METRO Pakistan has been awarded as one of the 'Best Places to Work 2023', for the 4th time. by Engage Consulting, an external independent survey body in collaboration with the Pakistan Society of Human Resource Management (PSHRM), a professional association for HR practitioners, at a ceremony held recently.

METRO has been ranked as the 'Best Place to Work 2023' in the 'Retail Industry' and 'Large Sized Organization' categories. A total number of 52 awards were given to 39 companies across 18 different industries. The winners are recognized and awarded as Best Places to Work in Pakistan



Almost 40,000 employees in Resource, METRO Pakistan, Pakistan got surveyed anonymously by PSHRM & Engage places to work since we started

Sharing her joy, Ms. Zahra has continued to provide best of

through BPTW Study 2023. Hussain - Director Human

said, "METRO is among the best

our operations in Pakistan, and

the best facilities to its employees, staff, and workers. These awards are a key reminder for us to keep our values and commitments of keeping our employees, who are all part of the global METRO family, with satisfaction and joy at work at all times".

METRO Pakistan is part of METRO AG, a leading international player in wholesale operating with 150,000 people in 35 countries. METRO is a People's Business where business is built on relationships. METRO's Global Reach offers exposure to employees along with open, dynamic and challenging work environment that aims at nurturing people's talents and developing their skills all while impacting millions of customers.

Friesland Campina Engro **Pakistan Limited announces Q3, 2023 results**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Friesland Campina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEPL) announced its financial results for Q3, 2023. The company delivered strong topline growth of 40% despite the challenging operating environment and economic slowdown. The Company generated revenue of PKR 73.8 billion for the nine months ended, compared to PKR 52.8 billion in the same period last year, fueled by both volume and value growth.

The Company witnessed gross profit growth of 23 %, while the gross margin declined by 200 bps due

to inflationary pressure on commodities and energy prices. In Q3'23, the gross margin declined by 458 bps compared to the same period last year, primarily attributable to one-offs in the preceding year, in addition to the aforementioned factors. The operating margin only declined by 13 bps over last year due to initiatives such as cost rationalization and driving efficiencies across the value chain.

However, the profit after tax (Rs. 1.57 billion vs. Rs. 1.77 billion in the same period last year) as a percentage of sales declined by 121 bps due to a significant increase in finance

Unilever Pakistan and SEED Ventures launch '2nd Life Pakistan' to Revolutionize Plastic Waste Management

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Unilever Pakistan and SEED Ventures announced a collaborative initiative named '2nd Life Pakistan,' to address the issue of plastic waste and sustainable waste management in Pakistan.

The '2nd Life Pakistan' initiative aims to identify and foster creative approaches to tackle plastic waste, ultimately promoting responsible waste management practices across the country. This innovation challenge develop solutions for a cleaner and greener Pakistan. Divided into two different segments, Acceleration and Research, it has progressed through



has brought together local talent to multiple stages, beginning with the ipants benefited from personalized initial shortlisting of 11 start-ups and 18 research applications.

After an intensive month-long capacity building program, partic-

1-on-1 mentorship and engaging topical webinars by Seed Ventures and Unilever management teams. The top three participants in both the start-up

opportunity to showcase their innovative solutions at the final pitching round to a Jury of UL personnel.

Bigger Bricks was declared as the winner of the Acceleration challenge, and received prize money of PKR 1 million. A team from Aga Khan University were declared as winners of the Research program, and received prize money of PKR 500,000. The winning teams and exceptional participants from the competition will be offered an opportunity to collaborate with Unilever Pakistan on initiatives related to plastic collection, recycling,

and repurposing. Sarah Mooney, British Deputy High Commissioner, Karachi, was

and research categories earned the the Chief Guest at the event and highlighted. "The innovation challenge has brought to the forefront untapped talent from Pakistan, that will not only enhance the creative pool of students emerging but also bring technical expertise when they enter the industry to begin their careers."

Speaking about the initiative, Amir Paracha, Chairman & CEO, Unilever Pakistan, highlighted, "The '2nd Life Pakistan' challenge represents a significant step towards addressing plastic waste issues in our country. At Unilever Pakistan, we are passionate about sustainability, and through this initiative, we aim to harness local talent and innovation to create a lasting positive impact on our environment."



₩ World Cup 2023

Pakistan team ready for Australia challenge: Grant Bradburn

Asim Tanveer

BENGALURU: It is Bengaluru's turn to get the limelight as Pakistan take on Australia at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium today (20 Oct, 20203). It is the maiden contest of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 at the venue and the battle of the two cricket powerhouses promises to deliver thrill and excitement to the fans in the stands and around the world.

This is the Babar Azam-led side's fourth match in the tournament and they are placed fourth on the 10-team points table with two wins from three matches. They have had five days to rejuvenate since their arrival in the city. Over the last two days, the team has practiced under lights and in the afternoon, in their bid to acclimatise to the conditions.

"I think the first impressions from everyone was cool, it is a pretty small venue. Boundaries are short here and the conditions for the game look very good," Grant Bradburn, the Pakistan head coach, told Media in the lead-up to the game. "We have done our homework on the venue – it is quite a high scoring venue that probably relates more to the boundary size, which is 63-64 meters. The batters really enjoyed the opportunity to get on some true surfaces and the bowlers enjoyed it too as there is a fair



batters are going to really enjoy getting in on and the bowlers are also going to be really asked some serious questions. I do not think there is going to be a lot of margin for error on this wicket ... As a bowling attack, you know, we haven't been quite as accurate as we would like to be in recent times and this venue is going to demand some discipline and accuracy."

Though the match against India at Ahmedabad did not produce favourable results, Bradburn believes that it provided some crucial learnings from which the team will benefit in the tournament.

He said, "There is always pressure on the team to win. When we do not, we critique our performances very, very closely and we've done that over the last couple of days, too. I think the experiences from Ahmedabad were fantastic.

"It was a great opportunity to learn and grow from the whole experience of playing in front of a very large, hostile crowd. "It is going to be a venue where the It is unusual to play in front of a crowd,

there for the opposition. However, it was nice to hear some silence as well at times when we were batting well.

"We had some really good honest conversations yesterday as a group talking about how we wanted to take the game on more and we did have an opportunity to be a little bit more assertive with the bat earlier on.

"As a result, we put ourselves under a little bit of pressure and then you know, we just didn't get enough to really put pressure on in the second innings. That, however, doesn't take away from the fact that as a group, we've also acknowledged that we didn't put enough balls in good

"We have also had some wonderful insights about the venues too - the ball is scuffing up quite quickly and looks like it is dog chewed after about 20 overs. It obviously means the ball becomes a little bit softer, which makes it difficult to score in the later stages.

"That also brings in more reverse swing which plays into our hands. So all of those elements are a good learning for us that we are taking on-board."

Australia have had an uncharacteristic start to their World Cup campaign, going down against India and South Africa before bouncing back with a five-wicket win over Sri Lanka. They have had an upper hand over Pakistan in the when we do that, it's a beautiful thing.'

which is pretty much, you know, solely 50-over World Cup, winning six out of 10 matches. But, the most recent outing in the format between the two sides saw Pakistan come on top with a 2-1 win in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League series.

Undaunted by the past record, Pakistan, Bradburn said, are all set for the Australia challenge and are eager to make it 3-1 before they move to Chennai for their back-to-back contests against Afghanistan and South Africa.

"It is a collection of the 150 best cricketers on the planet and there's 10 worthy teams here," he said. "So, and as we are seeing in the last week, anyone can beat anyone. We have done our homework on Australia. We know what they can contain, we know their style of play, we know what their strengths are and we know where we might be able to exploit

"But, most of all, we are looking into the mirror and making sure that we're true to ourselves by making sure that we are challenging each other in the right way. We are a tight unit and we back everyone in this group, but we are certainly becoming more comfortable to challenge the performances and roles in the different phases of the game. We acknowledge as a group that we haven't put together the true performance across all three disciplines yet but we know

Women A'against West Indies Women A

Rameen to lead Pakistan



👺 Kiran Asim

LAHORE: Off-spinner Rameen Shamim has been named as captain of Pakistan Women A for the upcoming three-match One-Day series against West Indies Women A. The series is scheduled to take place at two venues in Lahore - Gaddafi Stadium and Ghani Institute for Cricket from 24 to 29 October 2023. The 15-member squad for the one-day series was announced after the women's national selection committee assessed the performances of the players in 28 probables camp which was held at the Lahore Country Club in Muridke.

The three one-day matches against West Indies A will be followed by a tri-nation T20 series involving West Indies Women A and Thailand women's emerging team, as well as a T20 series against Thailand women's emerging team. The squad for the T20 tri-series and the two T20s against Thailand women's emerging team will be announced in due course.

Rameen Shamim, who has represented Pakistan in three ODIs and four T20Is, has also captained Pakistan Women Aduring the team's tour of West Indies in 2021. Besides Rameen, Gull Feroza, Omaima Sohail, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Nawaz and Tuba Hassan have also made international appearances for Pakistan.

Pakistan Women 'A' Squad: Rameen Shamim (captain), Amber Kainaat, Anosha Nasir, Eyman Fatima, Fatima Shahid, Gull Feroza (wk), Gull Rukh, Humna Bilal, Noreen Yaqoob, Omaima Sohail, Saima Malik, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Nawaz (wk), Tasmia Rubab and Tuba Hassan.

Awareness of modern coaching methods essential: **DGSports**



15 Tahir Amin Malik

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that the proper awareness of modern coaching methods is essential for our trainers and coaches, he expressed these views while addressing the participants on the third and last day of Sports Board Punjab's online training workshop for coaches at the National Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

Deputy Director Sports Chand Parveen, who performed as oordinator for the smooth holding of online training workshop was also present at the training session which was conducted to enhance and polish the skills of coaches.

Besides her, senior provincial coach Shaista Qaiser, Razia Malik, former international female hockey player Sehrish Ghumman, senior weightlifting official Aqeel Javed Butt, senior football coach Shahzad and table tennis coach Yasir Bhatti attended the workshop whereas several male and female coaches of Sports Board Punjab, Directorate General Sports Punjab and Punjab Olympic Associations participated in the workshop through video link.

Addressing the participants of the online training workshop, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail informed that the Sports Endowment Fund of Sports Board Punjab will be activated in December this year under which Sports Board Punjab will be able to get Rs 20 million every month. "After this development, Sports Board Punjab will be in a better position to spend generously on different sports projects and welfare of the sports community," he asserted.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail further said that training workshops like this are very important for making our trainers update with the latest sports techniques and coaching methods. "There is no doubt that a properly trained coach can play a vital role in the success of his/her team in any game. Sports Board Punjab will continue to organize such informative training workshops"

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail also lauded efforts of Deputy Director Sports Chand Parveen for completing the online training workshop quite successfully. He also praised the knowledge and modern training techniques of FIH Academy expert trainer Zahid Ali and awarded him a souvenir.

FIH Academy expert trainer Zahid Ali during his lecture on the last day highlighted the significance of decision-making power of a coach. "A coach must focus on the fitness of his athletes because a perfectly fit player can comfortably accomplish his target and achieve success".

4th Asian Para Games

CHUN'AN: The picture shows the launch ceremony of the torch relay of the 4th Asian Para Games in Chun'an County, Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province.



Fakhar Zaman ruled out of Australia clash due to injury

LAHORE/BENGALURU: The Pakistan Cricket Board has confirmed that Fakhar Zaman has been ruled out of Pakistan's upcoming World Cup clash against Australia in Bengaluru on October 20.

The left-handed opener is being treated for a knee injury and is expected to be available for selection next week.

Meanwhile, Salman Ali Agha developed fever after Wednesday's training session and is recovering from it. All other players in the 15-member squad are doing well.

In the days leading up to the aforementioned clash, several players had been grappling with fever, resulting in the absence of six squad members during their initial training on Tuesday. The players who opted to rest on Tuesday included Abdullah Shafique, Shaheen Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan, Salman Ali Agha, Mohammad Haris, and Zaman Khan.

Following a thorough examination conducted by Dr. Saleem, the medical officer of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), five of the aforementioned players were deemed fit to join the training session on

I've never seen so many grown men cry, says Stephen

Pakistan's historic soccer win sparks emotional celebrations as they qualify for the World Cup 2026's second round

Cambodia in a World Cup qualifier this week hardly registered on soccer's radar yet such was the significance for the national team that manager Stephen Constantine said he had never seen so many grown

A 67th minute goal by Harun Hamid in the second leg ensured Pakistan progressed to the second round of Asia's World Cup 2026 on aggregate having drawn 0-0 draw in Phnom Penh.

It was Pakistan's first-ever World Cup qualifying round win and the country's first international victory of any sort since 2018 and sparked celebrations at Islamabad's Jinnah Sports Stadium.

Englishman Constantine had only taken over in late September, tasked with ending a 13-match losing sequence with

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's 1-0 victory over a squad pieced together from home and overseas-based players, some of whom had not played a competitive match for

> "It is an unbelievable atmosphere here, I've not seen so many grown men cry in all my life," the 61-year-old Constantine, whose coaching career includes stints in charge of Nepal, Malawi, Sudan, Rwanda and India, told the BBC.

"It is a massive deal; in their 75-year history it is the first time they've qualified for the second stage, they haven't won since 2018 and it was the first home game for eight and a half years. It has been unbelievably emotional.

"I've only been here three and a half weeks, not even. I'm just really pleased for the people, the players and Pakistan



Read also: 'Pakistan can beat Cambodia in historic World Cup qualifier'

Cricket is by far the most popular sport in Pakistan with soccer a very distant poor relation in comparison.

were banned by world soccer body FIFA in April 2021 for 15 months because of stan Football Federation) will have to come 'undue third party interference' — their second ban in four years.

"We don't have regular football; half of them have part-time jobs... and that makes the double result even more impressive. Some of them haven't played for months," Constantine said.

Pakistan will now face matches against Asia powerhouse Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Jordan in the second round, which begins in November although Constantine does not know whether he will still be in charge as he is on a short-term arrange-

"The next game is away to Saudi Arabia in November, so welcome to the real world! My current deal finishes in the next three Ranked 197th in the world, Pakistan days..." he said. "They cannot give me a full one-year, two-year term. The PFF (Pakiup with some sort of plan. I'm assuming they want me to stay but we'll see." AFP

Martin vows to keep calm in Australia

Pramac rider confident he can reclaim title lead from Bagnaia after Indonesia blunder

PHILLIP ISLAND: Jorge in what has become a two-horse Martin insisted Thursday his race-ending blunder in Indonesia had not dented his confireclaim the MotoGP world title lead in Australia this weekend.

The Spanish ace was leading the grand prix in Lombok last Sunday by three seconds when he pushed his Pramac bike too hard and crashed out.

It allowed Italian world champion Francesco Bagnaia to snatch an unexpected victory from 13th on the grid and with it 25 points to surge back into the championship lead with five legs of the season left.

"It wasn't easy after the race and that evening I was thinking about it a lot," said Martin, who is 18 points behind the Ducati star

race to the world title.

"But I was lucky that we have this race straight away to start dence, vowing to stay calm and thinking about this weekend, so I'm just getting straight to work

> Martin took pole position last year on the challenging Phillip Island circuit, and said he was confident of being fast again for the sprint race on Saturday and grand prix on Sunday.

> "We are competitive every weekend, we are fighting for a win always and we have to just do the same," he said.

> "I'm confident in all areas, I feel I am strong, I am fast so I have to be calm and try to make

the most of the speed. Hopefully I can recover the points." Martin is a proven performer

in the rain and that could be a the closest finishes the sport has factor with wild weather forecast.

Bagnaia is also an accomplished all-weather rider and said the waterfront Phillip Island track, with its sweeping turns and overtaking opportunities, was one of his favourites.

"This track is always hard. I mean it looks like a normal Friday with no wind, then on Saturday it's some wind and then Sunday will be difficult because we will have like 12 degrees (Celsius), wind of 50kph and rain," he said.

"So it can be very, very tough, but I love to ride here. I love everything about it."

The 2022 race was a thriller with Spain's Alex Rins crossing first ahead of Spanish great Marc Marquez and Bagnaia in one of

Martin smashed the nine-year lap record to grab pole, only to finish seventh.

Being pole-sitter in Australia is no guarantee of success, with only four riders going on to win - Valentino Rossi in 2003, Casey Stoner (2008 to 2012), Jorge Lorenzo in 2013 and Marc Marquez (2015 and 2017).

Six-time world champion Marquez, who has won four times in Australia, admitted another victory was unlikely given his struggles with Honda

"To win this year, it will be very difficult," said the 30-yearold, who will join Ducati satellite team Gresini Racing for the 2024 season.



at the moment thinking we can seconds behind the leaders, we AFP

"We cannot approach any race win. We are not like one or two are seven to 10 seconds behind."