



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم سے محمد بن ابراہیم نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے
ابو اسامہ نے بیان کیا ان سے بڑھنے ان
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Elections only solution to Pakistan's problems, says Bilawal

PPP chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that elections are the only solution to Pakistan's problems. Talking to media persons, the PPP chairman said that elections must be held on time as it is the only solution to the problems of Pakistan. He said that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan in 15-20 days but the former ministers of PML-N are nowhere to be seen.

DAYS REMAINING
24

Only 24 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan

Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 24 days to leave the country or face deportation. Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. In the recent meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had 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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Israeli Air Strike

A man carries a crying child as he walks in front of a building destroyed in an Israeli air strike in Gaza City on Saturday.



Photo: AFP

Saudi Arabia urges immediate cessation of violence

In a statement, the foreign ministry of Saudi Arabia called for an immediate cessation of violence between Israel and the Palestinians.

"We are following developments in the unprecedented situation between Palestinian factions and the occupation forces," the state media quoted the Saudi foreign ministry. Egypt calls for 'maximum

restraint' Egypt warned of "grave consequences" from an escalation in tensions between Israel and the Palestinians in a statement from the foreign ministry carried by the state news agency on Saturday.

It called for "exercising maximum restraint and avoiding exposing civilians to further danger".

Admiral Naveed Ashraf takes charge as new naval chief



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Saturday took charge as the 23rd naval chief as the outgoing naval chief Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi retired.

In a ceremony at Pakistan Naval Headquarters in Islamabad today, the outgoing naval chief handed over the command of Pakistan Navy to the new chief.

In his farewell address, the outgoing chief congratulated Admiral Naveed Ashraf for assuming command. He said the admiral has a distinguished career, studied with notable achievements. He was confident that Admiral Naveed Ashraf would prove to be an able and worthy successor who would lead the Navy to new heights.

Amjad Khan Niazi said the Pakistan Navy stands as a strong and vital arm of the country's armed forces capable of protecting our maritime frontiers.

Ashraf holds a distinguished career, having previously served

as Commander Pakistan Fleet, Naval Secretary, Vice President of the National Defence University, and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff at Naval Headquarters.

He was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1989. He served in various coveted roles in Navy and his Command appointments include Commanding Officer of PNS ALAMGIR, PNS SHAHJAHAN, PNS TIPPU SULTAN, PNS MUJAHID & PNS LARKANA, Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy and Commander of 18 & 25 Destroyer Squadrons of PN Fleet.

The Staff appointments include Fleet Operations Officer at HQ Commander Pakistan Fleet, Captain Training at HQ Flag Officer Sea Training, Deputy President National Defence University at Islamabad, Principal Secretary to Chief of Staff Officer, Director Maritime Affairs and Environmental Control, Chief Staff Officer to Commander Combined Task Force-151 HQ NAVCENT Bahrain, Director General C4I, Naval Secretary and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Admin) at Naval Headquarters.

Naveed Ashraf is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, National Defence University Islamabad, Naval Staff College USA and Royal College of Defence Studies UK.

In recognition of his meritorious services, the Flag Officer has been awarded Hilal-i-Intiaz (Military) and Tamgha-e-Basalat.

At least 232 Palestinians killed in Israeli air strikes on Gaza

News Desk

GAZA: 232 Palestinian martyrs and about 1697 Palestinians were injured as a result of the Israeli bombing of areas in the Gaza Strip in an Israeli retaliatory response against Palestinian civilians. Two buildings were destroyed by Israeli Aeroplanes in Gaza, one of it includes 100 apartments.

Earlier in the day, Palestinian group Hamas launched the biggest attack on Israel in years, killing at least 100 people and claiming it had taken dozens of hostages in a surprise assault combining gunmen crossing into Israel and a barrage of rockets fired from Gaza.

Mohammad Deif, a senior Hamas military commander, announced the start of the operation in a broadcast on Hamas media, calling on Palestinians

Pakistan expresses concern over 'escalating violence'

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaarul Haq Kakar has expressed his profound concern over the escalating violence in the Middle East, emphasising the press-

ing need to address the "Palestine Question".

"We urge restraint and protection of civilians. Enduring peace in the Middle East lies in a two state solution with a viable, contiguous, sovereign State of Palestine, founded on pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al-Sharif at its heart," the wrote on X.

The Israeli military said navy forces killed dozens of Palestinian trying to infiltrate Israel by sea. Gunbattles in Israeli towns

Hamas said it had joined the attacks and was holding several Israeli soldiers captive.

Hamas footage on its Telegram account showed its fighters pulling Israeli soldiers out of a tank.

The Israeli military has declined to comment, saying it would address the reports of Israeli captives later.

Israeli media reported gunbattles between bands of Palestin-

ian fighters and security forces in towns in southern Israel. Israel's police chief said there were "21 active scenes" in southern Israel.

In Gaza, people rushed to buy supplies in anticipation of days of conflict ahead. Some evacuated their homes and headed for shelters.

UN Middle East peace envoy Tor Wennesland condemned the attacks on Israel, warning in a statement: "This is a dangerous precipice, and I appeal to all to pull back from the brink."

In May, an exchange of Israeli air strikes and Gaza rocket fire killed 34 Palestinians and one Israeli.

So far this year at least 247 Palestinians, 32 Israelis and two foreigners have been killed in the conflict, including combatants and civilians on both sides, according to Israeli and Palestinian officials.

Two terrorists killed in Zerber district: ISPR

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: On night 6/7 October 2023, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Zerber, Kech District on reported presence of terrorists.

During conduct of operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists as a result of which two terrorists were sent to hell. A large quantity of equipment and explosives has also been recovered. The killed terrorists had been actively involved in multiple terrorist activities against the law enforcement agencies.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan are committed to thwart efforts of enemies of peace in the country.

Israel says at 'war' after Hamas launches 'Operation Al-Aqsa Flood'

Agencies

GAZA: The Palestinian group Hamas launched the biggest attack on Israel in years on Saturday in a surprise assault that combined gunmen crossing into several Israeli towns with a heavy barrage of rockets fired from the Gaza Strip.

Mohammad Deif, a senior Hamas military commander, announced the start of the operation in a broadcast on Hamas media, calling on Palestinians everywhere to fight, Reuters reported.

"This is the day of the greatest battle to end the last occupation on earth," he said, adding that 5,000 rockets had been launched.

Ghazi Hamad, Hamas spokesperson and former deputy foreign minister for the government in Gaza, has told Al Jazeera that the Palestinian operation is also a message to Arab countries who have been normalising relations with Israel.

Rocket barrages launched towards Israel from Gaza

As warning sirens wailed across southern and central Israel, including in Jerusalem, Israel's military said it was on a war footing and the defence minister said that Hamas had made a "grave mistake" by



declaring war on Israel.

The Israeli military said it had launched air strikes into Gaza, where witnesses reported hearing heavy explosions.

Palestinian gunmen infiltrate areas of southern Israel

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he would meet top security officials in the coming hours and Gallant authorised the call-up of reservists.

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Nawaz to become PM for fourth time: Khawaja Asif



Faisal Butt

SIKOT: Senior leader Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) and former Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that party supremo Nawaz Sharif will return to a historic welcome on October 21.

Addressing a press conference, he said that workers across Pakistan were making preparations to welcome him.

He said Nawaz would play an active role in Pakistani politics. "He will become the prime minister of the country for the fourth time and resolve all problems," he added.

He claimed that the PMLN tenure from 2013 to 2017 was the best period in the country. "In 2017 when Nawaz Sharif was in government, a unit of electricity cost Rs11, the dollar Rs100, petrol Rs65/litre, roti Rs5, flour Rs35, sugar Rs52 and 20 million people were brought above the poverty line," he maintained.

SC disposed of 224 cases in a week



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has disposed of 224 cases (excluding CMAs) during the period from 2nd October 2023 (Monday) to 6th October, 2023 (Friday) whereas 312 new cases have been instituted during the period from 2nd October 2023 (Monday) to 7th October 2023 (Saturday).

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan and the Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court remained committed to accelerate disposal of the cases and diminish the backlog.

The Hon'ble Judges continued to hear the cases with the aim to minimize the backlog and provide relief to the litigants.

Foreign Minister's visit to attend the 27th meeting of ECO

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani will undertake an official visit to Azerbaijan to attend the 27th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to be held from 9-10 October 2023 in Susha, Azerbaijan.

Foreign Minister Jilani will address the Council of Ministers (COM) and hold bilateral meetings with participating ministers of member states and other dignitaries on the sidelines of the event.

As the policy-making forum of the ECO, the Council of Ministers approves the decisions and annual work plan of the Organization. At the 27th COM, the member states will discuss the promotion of sustainable economic development of the ECO region through trade and economic cooperation and mutual assistance in social, cultural, technical and scientific fields.

Pakistan voices concerns at unfolding situation in Middle East

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday while voicing concerns about the human cost of the escalating situation in the Middle East, called on the international community to come together for cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians and for a lasting peace in the region.

"We are closely monitoring the unfolding situation in the Middle East and the eruption of hostilities between Israel and Palestinians," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

Pakistan has consistently advocated for a two-state solution as the key to enduring peace in the Middle East, with a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian question anchored in international law and in line with relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions.

Change of Command

ISLAMABAD: Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi handing over the command scroll of Pakistan Navy to Admiral Naveed Ashraf during Change of Command ceremony held on Saturday.



Photo: Online

Govt. committed to bolstering disaster management capabilities with numerous steps: Caretaker PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that mindful of Pakistan's susceptibility to disasters and the grim specter of climate change, the government was resolutely committed to bolstering the disaster management capabilities, enacting requisite legislation, promoting governance that was attuned to risk, erecting resilient infrastructure, and above all, fostering adaptability. Disaster Management System in Pakistan was witnessing a transition from a reactive to a proactive approach which signified a crucial shift in how they collectively responded to unforeseen crises, the prime minister said in a message on the occasion of "National Resilience Day", being observed on October 8.

"I believe that the National Resilience Day will inspire the people of Pakistan to not only deepen their understanding of disaster risk management but also share the vital message of readiness, resilience, fortitude, and self-sufficiency," he added. He said previously, the focus was



primarily on reacting to emergencies after they occurred, often resulting in significant loss of life and property.

However, with advancements in technology and a deeper understanding of natural phenomena, Pakistan was moving towards a proactive approach, he said, adding this involved establishment of a modern National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) at NDMA.

NEOC had the capacity to create common operating picture enabled by multiple satellite feeds, software, Artificial Intelligence tools that would strengthen digital risk assessment, early warning systems, and preparedness strategies, he observed.

The caretaker prime minister further said "Alhamdulillah, today, we have a robust institutional structure for disaster management in the

form of NDMA and PDMA's.

We now, need to strengthen the Disaster Management system at the district level to evolve as the actual implementing bodies of Disaster Risk Reduction policy and plans at the local level."

He said National Resilience Day was marked on 8th October as a solemn tribute to the indomitable spirit of the people of Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, who had borne the brunt of harrowing disasters.

"It serves as a stark reminder that we reside in a region profoundly susceptible to calamities. Pakistan ranks as one of the most vulnerable countries declared by the Climate Risk Index. We have witnessed a series of natural catastrophes in the shape of earthquakes, floods, GLOF events, scorching heatwaves and forest fires—exact a toll on the precious lives as well as billions of dollars lost to infrastructure," the prime minister said.

On this day, he said, they aimed to raise awareness of the devastating impacts of climate change-induced disasters with a special focus on dis-

aster resilience.

Last year, once again, he said, Pakistan bore the brunt of a climate-induced catastrophe in the form of unprecedented floods.

The province of Sindh and parts of the province of Balochistan suffered the most. One-third of the country was submerged with a toll staggering over 1700 precious lives lost, 12867 injured, and 33 million lives forever altered, he said, adding over a million valued livestock perished, and four million acres of vital crops lie ruined. The communication grid lay in tatters.

The federal and provincial governments, working in unionism, marshaled every resource within grasp—financial, administrative, and organizational—for the rescue and relief of their affected citizens, the caretaker prime minister added.

"Let us move forward with determination, resolve, and a shared vision of a stronger, more resilient Pakistan. Together, we shall not only weather this storm, but emerge from it stronger and more united than ever before. Together, we shall not only endure, but prevail," he emphasised.

Mushaal apprises Shadow Minister UK Parliament on of women in IIOJK

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In an important development, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick and Afzal Khan MP Labour Party Shadow Minister UK Parliament have agreed to work together in adopting sustained policy initiatives for Pakistani economic women empowerment and growth in work sector.

The SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment and MP Labour Party Shadow Minister UK Parliament on Saturday held a meeting here on Saturday to discuss adopting sustained policy initiatives to empower Pakistani women in detail.

They both agreed that there was not only a dire need to start skill development program for Pakistani women but also giving them funds in order to enable them so as they could play their role alongside their male colleagues for the betterment and uplift of the country.

During the meeting, SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment also discussed the plight of women in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) with Afzal Khan.

Mushaal said that Fascist Narendra Modi-led Indian Army has been criminally involved in human rights violation as they were not only involved in gang raping over 11000 women but also rendering around 22,963 women widows during the



last few years.

The SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment informed the Shadow Minister UK Parliament that the Modi regime hatched numerous conspiracies to change the demography of the occupied

valley in sheer violation of UN resolutions and international laws.

She reiterated that the resolution of Kashmir dispute was imperative not only for durable peace in India and Pakistan, but also for the entire world

because unresolved Kashmir issue would remain a constant threat for world peace.

Mushaal asked the international organizations, including the UK government to build pressure on Indian notorious government to release the unlawfully incarcerated Kashmiri leaders including her husband Yasin Malik.

She said that Yasin Malik was being implicated in false, fabricated and politically motivated cases in a bid to silence him because he was the most powerful voice of the Kashmir peaceful struggle.

The British MP on the occasion held out assurance to SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment that he would take up the issue of the Indian atrocities and human right violations in UK parliament.

No country allows stay of illegal immigrants: Solangi



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi reiterated on Saturday said that no government would permit the stay of illegal immigrants in their country.

Talking to a private TV channel, the minister clarified that individuals with legal rights could only reside in Pakistan.

He mentioned three categories of Afghan residents residing in Pakistan currently. The first group comprised of individuals who arrived in Pakistan in 1978 and had Proof of Registration cards. While the second category included those Afghans who had been in Pakistan since 2016 and had Afghan citizen cards verified by the previous government of Afghanistan.

The third group, totaling approximately 1.7 million people, entered Pakistan after August 15, 2021, he said, adding among them, some possessed expired visas, while others had entered the country illegally.

To a query, he said most of the illegal immigrants in Pakistan were from Afghanistan.

Solangi emphasized that the illegal immigrants must voluntarily leave Pakistan by October 31, as the caretaker government was committed to implementing the law.

He stressed that the national interest could not be compromised for the sake of bilateral relations, underscoring that action would be taken indiscriminately against illegal activities.

The minister said a recovery amounting to Rs16 billion was made in the government's crackdown against electricity theft.

He also highlighted the positive impact of administrative actions, leading to a significant reduction in the prices of essential commodities such as oil, sugar, wheat flour, and fertilizer.

Solangi reassured the public that the caretaker government was dedicated to the betterment of the country and affirmed their responsibility to continue taking necessary actions.

Statement issued by the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: We have repeatedly warned of the consequences of blocking the political horizon and not empowering the Palestinian people with their legitimate right to self-determination and their state. We have also warned of the consequences of daily provocations and attacks, the continued terrorism of settlers and occupation forces, and the raids on Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Christian and Islamic holy sites.

What provides security, stability and peace in our region is ending the Israeli occupation of the land of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, along the 1967 lines, and recognizing the people's right to independence and sovereignty.

Israel's disavowal of the signed agreements and failure to adhere to international legitimacy resolutions led to the destruction of the peace process, the absence of a solution to



the Palestinian issue after 75 years of suffering and displacement, the continuation of the policy of double standards, and the silence of the international community regarding the criminal and racist practices of the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people, and the continuation of The injustice and oppression to which the Palestinian people are exposed is the reason behind the explosive situation and the absence of peace and security in the region. Peace requires justice, freedom and independence for our Palestinian people, the return of refugees, and the full implementation of international legitimacy resolutions.

UN agencies ask Pakistan to protect vulnerable Afghan refugees



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration have expressed their readiness to provide support to Pakistan in registering and managing Afghan nationals.

In a joint statement in Bangkok on Saturday, the UN agencies said they have a longstanding and strong collaboration with Pakistan and stand ready to provide support in developing a comprehensive and sustainable mechanism to register and manage Afghan nationals, including those who may be in need of international protection.

The UN agencies appealed to Pakistan to continue its protection of all vulnerable Afghans who have sought safety in the country and could be at imminent risk if forced to return. It said Afghanistan is going

through a severe humanitarian crisis with several human rights challenges, particularly for women and girls. Govt asks all illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan by Nov 1

The UNHCR and IOM appreciated Pakistan's generous hospitality towards Afghan nationals for over four decades, despite challenges.

It is pertinent to mention here that the caretaker government had set a deadline of November 01 for illegal residents and migrants to leave the country otherwise will be deported.

The caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti formed a task force that will take action against illegal immigrants.

The interior minister further explained that the assets owned by illegal immigrants would be confiscated. He pointed out that a web portal is being established to report any illegal activity related to smuggling.

Bleak memories of all those who lost lives on 8 October 2005 still alive in our hearts

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that painful memories of the 2005 deadly earthquake that shook Azad Jammu Kashmir and other areas of Pakistan still haunt its inhabitants.

Those who witnessed the ravages of the natural calamity with their own eyes will hardly ever forget it", the president said on Saturday, on the eve of 18th Anniversary of history's worst



Oct. 8, 2005 killer earthquake being observed on October 08, Sunday.

Sultan added that the cata-

clysmic tremors left thousands of people, including men, women and children dead, while many cities, towns and villages

were completely destroyed.

He said that compensation for the loss of human lives caused by the earthquake was not possible, but the government tried its best to rehabilitate the victims, rebuild and reconstruct the damaged infrastructure. He said that the memories of all those who lost their lives on 8 October 2005 were still fresh and alive in our hearts.

He thanked the international community, especially Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United States,

the United Kingdom, European countries and the People's Republic of China, for providing relief and rescue to the people of Azad Kashmir in this difficult time. He said that the international community's generous support helped the government and the people of Azad Jammu Kashmir to successfully tackle this major challenge. He said that unparalleled help provided by the Pakistan armed forces to the earthquake victims would never be forgotten by the people of Azad Jammu Kashmir.

Unnecessary taxes in Bijli Bill should be not acceptable: Sardar Attique

Bureau Report

President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that if any country has founding parties, fundamental parties, parties that bring freedom, parties that lay the foundations of the movement and push the movement and make it successful. Big crises can be overcome. If Quaid-e-Azam's party Muslim League was strong in East Pakistan, Bangladesh would not have been formed.

First Muslim League was weakened and then Bangladesh was created. Efforts have been made. Of course, there are problems in Azad Kashmir and no specific section is worried about this inflation, but everyone is protesting for the end of

inflation and the storm of inflation is not acceptable. Unnecessary taxes in Bijli Bill should be abolished. Addressing the inclusion programme, he said that the current crisis in Azad Kashmir is the result of weakening the Muslim Conference and stopping the application of the ideology of Pakistan's accession and the slogan of Kashmir will become Pakistan, which is weak and experienced by non-state parties.

After this, Azad Kashmir was made Baitul-Mal. As a result of the Shimla agreement, these parties were established in Azad Kashmir, which was a serious attack on the state identity. When there were five brothers in the Muslim Conference, the Muslim Conference was strong, but one brother belonged to the People's Party, one to Jamaat-e-Islami.

And one was sent to PTI and one to Nawaz League and one brother was left, which weakened the Muslim Conference. The attempt to divide the Muslim Conference has come out in the form of dangerous results.

He said that the Muslim Conference believes in the idea of annexation of Pakistan, Kashmir becoming Pakistan, and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front is a non-member. There are no two opinions about it, but the freedom of Kashmir And we all can work together for the unity of the state. But some people talk against the Pakistan armed forces and the ideology of joining Pakistan under the guise of sit-ins and strikes. When all the parties are united, a common agenda can be worked on. With the grace of Allah, inflation will end.



The Prime Minister is grateful to the committee formed by the government to solve public problems. Although the committee is very big, the government should consider adding more senior people to the committee if they are willing, should be done if Raja Muhammad Farooq

Hyder Khan, Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Abdul Rasheed Tarabi, Raja Zulqarnain Khan are included. A high level committee should be formed. Call all party Kashmir conference. This problem is very big. Try to understand the danger.

In Azad Kashmir, civil disobedience and rebellion are being smoothed over. Do not ignore these things. Some people want to spoil the situation from the first day, some people want unrest in Azad Kashmir. There are people who weakened the Muslim Conference in politics, administration and institutions. The situation needs to be rectified. The Muslim Conference cannot neglect its ideological role.

The Muslim Conference

cannot afford to neglect its ideological role. Wherever the workers of the Muslim Conference are standing, they are standing till the end for the unity of the state and the independence of Occupied Kashmir and solidarity with Pakistan and the forces of Pakistan. The experience of East Pakistan should not be allowed in Azad Kashmir. There is still time for India to be ours. Anarchy can be taken advantage of.

Defense committees should be formed in the Line of Control areas. He said that the electricity generated within Azad Kashmir should be provided to the people of Azad Kashmir. This is their fundamental right. But the demand for free electricity is not correct. Because this does not happen in any country. Do not prolong the problems. The

agenda should be shortened. The Muslim Conference will be the first to stand in the field for the solution of public problems. The Muslim Conference has also resolved public issues in the past.

On this occasion, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, the central leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Subidar Mumtaz Khan, Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Chaudhry Muhammad Sharif, Chaudhry Muhammad Mushtaq, Chaudhry Muhammad Mukhtar, Chaudhry Saddam Hussain, Chaudhry Saifur, Chaudhry Khuram Mumtaz, Chaudhry Ehsan Usman, Chaudhry Zharan Mushtaq, Muhammad Irfan Saleem, Chaudhry Rashid Naseer and others were garlanded and congratulated on the occasion of joining the Muslim Conference.

Buying grocery

LAHORE: People are buying grocery from shops at Akbari Market as people feel relax after decreasing of the prices of such daily usage stuff but further they are demanding decreasing of fuel prices also to manage their expenditure according to their budget, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

6218 Electricity Thieves Were Arrested in 30 Days: Maharulah Yar Bharwana

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the direction of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the ongoing operation against the electricity thieves in the MEPCO region has completed one month. 6218 electricity thieves were arrested in 30 days in the joint operation of MEPCO and police teams. Cases were registered against 5943 electricity thieves out of which 4722 people were arrested.

A total of 42 crore 25 lac rupees fine will be imposed on the electricity thieves, of which 16 crore rupees were recovered. During Septem-

ber 7 to October 6, 2023, 5942 households, 164 commercial (commercial), 95 agricultural tube well and 17 industrial consumers were found involved in electricity theft.

In Multan Circle, 853 electricity thieves were fined 82190000 rupees and received a fine of 31180000 rupees. 833 cases were registered and 699 users were arrested. In DG Khan Circle, 1717 consumers were fined Rs.93850000 and collected Rs.18040000.

1633 cases were registered and 1159 electricity thieves were arrested. 418 consumers were fined

Rs.24960000 and collected Rs.13050000 in Vehari circle. 340 cases were registered and 312 persons were arrested. In Bahawalpur Circle, 549 consumers were fined Rs.35330000 and Rs.14260000 were recovered. 546 cases were registered and 474 users were arrested.

In Sahiwal Circle, 651 users were fined Rs.45000000 and received a fine of Rs.23500000. 617 cases were registered and 481 arrests were made. In Rahim Yar Khan Circle, 766 users were fined Rs.42610000 and received Rs.11040000. 756 cases were registered and 601

persons were arrested. In Muzaffargarh Circle, 731 Rs.46690000 fine imposed on consumers 27030000 rupees fine was received. 709 cases were registered while 538 electricity thieves were arrested.

In Bahawalnagar Circle, 228 consumers were fined Rs.16400000 and Rs.8620000 were collected. 219 cases were registered while 199 electricity thieves were arrested. In Khanewal Circle, 305 consumers were fined Rs.35,240,000 and a fine of Rs.1,408,000 was collected. 290 cases were registered while 259 electricity thieves were arrested on the spot.

Cotton crop backbone of Pakistani economy: Saqib Zafar

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain (Rtd) Saqib Zafar has said that cotton is a cash crop and it plays an important role in the country's economy as 58 percent of Pakistan's exports are related to cotton. He said this in his message on the occasion of World Cotton Day.

He has said that the target of cotton cultivation was set on 50 lac acres in Punjab, under which 45 lakh 54 thousand acres of cotton was to be cultivated in South Punjab and almost this target was achieved.

He has said that the entire process of cotton cultivation and care involves the full efforts of the Department of Agriculture, while the South Punjab Secretariat has played a full role in monitoring the cotton crop.

Master plan will be announced for the development of the agricultural sector: S.M. Tanveer



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: In connection with World Cotton Day, a ceremony was organized in Multan organized by Pakistan Cotton Yarns Association, in which caretaker provincial minister for industry, commerce and agriculture SM Tanveer participated representing caretaker chief minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi. Speaking on the occasion, Caretaker Provincial Minister SM Tanveer said that Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and his team

have worked hard to increase cotton cultivation and production, due to which more than 7 million bales of cotton have been obtained this year. He further said that the purpose of celebrating the World Cotton Day is to highlight the importance of cotton not only in Pakistan but globally.

Important steps are being taken to prevent wastage of water. Greater Thal Kanal project will be completed and. 58 small dams will be activated in Potohar region. He said that increasing cotton production

by using modern technology is the need of the hour. He said that the South Punjab has a unique position in terms of cotton production. Due to the actions of the current government, the farmers Supply of high quality beech and agricultural pesticides is being ensured.

On this occasion, Punjab Agriculture Secretary Ifikhar Ali Sahu, while addressing the ceremony, said that the cotton crop is very important for our economy. The area and production have increased by 50% compared to

last year. Doubling the production of cotton this year will increase the valuable foreign exchange in the country's economy. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain Retired Saqib Zafar, Secretary Agriculture Ifikhar Ali Sahoo, Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Attil, Vice Chancellor MNS Agricultural University Rao Asif Ali, Chairman Pakistan Cotton Yarns Association Waheed Arshad, agricultural experts, farmers, industry Foreign delegates were also enthusiastic.

YDA Dera's boycott of hospitals continues for the 5th day

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: According to the report, the boycott of OPD and Elective Services by Young Doctors Association Dera Ismail Khan against the unpleasant incident in Dera Ismail Khan Women's Hospital is continuing for the fifth day.

OPD services in women's hospitals including District Headquarters Hospital Dera, Mufti Mehmood Hospital Dera have been closed. According to Young Doctors, after the death of the patient in the labor room of the women's hospital, the doctors and staff were tortured by the relatives and due to which we decided to boycott.

But the police department, showing partiality, filed an FIR against the doctors and staff without conducting an inquiry.

They said that after a transparent inquiry into the incident, whoever was held responsible would have been brought to justice by filing an FIR against them.

But the police registered an FIR before starting the inquiry and got personal with the doctors.

It should be noted that the death of mother and child occurred in the previous two women's hospitals and the family members were accused, that the death of the patient was due to the negligence of the doctors, after which the relatives got angry and broke the glasses of the labor room, and the female doctor on duty was tortured, but because of this the young doctors went on protest.

Int'l cotton day celebrated in Multan



Kiran Asim

An event organized by Pakistan Cotton Genres Association in connection with Multan World Cotton Day. In which caretaker provincial minister for industry, commerce and agriculture SM Tanveer participated representing caretaker chief minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi.

Addressing the ceremony, caretaker provincial minister SM Tanveer said that Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his team have worked hard to increase cotton cultivation and production. Due to which more than 10 million bales of cotton will be obtained this year.

He said that the purpose of celebrating the World Cotton Day is to highlight the importance of cotton not only in Pakistan but also globally.

SM Tanveer said that in the next 2 months I will give a 10-year plan for the promotion of agriculture. There are important steps to be taken to prevent water wastage. Greater Thal Kanal project will be completed.

58 small dams will be activated in Potohar region. He said that cotton production has to be increased by using modern technology. He said that the South Punjab has a unique position in terms of cotton production. Supply of high quality pesticides to farmers is being ensured.

Secretary Agriculture Punjab Government Ifikhar Ali Sahu while addressing the ceremony said that the economy is based on agriculture and agriculture is based on cotton. The campaign launched in April for cotton recovery has yielded good results

WASA crackdown started against defaulters in Multan: Chaudhry Danish

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the direction of Managing Director Wasa Chaudhry Muhammad Danish, a series of intensive operations against defaulters who do not pay sewerage and water supply bills is going on. Indiscriminate crackdown is being done against defaulters of commercial and private housing societies. Teams consisting of officers, police force and heavy machinery are active in the field to conduct joint operations. Yesterday, 15 teams disconnected dozens of connections of defaulters in different areas of the city. All recovery officers are assigned to detect illegal connections. Performance is being monitored on daily basis in relation to task and recovery of dues from defaulters

During the performance review yesterday, the survey report of all circle in-charges conducted in the field on 6 and 7 October and the performance of recovery from defaulters was reviewed in detail. 15 circle in-charges surveyed 483 consumers, 30 new commercial connections and 170 households. In issuing bills to connections, changing the category of 22 domestic customers to issuing them commercial bills and 15 teams submitted performance report of recovery of more than 35 lakh rupees from defaulters in two days. Deputy Managing Director Engineering said that check commercial and household bills.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES
Namaz Timings
Fajr 4:43 am
Zohr 11:56 am
Asr 4:04 pm
Maghrib 5:45 pm
Isha 7:08 pm

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

Women Police Stations
Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

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

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

AIOU issues instructions for admission candidates

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has closed admissions for matriculation and FA programs offered in the semester autumn 2023. According to the admissions department, students who applied manually and paid the fee but have not sent the admission form and documents to the university are instructed to send these documents by October 13, 2023. Admission will not be granted in the said semester and the candidate will be responsible for not dispatching documents in the given time.

Candidates of Matric and FA programs who have applied online but have not yet received the admission confirmation are directed to visit <http://aiou.edu.pk/application.index.php> online, if there is any objection on their form, then those students are instructed to remove objections as soon as possible and upload the required documents by 13th October to confirm their admission. In case of any delay, Admission will not be granted, and students will be responsible for that.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has instructed all the Academic and Servicing Departments to ensure the timely completion of academic activities to facilitate the students. In this regard, the admission department has sped up admission verification to complete the admission process within the stipulated time frame.

Someone being supported to become PM for fourth time: Ijazul Haq

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League (Zia) chief Ijazul Haq, expressed his contention that it appears that someone may be elevated as the Prime Minister for the fourth time.

During a press conference, Haq stated that the administration is receiving messages to support some specific parties, and he emphasised that this approach will not lead to any improvement in the country's situation.

He called for the dedication to constitutional principles if democracy is to flourish, alerting otherwise a return to the politics of the past decade.

Haq added, "Regrettably, there is a lack of accountability in the country. I am in talks with certain parties inter-



ested in handling Pakistan's challenges. I have initiated talks with them, and we will announce the alliance next week, announcing its name when we meet."

Ijazul Haq underscored that October 21 should not turn into another October 12,

as martial law does not provide solutions. He made it clear that he does not support martial law. Drawing similarities with how even the United States makes decisions in consultation with the Pentagon and foreign institutions, he said without their support foreign policy cannot be devised.

Furthermore, Haq mentioned that some leaders have been trying to appease the international establishment, encouraging Nawaz Sharif to improve relations with them.

The PML Zia chief also emphasised that caretaker governments have completed their terms. He advocated for open and fair elections without banning any political parties. He highlighted that the country's improvement lies in fulfilling the people's aspirations through the electoral process.

Armed Forces Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence Production Lt Gen Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd) posing for a group photo graph along Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan Tarek Dahroug, Egyptian Defense Attache staff Brigadier Mohamed Saad and others on the occasion of the Egyptian Armed Forces Day as they were also present on the occasion on 06 October in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Railways Pensioners Association appeals to Minister for release of pension funds

Maryam Siddiqi

ISLAMABAD: From the platform of All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association, the retired elderly pensioners, widows and orphans appealed to Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Federal Minister for Railways that on 6 October 2023, all the banks have paid the pension, but unfortunately, the pension funds were not released to the Allied Bank of Pakistan. As a result, about 11500 pensioners are still waiting for the orders of the higher officials of Pakistan Railways to receive their pension.

It is a step like cruelty and injustice. We appealed to you to order the administration to

release funds for the railway pensioners in the Allied Bank on an emergency basis.

An emergency meeting of All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association was held under the chairmanship of Chairman Aslam Adil Butt. All members participated in the video link meeting. On this occasion, Aurangzeb Tanoli, Secretary General All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association said that retired old age pensioners, widows and orphans from the railways from the platform of All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association, Federal Minister for Railways Pakistan Shahid Ashraf Tarar to draw attention to the issue that the pension of



September 2023 which was to be received in October. For this, after formal approval from Ministry of Finance and release from AGPR OFFICE, the funds were sent to State Bank of Pakistan. Pakistan Railway Head Quarters Office Lahore had sent the checks of all the banks to State Bank of Pakistan for clearance. On October

6, 2023, all the banks also paid the pension. But unfortunately, due to non-release of pension funds to Allied Bank of Pakistan, about 11500 pensioners are still waiting for the orders of the higher authorities of Pakistan Railways to receive their pension. Pakistan Railway officials have used the pensioners' funds in Allied Bank for some other purpose, which is a complete injustice and injustice to the widows and orphans of the poor pensioners. We request you to consider the above facts. Order the administration of Pakistan Railway Headquarters Lahore to release funds to the railway pensioners in Allied Bank on an emergency basis.

Will Taliban regime rein in TTP terrorists operating from Afghan soil against Pakistan?

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: The role of Afghanistan in the reorganization of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is quite crucial, although the banned outfit is not directly a part of the group that now rules Pakistan's western neighbour.

The TTP is responsible for some of the bloodiest attacks in Pakistan, with the deadliest Matung suicide attack claiming 60 innocent lives being the recent one in a string of attacks unleashed on Pakistan following the expiration of the ceasefire with the Pakistan government in November last year.

In 2014, Pakistani armed forces were able to effectively dismantle the TTP under the Operation Zarb-e-Azb, driving most of the fighters



into Afghanistan, where they regrouped.

In 2021, when the Taliban took over the reins in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of US forces, the TTP happened to be the first outfit to celebrate this victory. The TTP in a statement on 17 Aug, 2021, termed the Taliban retake of Kabul a great victory.

TTP chief Noor Wali

Mehsud, at the time, stated that the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan would now work towards the stability of the Taliban government in Afghanistan.

Mehsud pledged allegiance to Taliban chief Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, and announced to continue an unconditional support for the Taliban.

For the TTP, the biggest benefit the Taliban control over Kabul brought was the release of scores of its operatives. Thus, making the outfit more powerful and ferocious.

The TTP operatives who were set free included senior leaders like Maulvi Faqir Muhammad Bajauri and Mufti Khalid Balti.

Apparently, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan discourages its fighters from indulging in a war against the state of Pakistan.

But some factions within the Afghan Taliban from an ideological perspective consider it to be their religious and national responsibility to back the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan.

It is noteworthy here that many TTP operatives maintain

relations of personal nature with the local residents of Pakistan's tribal belt. As a result, TTP terrorists find opportunities to safely reorganise in the border areas between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Evidences have been found of Afghan suicide bombers' participation in TTP's unholy war against Pakistan.

Some Afghan Taliban fighters have even unequivocally stated that fighting a war against Pakistan comprised the next phase of their jihad.

The question remains whether or not the Afghan Taliban rule will rein in TTP terrorists operating from Afghan soil against Pakistan. Or innocent Pakistani citizens will keep falling prey to the barbarism of these TTP terrorists.

Fazlur Rehman says every politician should be out of jail

Bureau Report



PESHAWAR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal (JUI-F) head Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that he wants every politician out of jail.

As per details, the JUI-F chief said that political parties need to focus on the internal and external issues the country is facing right now.

He said that it doesn't suit him to organize public gatherings against his opponents who are imprisoned.

Maulana Fazl stated that he brought all the political parties on one platform to maintain the dignity of the country however currently people are in the midst of inflation.

Earlier, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal (JUI-F) head Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the nation should welcome the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif on his return to Pakistan.

As per details, the JUI-F chief said its is good if the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is returning to Pakistan and the people of Pakistan should welcome him.

Maulana Fazl lambasted the PTI chief saying that he landed the country in an economic crisis meanwhile his cases are in court and the disqualification will confirm that he will stay out of elections.

He stated that the ECP has announced election in January as holding elections is their constitutional right.

Theatre play "The Finest Cutter" was presented in Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi

City Desk

KARACHI: On the 28th day of the ongoing Pakistan Theatre Festival in Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, theatre play "The Finest Cutter" was presented in Urdu, writer of the theatre was Mazhar Suleman Noorani and the director was Syed Muntazir, cast of the play was Farhan Alam Siddiqui, Asad Gojar, Hammad Khan, Raheel Siddiqui, Komal Hayat and Rizwana. Story of the drama unfolds in the context of politics, underworld and the tense situation of the city which involves conspiracy, fraud, murder and organized crime. Seemingly simple owner of a men's wear shop pits two gangs who are mortal enemies of each other. Drama's various scenes involving mystery, thrill, violence and deception kept the audience engaged with the story until the end. A large number of fans loved the performance of the artists

Pedaling Towards Heart Health: World Heart Day Cycling Event

Bureau Report

KARACHI:- Docs on Wheels, in collaboration with the cardiac sciences group and AKU Medical College, organized a cycling event to commemorate World Heart Day.



The AKU Sports Center was abuzz with activity as participants gathered eagerly at the early hour of 6:30 am. A diverse assembly of cycling enthusiasts, with a standout presence of 150 medical and nursing students from Aga Khan University, embarked on a cycling journey from AKU to Boat Basin, traversing through Shahrah-e-Faisal and Mai Kolachi.

The ambiance of the event was charged with energy, bolstered by the splendid early morning weather. Clad in red, participants exemplified the determination of World Heart Day to embrace exercise and greet the morning hours with vigor. The invigorating effects of this early morning exercise were felt by all, reinforcing the collective desire for heart-healthy activities. Such endeavors radiate positivity and elevate our overall well-being.

After an exhilarating ride, the participants gathered for a hearty breakfast at Boat Basin. As they savored their meals, the day was marked with laughter, shared stories, and a strong sense of camaraderie. It was undeniably a day filled with joy and unity, fostering a profound sense of community. Kudos to Docs on Wheels for orchestrating such a memorable and impactful event!"

Man killed, boy molested in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: 07 oct A man was killed near his house in target killing case while a teenage boy was molested in the two different incidents in various parts of district Attock on Saturday, Police sources said. In the first incident, a man identified as 40 years old Muhammad Zaffran-father of five and a resident of Burhan was coming back to his house after completing his shift as dumper driver when reached near his house, two masked men opened firing at him resultantly he received two bullets and died on the spot. Later his body was shifted to THQ hospital Hassan Abdal for autopsy.

In the second incident, a 13 years old boy was molested in village Asghar in the limits of Hazro Police station. Shakeel Anwar has reported to Police that his 13 years old son was playing outside his house when his neighbour Ilyas Khan took him to his house and molested him. When the victim has returned to his house he narrated his ordeal to his father who took him to Police station after medical examination has confirmed the assault, Police registered a case against the nominated accused under section 376-A, 376-III and 378-B and launched hunt to arrest him.

Pakistan Post to mark World Post Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General Pakistan Post would hold a flag hoisting ceremony here Monday to mark the World Post Day.

The World Post Day is celebrated on October 9 every year to commemorate and celebrate the establishment of Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874.

Similar ceremonies would also be held in the offices of the Postmasters General, Unit Offices and GPOs across the country.

The theme of the World Post Day this year is "Together for trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future".

The theme for this year emphasizes the importance of governments and their postal services in fostering the growth of a unified digital single postal territory that complements the extensive physical network established over many centuries.



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Terrorism case on saying get out, a toxic work

First of all, we are Muslims, then police officers or lawyers. We should refrain from speaking falsely against someone as Muslims, with the intention of portraying them in a negative light. This is to maintain peace in society because falsely accusing someone is a grave sin and forbidden in Islamic law. It is narrated from Hazrat Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) that he said: Blaming innocent people is a heavier burden than the heavens, meaning it is a great sin.

"Allah, the Almighty, in Surah Al-Ahzab, explicitly declares the actions of those who falsely accuse innocent believing men and women to be a sin."

An FIR is in front of me and its story is as fellow, a police constable narrated that he arrived at the session court. When he went to check his duty under the shed of the court, he found Advocate Umar Waqas Warraich along with 14/13 unidentified and armed individuals. They approached, stopped him, grabbed and cursed at him, and pushed him, telling him to leave the session court premises, claiming it as their territory. When he resisted, Umar Waqas Warraich tore his uniform, and one of his companions took his government rifle. Some other armed advocates also joined in, assaulting him and his colleague. They confiscated official rifles from the police officers, threatened them, and during this confrontation, senior police officers arrived, and Umar Waqas Warraich threatened them as well.

The incident that went viral in the video is entirely different from this grim story. Therefore, this FIR has lost its credibility, and those who filed the FIR cannot be considered honest anymore. But all this the police has registered an FIR 4716/23 at PS Islam purah Lahore under terror and other offenses against along with 2 anti-corruption officers, now he was being targeted for unlawful detention by these police officers and lawyers were protect him. The truth is that incidents like these are happening in Pakistan due to the absence of the rule of law. On this Pakistan Bar Council Vice Chairman Haroonur Rashid declared it a false and frivolous case filed against the bar secretary and other lawyers under anti-terrorism charges. "The registration of the false case against the secretary of the LBA is illegal and unlawful," Mr Haroon said, demanding that the IG police withdraw it and take action against the police officers involved in filing the case against the lawyers.

No doubt, Police officers with low-quality utensils and a poor mindset file false FIRs to showcase their performance, which undermines the police department's morale. In such an environment, some officers may resort to unethical practices like fabricating FIRs to create an illusion of productivity. These false reports can take various forms, including fictitious criminal incidents, exaggerated charges, or wrongful accusations. The intention behind these actions is to demonstrate a high level of activity and performance, which can be misconstrued as efficiency by higher-ups or the public.

However, the consequences of this

misconduct are far-reaching. Firstly, it erodes the public's trust in the police force, as false FIRs can lead to unjust arrests and prosecutions. Innocent individuals may suffer due to these dishonest practices, and genuine cases may be overshadowed by the prevalence of fabricated reports. Furthermore, the morale within the police department suffers immensely. Officers who genuinely strive to maintain their integrity and uphold the law are disheartened by the unethical actions of their colleagues. This can create a toxic work environment, eroding the sense of camaraderie and unity essential for effective policing.

The issue of registering fake FIRs is a serious concern, and it often affects the lives of innocent people. To address this problem, the masses have inquired with IG Punjab Police, Dr. Usman, about when this practice will stop. To combat the registration of fake FIRs, it is essential to ensure a fair and transparent process within law enforcement agencies. Dr. Usman, as the Inspector General of Punjab Police, plays a crucial role in overseeing and improving the functioning of the police force in Punjab. An appeal from the public to Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsen Naqvi is emerging with concern that the province of Punjab should not be turned into a police state. When false cases are filed against lawyers and brought to court, most police officers do not appear as witnesses in support of the cases. Therefore, merit and justice should be promoted.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid



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

Pak Army Achieved the Highest Level of Public Approval III

However, their credibility is essential to ensure that the data they generate can be trusted. Evaluating the credibility of a survey involves examining factors such as methodology transparency, random sampling, sample size, data collection and analysis, question design, nonresponse bias, peer review, funding transparency, consistency, and ethical conduct. By carefully scrutinizing these aspects, we can separate reliable surveys from those that may lack credibility, thereby ensuring that the information we rely on for decision-making is grounded in sound research practices.

Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International, is a leading survey research and consultancy firm in Pakistan. Gallup Pakistan is a specialist in independent third-party evaluation and ratings. The company is widely attributed to be the founder of science of polling in Pakistan and brings over 40 years of experience in conducting and analyzing opinion polling in Pakistan. As the oldest national research and public opinion organization, Gallup Pakistan has worked extensively with public and private sector partners within and outside Pakistan. Each year, Gallup Pakistan conducts several high-profile studies for the Government of Pakistan and international agencies. It has worked for a number of UN agencies in Pakistan and has occasionally provided research support for projects conducted by leading academic institutions such as Harvard, MIT, Oxford, Yale, Warwick, Brown University, University of Washington and others. Gallup Pakistan's international reputation for accuracy, integrity and quality has been creditably maintained and recognized in the country since its establishment. Created in London in 1947, Gallup International is networked to collaborate in over 60 countries of the world spread over 5 continents including America, Europe, Asia, Africa & Australia. Gallup Pakistan is operating in Pakistan since 1980 thus bringing in more than 40 years of professional experience. Gallup Pakistan was established in 1980 in Pakistan by Dr Ijaz Shafi Gilani, Ph.D. from MIT in Political Science. With humble beginnings, within few years of its inception in Pakistan, Gallup Pakistan had broken the previously held taboo that only Government agencies could do survey work in Pakistan. Using innovative technologies of the time like Telex and Postal system, Gallup Pakistan set up field networks of capable individuals around the country so that field happened with knowledge of local laws and customs. During the 1985 elections, Gallup Pakistan conducted its first Exit Poll in the country and got widespread publicity on National and International Media. Public Opinion Polling was still a novelty for Pakistan as well as for the wider developing countries. Since that time Gallup Pakistan, has been a nursery for training various types of Human Resource affiliated with survey industry. We are proud of our Alumni who have gone on to strengthen the survey industry in Pakistan including in Market Research, Political Research and wider Socio-Economic Research field. The Gallup Survey of Pakistan is a powerful tool for understanding the thoughts, feelings, and attitudes of the Pakistani population. Conducted by Gallup Pakistan, a prominent public opinion research organization, this survey provides valuable insights into various aspects of Pakistani society, including politics, economics, social issues, and more.

The Gallup Survey of Pakistan covers a wide range of topics, making it a comprehensive tool for assessing public opinion. Some of the key focus areas include: The survey examines the popularity of political parties and leaders, public trust in government institutions, and opinions on national and international policies. Gallup assesses economic sentiment, views on inflation, unemployment, and overall economic conditions. This data is crucial for policymakers and businesses alike. The survey delves into social issues such as gender equality, education, healthcare, and public perception of these topics. This information can guide social programs and initiatives. Pakistan's security situation and foreign relations are subjects of global interest. Gallup's surveys provide insights into how Pakistanis perceive these issues. The organization conducts surveys related to public health, including awareness and acceptance of vaccination programs, healthcare services, and disease prevention. Assessing educational aspirations, access to quality education, and the views of Pakistan's youth are also critical aspects of the survey.

The Gallup Survey of Pakistan plays a crucial role in shaping both public and private sector decisions. Politicians and policymakers rely on Gallup's data to understand public sentiment and tailor their policies accordingly. For businesses, the survey offers insights into consumer preferences, market trends, and economic outlooks, aiding in strategic planning and investments. Apart from its impact on decision-makers, the Gallup Survey of Pakistan engages the public itself. By participating in surveys, individuals have a platform to voice their opinions and contribute to the national discourse. This engagement fosters a sense of empowerment and democracy, as the government and institutions actively seek the views of the people they serve.

To be Continued

Child Soldiering: A Lost Childhood in Conflict Zones

Fatima Mazhar

In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, children were made to participate and were used as soldiers by the Taliban against the Soviet forces. A UN study said that then number of these child soldiers increased from 200,000 to 300,000 from 1980 to 2002. A grave and deeply disturbing violation of human rights is using children as soldiers. It's regarded as among the worst types of abusing and exploiting children.

This issue of the use of child soldiers has become widespread in no time. Child soldiers have become a very important instrument of military forces especially across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and are also playing a crucial role in the Middle East. It is important to note here that these child soldiers are recruited by the rebel forces and not by the state. Some important conflicts that involve child soldiers include the Liberian conflict, Angolan conflict and Sudanese civil war. The main method through which children are recruited is their abduction. Thousands of children die and suffer every year because of child soldiering and become victims of terrorism.

It further creates a generation of violent adults. Since 1975, Africa has had the greatest number of child soldiers. According to some activists, poverty plays a key role in recruitment. One explanation could be that conflicts lead to extreme shortages of food and many people suffer and therefore, the poverty rates increase. Another factor that plays a role in the recruitment of child soldiers is that many children come from broken families or a disrupted family background and hence are vulnerable to recruitment.

They are promised food and shelter and other necessities in turn for their recruitment and hence being naive, the children get themselves recruited. Moreover, the children participating in war are provided with arms that are easy enough for them to handle. These weapons are also very inexpensive, light in weight and small in size. Also, the recruitment of child soldiers is linked to the fact that the children found in IDP or refugee camps are very great in number and vulnerable to recruitment. If these camps are unprotected, the children can be easily recruited. According to a study, it was found that access to refugee camps is the key determinant of child soldier rates.

In the civil war of Liberia which took place in 1989 and lasted till 1996, brutal killings of civilians took place. As a result, about 59% of the population of Liberia went for refugee camps but they were not guaranteed safety there. Children had to witness the horrific atrocities of war. Moreover, children were abducted and recruited to be used since the very start of the war.

They were forced to join and were told that if they did not join the war, their families would be killed. Some of the children were used to protect the ministers while some were also made part of other Liberian armed factions. The children used as soldiers were under the age of 18 and some even as small as eight or nine years old. The opposition and the government forces, both, used children which included boys as well as girls. They were denied protection and safety in the refugee camps and many children were recruited again as well.

The areas close to the borders of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea were the places from where they were recruited in high numbers. The IDP children were very vulnerable as they had no protection in their camps and hence, could be recruited and abducted very easily. A camp called Plumkroft camp is infamous for the forcible child recruitment. Role of international organizations and NGOs is very important when addressing this serious issue. For the release of child soldiers, their psychosocial support, and the promotion of their rehabilitation and reintegration, UNICEF works with governments and other partners. The recruitment and use of child soldiers are prohibited by the Paris Principles and Commitments, a set of non-binding principles and commitments. Moreover, war crimes, such as the enlistment and use of children as soldiers, are prosecuted by the ICC.

Through its efforts, the use of child soldiers is discouraged, and those responsible are held accountable. For instance, the ICC has issued arrest warrants for those connected to the Lord's Resistance Army of Uganda's recruitment of child soldiers. In the end, ending the use of child soldiers is not only a noble goal, but also a crucial step towards a world that is more just and peaceful. Let's keep in mind the countless children who have endured suffering and make a commitment to effect change so that no child's future is tarnished by the atrocities of war. Together, we can make a world where kids are dreamers, scholars, and peacemakers rather than soldiers.

Writer is pursuing bachelors in International Relations from National Defense University, Islamabad.

Inauguration of Geneva International Motor Show 2023 in Qatar

PPA

DOHA, QATAR: Under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Geneva International Motor Show (GIMS) marked the opening on 5 October with a spectacular ceremony for the first time in Qatar and showcased major international car reveals, marking an eventful start to the automotive week ahead.

The VIP Opening Ceremony was also attended by His Excellency Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, Minister of Interior, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, Chairman of Qatar Tourism and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, and His Excellency Mr. Saad Bin Ali Al Kharji, Deputy Chairman of Qatar Tourism. Other esteemed guests also witness the inaugural of the first ever GIMS in Qatar, including various ministers, ambassadors, and senior delegates.

Qatar Airways, Official Airline Partner of GIMS, demonstrated an elegant

booth welcoming VIPs to the area. Held in partnership with Qatar Tourism, GIMS highlights the latest industry innovations and over 30 unveilings from international and regional brands including Toyota, Lexus, Porsche, Volkswagen, Lamborghini, BMW, KIA, Audi, McLaren, Mercedes-Benz, Vinfast, Chery, and more. The exhibition is studded with 31 global automotive brands and takes place from 5-14 October 2023 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

During the Opening Ceremony, the Qatar Airways booth was visited by former Manchester United legend, David Beckham, who toured the Qatar Airways and Formula 1® simulator, the cutting-edge QVerse station, and its best-in-class award-winning Qsuite. The booth also featured snippets of HIA's ORCHARD by displaying sustainably sourced greenery offering a one-of-a-kind atmosphere to visitors at the exhibition. The airline's signature hospitality was represented by its Cabin Crew, who served dates and Arabic coffee to visitors.



The GIMS Qatar Media Day was held on 6 October, and was prelude by H. E. Mr. Akbar Al Baker, and Chief Executive Officer of GIMS, Sandro Mesquita. H. E. Mr. Akbar Al Baker inaugurated the event to the public with opening remarks which was attended by over 600 international media. Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "Qatar Airways' support for the Geneva International Motor Show stems from our mutual admiration of technical innovation. We are proud to

bring this outstanding exhibition, from Geneva to Doha, for car enthusiasts in the region. It is not only a fitting event for Qatar's vibrant automotive landscape, but also represents the synergy of the airline and automotive industries' strive for innovation."

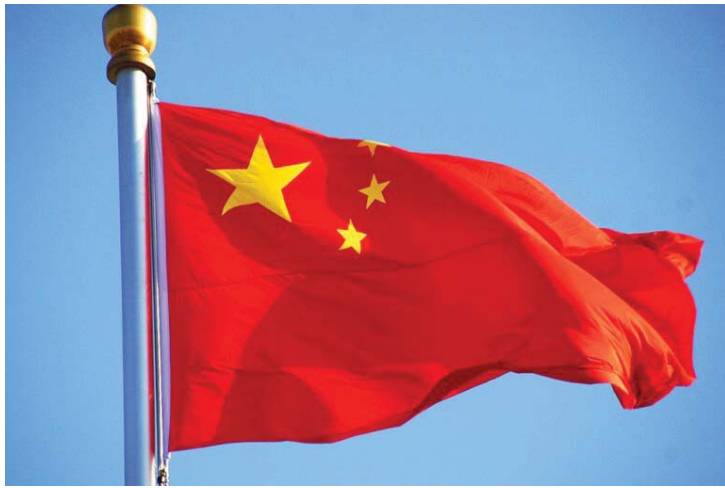
The exhibition at DECC is supplemented with four supporting events across Qatar to create an exciting automotive experience. GIMS Qatar is hosting a forum on the future of car design at the National Museum of Qatar, offering an exhilarating off-road tour at Sealine, providing electrifying test drives at the Lusail International Circuit, and showcasing a stunning installation of classic cars at the Lusail Boulevard.

GIMS Qatar is open daily from 7-14 October at DECC from 14:00 to 22:00, and from 10:00 to 22:00 on Saturdays. Entrance tickets are free during weekdays and QAR 50 during weekends. All tickets are available on the Virgin Megastore website: <https://tickets.virginmegastore.me/qa/others/20431/geneva-international-motor-show>

China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum opens up new channel for regional countries: Experts

News Desk

BELJING: Countries in the Himalayan region have always maintained frequent exchanges and regional countries aspire to benefit from China's rapid economic development. However, due to geographical constraints, there are natural obstacles to connectivity. This platform has opened up a new channel for trans-Himalayan countries, instilling confidence and fostering greater expectations for future openness, said Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University. The third China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation was held in Nyingchi, Southwest China's Xizang also known as Tibet. Representatives from more than 40 countries, regions and international organizations attended the forum. According to statistics released at the forum, the total value of Xizang's foreign trade import and export in 2022 reached 4.6 billion yuan (\$640 million), a year-on-year increase of 14.6 percent. Trade partners spanned across 95 countries and regions, with imports and exports to countries along the Belt and Road reaching 2.4 billion yuan. From January to August, Xizang's



total foreign trade volume increased by 72.5 percent. "Moreover, cooperation among trans-Himalayan countries has primarily been at the bilateral level. Now with this multilateral platform, countries can leverage their respective strengths to achieve complementarity and form a collective force. Although this is just the first step, it holds great importance," Qian told Global Times. One of the major achievements of the forum was the release of the Nyingchi Initiative, in which China proposed to

work together with trans-Himalayan countries to improve environmental governance, jointly address ecological challenges and strengthen regional biodiversity, natural resource and environmental protection.

China will also strengthen the construction of infrastructure including railways, highways, power grids, telecommunications and aviation in the Himalayan region, and build a comprehensive network for cross-Himalayan connectivity to further expand

openness.

In addition, China will promote closer economic and trade exchanges, deepen agricultural cooperation, and jointly build a Himalayan economic cooperation belt.

This year's event not only attracted greater numbers of participation and higher levels of officials, but also included new members such as Afghanistan, which signifies the growing recognition and strong interest of the international community in the mechanism, experts noted.

Cooperation for the next step will mainly focus on infrastructure and connectivity, such as the extension of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway to Nepal and the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan, they said.

Another new area of focus is the cooperation on green low-carbon development, water and soil resource conservation and climate change cooperation. Caretaker Foreign Minister, Jalil Abbas Jilani, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia Sainbuyan Amarsaikhan, Vice Chairperson of the National Assembly of Nepal Urmila Aryal, and Afghan Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi attended the forum.

Egypt International Air show

PPA

ISLAMABAD: We are delighted to announce that the dates for Egypt International Airshow will be 2-5 September 2024. Set to take place at El Alamein International Airport, the event is Africa's only dedicated Airshow focused on Defence, Space and Commercial Aviation.



The new event brochure is available to download, with full details on who you can meet, who should exhibit, the venue, and full pricing for exhibiting, chalets and sponsorship. Download the Event Brochure here.

Exhibit at the event in 2024 to meet with senior buyers from Air Forces, Airlines and Space Agencies to learn more about their procurement plans. Enquire about exhibiting today.

Shusha elected as ECO's Tourism Capital for 2026



News Desk

BAKU: The 5th ECO Ministerial meeting on Tourism and the 7th High Level Expert Group Meeting on Tourism have been held in Ardabil, Iran, on October 4-5, on the sidelines of Azerbaijan's ECO Chairmanship in 2023, said the press service of the country's Foreign Ministry.

A delegation of the Azerbaijan's State Tourism Agency represented the country at both events. The meeting saw broad discussions on prospects for current cooperation in the field of tourism between the ECO member states. It also analyzed the measures to be taken regarding the further enhancement of mutual relations in the relevant field.

Azerbaijan's city of Shusha was elected as the Tourism Capital of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) for 2026. The relevant decision was also included in the Ardabil Declaration adopted by ECO.

Japan urges Israelis, Palestinians to exercise maximum restraint

News Desk

TOKYO: Japan on Saturday strongly condemned the launch of several rockets as well as infiltration into the Israeli territories from the Gaza Strip by Hamas and other "Palestinian militants" on October 7 local time.

In an official statement by the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo "Japan offers its condolences to the bereaved families and expresses its heartfelt sympathies to the injured."

"Japan urges all the parties concerned to exercise maximum restraint in order to avoid further damage and casualties," the statement said while avoiding condemning the attacks by Israel on Gaza.

India cannot get benefit until became a 'Cohesive Society': Speakers

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Speakers of an interactive session on "The 18th G-20 Summit in New Delhi: Global and Regional Perceptions" on Saturday said that India could not benefit from the G-20 Summit unless and until it became a 'Cohesive Society'.

While speaking in the session held at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) attended by faculty members and students of various universities, the speakers criticised the Modi-led Indian government for giving limited and restricted space to Muslims, Christians and Sikhs.

They said that the Indian government displaced thousands of people and killed thousands of monks as part of their preparations for the G-20 Summit.



The speakers said, 'India received criticism also within the country.' They said that the Congress party also took Modi-led Indian government to task

for its bad conduct and deeds.

They further said that China was a time-tested friend of Pakistan, who also did not attend the G-20 Summit

to hold its tourism meeting in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The interactive session on the occasion lauded those issues, which were properly raised in the G-20 Summit including climate change and food insecurity but lambasted India for using the event as a propaganda for their next general elections.

The speakers said that the country could focus on international issues after resolving her internal matters.

The faculty members and students said that the country was passing through a challenging time and facing challenges.

They said that new challenges were emerging in the world and there was a dire need to resolve them.

They also stressed the need for going global to win the world.

Malaysia looks to UAE for help in energy transition efforts

News Desk

KUALA LUMPUR: The UAE will help Malaysia establish a renewable energy capacity of 10 GW by 2025, the Malaysian government announced on Friday during Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's state visit to Abu Dhabi.

The Malaysian premier arrived in the UAE on a two-day trip on Thursday and witnessed the signing of a series of investment agreements.

He was accompanied by Malaysian Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir, and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz.

Malaysia's Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry said that \$8.6 billion in investments were committed to sectors such as aerospace and logistics, and

renewable energy.

The agreements include a commitment by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC (Masdar) to invest up to \$8 billion to develop renewable energy projects with a 10 GW capacity in Malaysia, the ministry said in a statement.

It said the Malaysian Investment Development Authority and the UAE International Investment Council also agreed to strengthen their collaboration to enhance Malaysia-UAE sustainable economic cooperation.

Renewable energy and low-carbon solutions are "at the heart" of Malaysia's new target investments, the Malaysian investment minister said.

The strategic collaboration will help Malaysia pursue new technology that prioritizes low-carbon, green manufacturing and

circular economy solutions, Tengku Zafrul said.

Malaysia has set ambitious targets for its energy transition. Under the Malaysia Renewable Energy Roadmap, the government aims to reach 31 percent (13 GW) of the nation's energy needs by 2025 and 40 percent (18 GW) by 2035.

In May, the Ministry of Economy committed to increasing renewable energy capacity to 70 percent by 2050.

The target will require a 10-fold increase in its capacity from 2023 to 2050, which the government estimates will require an investment of \$143 billion into grid infrastructure, energy storage and network operations.

Malaysian experts see the UAE — a major oil producer which in recent years has become a lead-

er in developing renewable energy and green hydrogen technologies — as a natural partner to help the Southeast Asian nation reach its goal.

"This is the government putting the plan into action," Adib Zalkapli, director at advisory firm BowerGroupAsia, told Arab News.

"Obviously Malaysia cannot execute the energy transition plan on its own. Partnerships are vital to achieve such ambitious goals."

Over the past decade, the UAE has taken numerous measures to establish itself as a regional leader on climate action, becoming the top Middle Eastern state in Yale University's Environmental Performance Index. It has also invested tens of billions in developing clean energy sources, and become the permanent host of the International Renewable



Energy Agency headquarters.

"The UAE probably sees Malaysia as a natural partner here. For example, the national oil companies of the UAE

and Malaysia are signatories of the UN's Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0," said Shahrman Lockman, senior analyst at the Institute of Strategic and Inter-

national Studies Malaysia. "This seems consistent with the UAE's emphasis on positioning itself as a responsible steward of the environment."

In European countries, no throne for job seekers: S. M. Food chief

Zain ul Abideen Abid

MULTAN: After a one-month industrial tour of the UK and Italy, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, the Chairman of S. M. Food and Volka Food International, shared in a meeting that in European countries, there is no concept of a throne; every citizen works, so there are no poor people there. Every citizen pays taxes, and every citizen has their own new car. However, it's not the same in Pakistan. Here, those seeking employment demand a throne on the very first day instead of working hard.

In detail one-month industrial tour of the United Kingdom and Italy, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, the Chairman of S. M. Food and Volka Food International and a member of the Pakistan investment board conveyed his observations during a meeting. He highlighted that in European countries, the concept of entitlement is virtually nonexistent. Instead, every citizen actively participates in the workforce, resulting in a society where poverty is scarce. Furthermore, he pointed out that each citizen dutifully contributes to taxes, and it's common for everyone to own a new car.

In stark contrast, Mr. Anjum expressed concern about the situation in Pakistan. He noted that job seekers in Pakistan often come with high demands from day one, expecting privileges and entitlements without putting in the hard work required. This contrast underscores the need for a shift in work ethics and attitudes towards employment in Pakistan, emphasizing the importance of diligence and commitment in achieving prosperity. He was saying that to be happy, we should work hard, and every business person should pay taxes to the government from their income so that the country can also prosper.



Pakistan committed to fast-tracking CPEC projects: Minister

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Sami Saeed on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to fast-tracking the ongoing projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He made these remarks during a meeting with China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) Chairman Yu Bo, a news release said. Sami Saeed said Gwadar was the heart of



CPEC and a gateway to prosperity for Pakistan and the entire region. He said Gwadar was being developed as a

world-class port and logistics hub, adding "This will create new jobs and opportunities for the people of Pakistan and boost the economy."

He also reiterated that Pakistan was committed to resolving all outstanding issues related to CPEC on a priority basis. China and Pakistan have established a high-level mechanism to address concerns, if any, he added.

Chairman Yu Bo briefed the minister about the progress of Gwadar Free Zone and Gwadar Free Port.

Underscoring the significance of Gwadar

within the CPEC framework, he said the first stage of Gwadar port and city development, along with the Gwadar Free Zone, had been completed, marking a substantial achievement.

He also highlighted how COPHC's decade-long stewardship had remarkably transformed Gwadar from a modest village into a thriving modern city, replete with cutting-edge technology.

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation in this area.

Construction

ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in their work during the construction of Golra Mor Underpass in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

US restricts trade with 42 Chinese entities

News Desk

The US Commerce Department on Friday added 42 Chinese companies to a government export control list over their support for Moscow's military and defense industrial base - support that includes the supply of U. S.-origin integrated circuits.

Another seven entities from Finland, Germany, India, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom were also added to the trade export control list.

The circuits include microelectronics that Russia uses for precision guidance systems in missiles and drones launched against civilian targets in Ukraine, the Commerce Department said in a statement.

"Today's additions to the Entity List provide a clear message: if you supply the Russian defense sector with U. S.-origin technology, we will find out, and we will take action," Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement Matthew Axelrod said in the statement.

China called the U. S. action "economic coercion and unilateral bullying".

"The United States should immediately correct its wrong practices and stop its unreasonable suppression of Chinese companies," China's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement.

It has been 20 months since Russian invaded Ukraine. A Russian missile strike in a village in northeastern Ukraine on Thursday killed at least 52 people in one of the most deadly attacks yet.

Companies are added to the U. S. Entity List when Washington deems them a threat to U. S. national security or foreign policy. Suppliers must then be granted generally hard-to-get licenses before shipping goods to entities on the list.

PSX gains 41 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 41.19 points, a positive change of 0.09 per cent, closing at 47,493.57 points against 47,452.38 points the previous day.

A total of 246,382,303 shares valuing Rs.7184 billion were traded during the day as compared to 462,865,965 shares valuing Rs. 8.998 billion the previous day. As many as 351 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 190 of them recorded gains and 139 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 22 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 41,323,524 shares at Rs.1.34 per share, K-Electric Ltd with 28,155,875 shares at Rs.2.32 per share and Telecard Limited with 11,768,834 shares at Rs.7.30 per share.

Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.100.00 per share price, closing at Rs.207,00.00, whereas the runner-up was Bhanero Textile with a Rs.44.50 rise in its per share price to Rs.974.50.

Sapphire Fiber witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.83.95 per share closing at Rs.1,036.05, followed by Khyber Textile with a Rs.60.89 decline to close at Rs.751.02.

ICCI calls for better development of Blue Area to boost trade activities

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Blue Area is the largest commercial centre of Islamabad, which plays an important role in the development of the economy and stressed that the CDA should focus on its better development to facilitate the growth of trade activities. He said this while talking to a delegation of Traders Welfare Association, Blue Area, Islamabad that visited ICCI led by its President Raja Hassan Akhtar and congratulated ICCI Office Bearers for one year's extension in their tenure.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that parking is the most serious issue of the Blue Area and CDA should allow parking of vehicles on the green area of Fazal Haq Road till the construction of a parking plaza is materialized. He said that ICCI intends to organize a mega shopping festival in the Blue Area in collaboration with TWA Blue Area to boost trade activities and enable customers to get a chance of shopping at affordable rates.

Raja Hassan Akhtar, President, Traders Welfare Association Blue Area highlighted the important issues of traders of his market. He said that the non-avail-



bility of parking, the old sewage system and non-functional street lights are the main issues of the Blue Area and stressed that the CDA should address them on an urgent basis. He stressed that CDA should set up a flower market in Blue Area besides pruning trees. He demanded that the CDA should set up a food street in the Blue Area, which is the need of the hour for the traders and citizens. He said that Ahsan Bakhtawari is working actively to resolve the problems of traders and hoped that he would address the unresolved issues of traders in his remaining tenure.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Blue Area is the key hub of business activities in Islamabad and stressed that the CDA should develop it on modern lines.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that ICCI would fully cooperate with TWA Blue Area in resolving the key issues of traders to facilitate them in business development.

Yousuf Rajput Group Leader, Mian Basharat Kakakhel Secretary General Blue Area Association, Syed Amin Pirzada and others were in the delegation.

CAD: Canadian dollar rallies against USD

Reuters

The Canadian dollar (CAD) rallied against its US counterpart on Friday, clawing back some of its weekly decline, as stronger-than-expected domestic jobs data boosted expectations for further interest rate hikes by the Bank of Canada.

The loonie was trading 0.4% higher at 1.3650 to the greenback, or 73.26 U. S. cents, extending its recovery from a six-month low at 1.3785 the day before.

For the week, it was down 0.5% as a spike in bond yields rattled investors globally.

Canada's economy more than tripled expectations by adding 63,800 jobs in September and wages continued to soar, data showed, upping the chances for another rate hike.

"With today's report, higher for longer (interest rates) from the Bank of Canada looks reasonable," said Michael Greenberg, a portfolio manager at Franklin Templeton Investment Solutions.

Money markets see a roughly



40% chance of a tightening at the BoC's next policy announcement on Oct. 25, up from 28% before the data.

U. S. job growth also surged in September but the greenback (. DXY) was unable to sustain its earlier gains against a basket of major currencies.

Analysts are sticking to their bullish forecasts on the Canadian dollar for the coming year, maintaining that the currency is undervalued and could benefit from Canada's close economic ties with the United States, a Reuters poll found.

The price of oil, one of Canada's major currencies, settled 0.6% higher at \$82.79 a barrel, recouping some recent losses, while Canadian government bond yields moved higher across much of the curve.

US dollar drops to lowest in six months against rupee

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistani rupee (PKR) continues its upward move as US dollar (USD) dropped to its lowest level in six months.

Amid crackdown against dollar smuggling the US currency shed 5.50 rupee in interbank trading this week.

The greenback was closed at 282.69 rupee in a week. It lost 5.50 rupees in interbank trading while the greenback was closed at 287.74 rupee in previous week.

In the open market US dollar dropped by 6.50 rupees to close at 281.50 from 288 rupees.

The US currency consistently going down against Pakistani rupee in open market for last few weeks since beginning of September.

Other foreign currencies also shedding their value in currency market, along the US dollar. In a week Euro dropped by 8 rupees from



306 to 298 Pakistani rupees.

British Pound Sterling lost five rupees and reached to 248 from 353 rupees in a week.

Saudi Riyal dropped by one rupee from 76.20 to 75.20 rupees.

Emirates dirham also shed 2.60 rupees to settle at 77.20 from 79.80 rupees at the weekend.

The Pakistani rupee gaining against US dollar in the open market as gap with the inter-bank market continued to stay narrow and with-in the limits prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The rupee's upward move against dollar comes on the back of a countrywide crackdown against illegal currency business by the law enforcement agencies.

Auto workers' union holds off on strike expansion



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Citing last-minute progress in talks, the head of the US auto workers' union said Friday the labor group would maintain the current strike but not expand it to other plants this week.

United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain hailed a "breakthrough" concession from General Motors in response to another threatened expansion of the three-week partial stoppage.

Fain maintained the possibility of escalating the strike further down the road, but added no more targeted plants after announcing prior expansions the last two Fridays following the initial stoppage on September 15.

"Here's the punchline: Our strike is working," Fain said in a webcast update. "But we're not there yet."

Fain said GM has "leap-

frogged" Detroit rivals Ford and Stellantis in agreeing "in writing" to include the auto giant's electric battery plants under the UAW's national agreement.

Fain said the importance of GM's shift "cannot be overstated" because of the possibility that the transition to electric vehicles (EV) will lead to the replacement of high-paid conventional auto jobs with lower-paid EV posts in what the labor leader has called a "race to the bottom."

Wearing a t-shirt with the slogan "Eat the Rich," Fain reviewed the state of play, with each of the companies often offering slightly different response to key union demands.

The pause in escalating the strike will be a relief to the three companies, although Fain held out the possibility of ramping up the action further if progress stalls.

Car prices fall in Pakistan after dollar weakens

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The car prices in Pakistan have fallen due to the sharp decline in Pakistani rupee's value against the US dollar.

In a statement, Lucky Motor Corporation (LMC) said it has decided to decrease the prices of KIA vehicles in light of the recent strengthening of the Pakistani rupee in against US dollar.

LMC has announced a reduction of up to Rs500,000 in the pricing of KIA cars.

According to the statement, the prices of Pican-to AT, Sportage FWD and AWD and Black Limited Edition have been decreased by Rs100,000, Rs150,000 and Rs350,000, respectively.

Specifically, the prices of the Sorento variants, including the 3.5L FWD, 2.4L AWD, and 2.4FWD,

have each been lowered by Rs500,000 in the most recent price adjustment.

Car prices It is pertinent to mention here that LMC has implemented these price reductions exclusively for customers who opt for the full payment option.

Earlier in the day, it was reported that the Pakistani rupee (PKR) continued an upward trend against the US dollar in the interbank market, extending its gains for the 22nd consecutive session.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan, the rupee gained Rs1.09 against the US dollar, trading at Rs282.53 from yesterday's close of Rs283.62.

In the open market, the dollar depreciated by Rs2, standing at Rs282, according to the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan.

Emerging economies face China and rate pressures as IMF, World Bank meet

LONDON: Emerging economies are facing headwinds from all sides, with a recent selloff in U. S. Treasuries and China's slowing economy adding layers of uncertainty while the Federal Reserve might not have reached the end of its rate hike cycle.

Restructuring efforts for defaulted countries could reach a breakthrough before year-end as talks continue, while the finances of nations like Pakistan and Egypt

will also be under scrutiny when policy makers and asset managers gather for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund's annual meetings in Marrakech next week.

"The external backdrop does remain challenging for emerging and frontier markets across the board and that's out of their control," said Joseph Cuthbertson, senior sovereign analyst at PineBridge Investments.

Shehroze Kashif becomes the first youngest Pakistani to summit 13 highest peaks in the world

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Shehroze Kashif, the unstoppable force of adventure, has successfully summited the majestic Mount Cho Oyu, standing tall at an awe-inspiring 8,188 meters above sea level. Bard Foundation, once again, stood as a steadfast supporter, reinforcing their commitment to his expedition.

This is a significant moment for our nation. Shehroze shared his feelings about this achievement, saying, "It's more than just a sport for me. It's a responsibility to make my country proud, and I'm just one step away from my final victory. With my journey, I hope to motivate those who are looking for hope and guidance to fulfill their dreams and aspirations." He also conveyed his profound gratitude to BARD Foundation, recognizing the important role such institutions play in empowering our youth to establish their own identity and make major contributions. These organizations, by providing support and opportunities, serve as catalysts for the aspira-



tions and achievements of the upcoming generation.

This remarkable achievement positions Shehroze as the youngest Pakistani mountaineer to successfully summit 13 of the world's highest peaks. His next goal is Mount Shishamangama, the final

highest peak that he has yet to summit. Achieving this will make him the youngest Pakistani climber to successfully ascend all 14 of the world's highest peaks. We are genuinely proud of Shehroze and eagerly wait to hear this news soon.

"It's wonderful news for the founda-

tion and all of us. We've been looking forward to the time when Shehroze will make history after summiting all 14 of the world's highest peaks. Amid economic challenges, where many young people find it hard to pursue their dreams, these achievements serve as beacons of hope for our country. We look forward to seeing more young people entering this field and taking Pakistan's image to new heights, said Mehreen Dawood, the Managing Director of BARD Foundation.

BARD Foundation has always played a vital role in promoting talent and paving the way for successful careers for many. The initiative undertaken by Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood believes in changing fortunes by helping competent individuals realize their potential as champions in their chosen fields. The purpose of the Foundation is to develop strong and confident individuals, with a special emphasis on skill construction and improvement. The Foundation extends assistance to anyone who has the spirit of adventure by becoming a part of their transformative journey.

Sialkot's Mohsin Riaz hits a century on the final day of round five of the Hanif Mohammad Trophy

Sports Desk

LAHORE, 7 OCTOBER 2023: Mohsin Riaz produced an undefeated century at Muzaffarabad Cricket Stadium as Sialkot and Islamabad drew the match on the final day of play for the fifth round of the Hanif Mohammad Trophy 2023-24.



The previous day, Karachi Blues defeated Bahawalpur by 51 runs at the Sheikh Khalifa Sports Complex in Rahim Yar Khan. At Mirpur Cricket Stadium, Larkana lost against Quetta, by an innings and 150 runs. At Multan Cricket Stadium, Abbottabad crafted a victory over Hyderabad after they were tasked to chase 122 runs in the final innings.

Sialkot v Islamabad at Muzaffarabad Cricket Stadium: At Muzaffarabad Cricket Stadium, Sialkot resumed their second batting attempt trailing by 270 runs. They were 21 for one at the day's start. On the back of performances by Mohsin Riaz (103 not out, 185b, 8x4s, 2x6s), Mohammad Waleed (72 not out, 126b, 8x4s) and Fahad Jamil (48, 133b, 4x4s), Sialkot's score grew to 298 runs in 96 overs.

They lost five wickets in the process; Umair Afridi got two wickets while Haris Hassan, Syed Khizer Shah and Mohammad Arsal Sheikh bagged one each.

The match was drawn.

Scores in brief:

Larkana v Quetta:

Quetta wins against Larkana by an innings and 150 runs. Larkana 89 in 40 overs (Sabit Ali 21; Najeeb Ullah 5-29, Gohar Faiz 2-15, Mohammad Ghous 2-30) and 161 all out in 44.5 overs (Ishfaq Ahmed 65, Sabit Ali 28; Jalat Khan 7-32, Najeeb Ullah Jr 2-32)

Quetta 400 all out in 96 overs (Bismillah Khan 109, Mohammad Ibrahim 82, Hazrat Wali 72; Faraz Aziz 3-41, Amir Ali 3-97, Imtiaz Leghari 2-64)

Sialkot v Islamabad:

Match Drawn

Sialkot 251 all out in 106.5 overs (Naveed Sarwar 69; Mohammad Waleed 66; Mohammad Shayan Sheikh 7-57) and 298-5 in 96 overs (Mohsin Riaz 103 not out, Mohammad Waleed 72 not out, Fahad Jamil 48; Umair Afridi 2-39, Haris Hassan 1-30, Syed Khizer Shah 1-49, Mohammad Arsal Sheikh 1-53)

Islamabad 521 all out in 168.3 overs (Faizan Riaz 131, Hassan Nawaz 120; Bilal Asif 5-129, Mohammad Waleed 3-129)

Hyderabad v Abbottabad:

Abbottabad win against Hyderabad by three wickets.

Hyderabad 77 all out in 37.5 overs (Danial Hussain Rajput 33 not out; Israr Hussain 5-14, Adil Naz 4-23) and 313 all out in 115.2 overs (Mohammad Suleman 144, Haris Khan 79; Yasir Shah 4-74, Israr Hussain 2-56, Adil Naz 2-63, Khalid Usman 2-93).

Abbottabad 269 all out in 73 overs (Ahmed Khan 74, Khalid Usman 49; Jawad Ali 6-96, Asim Ali 2-62) and 123-7 in 27 overs (Khalid Usman 32 not out, Afaq Ahmed 26; Majid Asghar 3-30, Jawad Ali 3-31)

Bahawalpur v Karachi Blues:

Karachi Blues win against Bahawalpur by 51 runs.

Karachi Blues 178 all out in 50.4 overs (Saifullah Bangash 82; Shayan Khalil 3-48, Gulfam Aziz 3-49) and 228 all out in 69.5 overs (Saifullah Bangash 56, Akbar Ur Rehman 55; Gulfam Aziz 5-31, Shayan Khalil 3-54)

Bahawalpur 192 all out in 62.3 overs (Aun Shahzad 62 not out, Mohammad Ammar 39; Ashiq Ali 5-56, Saqib 3-50) and 228 all out in 69.5 overs (Shahid Mirani 51, Mohammad Junaid 27, Mohammad Ammar 24; Aarish Ali Khan 4-30, Saqib 2-20).

Faisalabad, Lahore Blues register wins in QEAT 2023/24

A Sports

Lahore Region Blues chased down a 126-run target in the final innings against Rawalpindi at Pindi Cricket Stadium while Faisalabad beat FATA as both teams registered victories in the ongoing Quaid-e-Azam Trophy (QEAT) 2023/24.



Rawalpindi, at Pindi Cricket Stadium, were 302 for eight in 93 overs. Taimur Khan (166 not out, 232b, 29x4sm 3x6s) helped the side get to 345 runs before they were bowled out in 109.3 overs.

Hunain Shah returned with four wickets. Kashif Bhatti had three wickets while Ali Shafiq got two to his name.

In return, Imran Butt-led Lahore Blues chased the required 126 with significant ease, losing only three wickets in the process which came courtesy of Kashif Ali and Awais Anwar.

The former got two while the latter got just one. Usman Sala-huddin (39 not out, 52b, 8x4s) and Husnain Talat (32 not out, 34b, 6x4s, 1x6) were the high scorers for Lahore in the final innings, as the side won by seven wickets.

In another fifth-round QEAT fixture, FATA resumed their second innings from 156 for eight while chasing 308 at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium. They could only get to 181 runs before they were bowled out in 66.4 overs.

Khurram Shahzad returned with four wickets. He was supported by Mohammad Abubakar Khan and Mohammad Shahzad Gul, who bagged three and two wickets respectively.

Efforts by Mohammad Sarwar Afridi (59, 143b, 8x4s) and Samiullah Jr (48, 97b, 6x4s) went in vain as the Faisalabad bowlers ran through the FATA line-up, ensuring that the side secured a comfortable win in the fifth round of the QEAT 2023-2024.

The 17th match of the ongoing edition of the QEAT between Lahore Region Whites and Peshawar ended in a draw.

Peshawar resumed their innings from 330 for two at Gaddafi Stadium on the final day of play in the fifth round.

Saad Baig to lead Pakistan U19 against Sri Lanka U19 Cricket Tour of Pakistan: PCB

Sports Desk

MULTAN: Saad Baig will continue to lead Pakistan U19 against Sri Lanka U19 in the home series set to be played in Karachi. The two sides will compete in a solitary four-day match followed by a series of five 50-over matches.

The recently appointed seven-member junior selection committee headed by Inzamam-ul-Haq has selected the 16-member Pakistan U19 squad for the four-day match. The match is scheduled to take place from 15 to 18 October.

The squad for the one-day series will be announced later next week. The one-day series will be held at the same venue - National Bank Stadium, Karachi - from 22 to 31 October.

Saad Baig, who captained Pakistan U19 on the tour to Bangladesh earlier this year, will have the services of eight players who were part of the playing XI in the only four-day match on the tour. The list includes Ali Asfand, Amir Hassan, Arafat Minhas, Azan Awais, Mohammad Ibtisam, Mohammad Ismail, Shahzaib Khan and Wahaj Riaz.

Six of the remaining seven players part of the 16-member squad have notably excelled in the ongoing National U19 Championship 2023-24. These are Ahmed Hussain (Peshawar U19, three matches, 19 wickets), Hamza Nawaz



(Bahawalpur U19, three matches, 280 runs, 1x100, 2x50s), Huzaifa Ayub

(Bahawalpur U19, three matches, 15 wickets, one five-fer), Mohammad Zubair

(Peshawar U19, three matches, 236 runs, 1x100, 1x50), Naveed Ahmed Khan (Karachi Whites U19, three matches, 20 wickets, one five-fer) and Shahmeer Ali (Rawalpindi U19, three matches, 244 runs, 1x100, 1x50) have performed well in the ongoing National U19 Championship 2023-24. Meanwhile, the seventh player Aimal Khan is currently representing FATA Region in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2023-24, where the right-arm fast bowler has taken six wickets in two outings.

Pakistan's squad will assemble in the team hotel on Tuesday night and will train at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi on the following two days. The team management and training schedule will be announced in due course.

Pakistan U19 squad-Saad Baig (captain and wicket-keeper), Ahmed Hussain, Aimal Khan, Ali Asfand, Amir Hassan, Arafat Minhas, Azan Awais, Hamza Nawaz, Huzaifa Ayub, Mohammad Ibtisam, Mohammad Ismail, Mohammad Zubair, Naveed Ahmed Khan, Shahmeer Ali, Shahzaib Khan and Wahaj Riaz

Series schedule:

15-18 October - Four-day match
22 October - First One-Day
24 October - Second One-Day
27 October - Third One-Day
29 October - Fourth One-Day
31 October - Fifth One-Day

La Liga: Jude Bellingham strikes twice as Real Madrid hammer Osasuna

Sports Desk

Jude Bellingham continued his devastating form with a brace as Real Madrid thrashed Osasuna 4-0 to return to the top of La Liga on Saturday.

Girona's 1-0 win at Cadiz temporarily gave the Catalan minnows a one-point lead but Real Madrid cruised to victory at the Santiago Bernabeu to reclaim first place, with Vinicius Junior and Joselu also scoring in the rout.

England international Jude Bellingham, the division's top scorer with eight goals, was at his unstoppable best once more in the final third.

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has shifted the former Borussia Dortmund player into a more attacking role behind two central strikers and it has paid dividends.

After scoring a brilliant solo goal against Napoli in midweek in the Champions League and adding two more against Osasuna, the midfielder now has 10 across both competitions in 10 appearances.

"He's in top form, he's showing the



player he is, I hope he keeps on like this," Madrid defender Dani Carvajal told Real Madrid TV.

"I hope he keeps scoring goals and keeps helping us, because he can win us titles."

Ancelotti deployed defensive midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni alongside Anto-

nio Rudiger at the heart of defence, with David Alaba and Eder Militao injured, and Nacho suspended after his rash tackle last weekend against Girona.

However, Tchouameni enjoyed a quiet afternoon at the back as Real Madrid dominated to ensure they will stay perched at the top over the interna-

tional break.

Madrid broke the deadlock after nine minutes when Luka Modric, afforded a rare start, fed Carvajal who laid the ball off neatly to Bellingham.

The midfielder, who had surged into the box, opened up some space and then blasted home, leaving goalkeeper Sergio Herrera with little chance.

Vinicius fired narrowly over when he might have passed to Jude Bellingham, with Madrid goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga reduced to a mere spectator at the other end.

Osasuna did carve out one good chance, shortly before half-time, with Ante Budimir slashing over the bar after being set up nicely by Ruben Pena.

Bellingham started and finished Madrid's second goal in the 53th minute, darting forward and playing a one-two with Fede Valverde, before sweeping home, showing the combination of grace and dynamism he is known for.

Vinicius extended Madrid's lead when Valverde sent him running through on goal, with the Brazilian expertly rounding goalkeeper Herrera and tapping home.

Markram mayhem in Delhi as South Africa thrash Sri Lanka

Aiden Markram smashed a 49-ball hundred, the fastest in the history of the men's 50-overs World Cup, as South Africa's rampaging top order helped them thrash Sri Lanka by 102 runs in their tournament opener on Saturday.

There was some brutal batting at the Arun Jaitley Stadium where three of South Africa's top four batters smashed rapid hundreds to help them rack up a tournament record total of 428-5.

Quinton de Kock struck 100

and Rassie van der Dussen hammered 108 but both were overshadowed by Markram's incendiary 106 off 54 balls.

Markram eclipsed Ireland batter Kevin O'Brien's 50-ball century against England in the 2011 World Cup.

Former champions Sri Lanka were all out for 326 in 44.5 overs after brief fightbacks by Kusal Mendis (76), Charith Asalanka (79) and Dasun Shanaka (68).

South Africa's mammoth score replaced Australia's 417-6 against

Afghanistan in 2015 as the highest total in the men's World Cup. Shanaka elected to field after winning the toss and the 1996 champions did not have to wait long for a breakthrough.

Dilshan Madushanka trapped Temba Bavuma lbw in the second over but Sri Lanka did not get a chance to celebrate another dismissal in the next 29 overs with De Kock and Van der Dussen combining in a rollicking 204-run stand.

De Kock pulled Matheesha

Pathirana to reach an 83-ball century, celebrating the milestone by punching the air and letting out a scream.

He attempted another pull off the next ball, only to top-edge to mid-on and depart after a whirlwind knock that included three sixes.

Van der Dussen's nearly run-a-ball knock came to an end when he holed out trying to hit Dunieth Wellalage out of the park.

Markram, who clobbered 14



over and boundaries started flow-

ing. When Sri Lanka returned to begin their chase, Mendis decided to fight fire with fire and raced to a 25-ball fifty, threatening to snatch Markram's record.

Kagiso Rabada came to his team mate's rescue and dismissed Mendis caught behind after the batter's 42-ball blitz that was studded with eight sixes and four fours.

Asalanka and Shanaka made half-centuries down the order but that only affected the margin of their defeat.