



### Israel declares war on Palestinian people in Gaza

In view of the open war declared by Israel on the Palestinian people in Gaza and the critical and ever-worsening situation of the Palestinian people under Israel's colonial occupation and apartheid regime in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the international community must immediately intervene and provide international protection to the Palestinian people and end Israel's barbarous campaign of death and destruction.

DAYS REMAINING

22

### Only 22 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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## Indus Shield 2023 Exercise

ISLAMABAD: Group photo of 14 distinguished air forces including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Oman, Bahrain, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Morocco, Uzbekistan, China and Hungary participating in the Indus Shield 2023 exercise.



Photo: ISPR

## President urges world to play role for international peace

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday called upon the international community to play its active role for a peaceful resolution of the Israel-Palestine dispute in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and international law. In a post on X, the president said progress towards peace could not materialise without condemnation of usurpation and brutalisation of Palestinian rights and people by Israel.



"Continuous annexation of land, illegal settlements, disproportionate reactions and killings. The result is no hope and no progress towards peace." He said time had come to move forward in line with UN resolutions. "International community can play a big role today towards world peace."

## Pakistan calls for immediate end to violence by Israeli occupation forces

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Sunday said Pakistan is deeply concerned by the escalating hostility in the Middle East and the loss of innocent lives.



Fighting between Israeli forces and the Palestinian group Hamas raged Sunday, with hundreds killed on both sides after a surprise attack on Israel prompted Benjamin Netanyahu to warn they were "embarking on a long and difficult war".

Jalil Abbas Jilani said a viable and sovereign State of Palestine must be established on the basis of pre-1967 borders and UN resolutions. He said the international community needs to intervene to bring an end to the conflict, protect civilians, and work towards a lasting peace

The conflict's bloodiest escalation in decades saw Hamas carry out a massive rocket barrage and ground, air and sea offensive early Saturday that Israel's army said had killed more than 200 Israelis and wounded 1,000.

# PAF'S 14 nation multinational air exercise INDUS SHIELD-2023 kicks off at ace

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a magnificent display of international camaraderie and airpower, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Sunday proudly inaugurated its 14 Nation Multinational Air Exercise, Indus Shield-2023, at an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force. Air Officer Commanding, Central Air Command, Air Vice Marshal Tariq Mehmood Ghazi was the Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony, a PAF news release said. While

addressing the exercise participants Air Officer Commanding Central Air Command emphasized on the significance of multi-national air exercises in achieving common objectives in the face of the evolving dynamics of air warfare.

He commended the efforts of the Air Power Center of Excellence on the organization of the mega exercise, which would augment the existing partnership between the key allies in addition to bolstering interoper-

ability amongst the participating Air Forces. He also added that the planning and execution of Exercise Indus Shield-23 underscores the vision of the esteemed, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force regarding the crucial role played by PAF in advancing technology, modernizing its capabilities and employing contemporary combat tactics to effectively address shared challenges of aerial defence.

Air Vice Marshal Tariq Mehmood Ghazi highlighted that the exercise would prove to

be a step forward, to promote warm and brotherly relations amongst the leading air powers of the region. Exercise Indus Shield-2023 will witness participation from 14 esteemed Air Forces including Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Egypt, Oman, Bahrain, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Morocco, Uzbekistan, China, and Hungary. The exercise not only offers a unique opportunity for participating air forces to bring their unparalleled skills and operational capabilities to

the spotlight, but will also deepen mutual understanding between the participating contingents to promote interoperability.

This mega exercise is a signature of excellence and professionalism which validates PAF's aerial prowess in the region. In addition, the exercise offers an invaluable learning experience of aerial warfare employment tactics to the air and ground crew through simulation of real-time war scenarios and varied combat missions

## Minister emphasizes domestic and int'l trainings for teachers to promote quality education

Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi has emphasized the importance of training for teachers at domestically and internationally to promote quality education in the country. He highlighted the need for well-prepared educators to play an effective role in shaping a better future for children.

He made these remarks while addressing as special guest at the "LatifNight" program held at Public School Hyderabad here on Saturday night. The federal minister invited the students of the School for a one-week recreational visit to Islamabad. He also proposed training opportunities for the school's teachers in Islamabad and pledged to provide 5,000 books of the National Book Foundation for the school.

## Israel and Gaza at war after Hamas launches surprise attack

Agencies



GAZA: Fighting between Israeli forces and the Palestinian group Hamas raged Sunday, with hundreds killed on both sides after a surprise attack on Israel prompted Benjamin Netanyahu to warn they were "embarking on a long and difficult war".

The conflict's bloodiest escalation in decades saw Hamas carry out a massive rocket barrage and ground, air and sea offensive early Saturday that Israel's army said had killed more than 200 Israelis and wounded 1,000.

Gaza officials said intense Israeli air strikes on the coastal enclave had brought the Palestinian death toll to at least 232, with nearly 1,700 wounded.

Gun battles raged into Sunday morning between Israeli forces and hundreds of Hamas fighters in at least 22 Israel locations, including at least two where gunmen were holding hostages, the army said.

It later added that it had fired artillery on southern Lebanon in response to a shot from the area, without providing further details.

"We are embarking on a long and difficult war that was forced on us

by Hamas attack," Netanyahu said on X, formerly Twitter, early Sunday. "The first stage is ending at this time by the destruction of the vast majority of the enemy forces that infiltrated our territory."

"At the same time, we have begun the offensive phase, which will continue with neither limitations nor respite until the objectives are achieved. We will restore security to the citizens of Israel and we will win."

Earlier, he warned that "all the places in which Hamas is based, all the places Hamas is hiding in, acting from — we'll turn them into rubble."

The fighting — which comes half a century after the outbreak of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war — prompted Israel to cut off Gaza's electricity, fuel and goods supplies, Netanyahu said.

As the UN Security Council called an emergency meeting for Sunday, President Joe Biden voiced "unwavering" support for the US ally. US Secretary of State Antony

Blinken also spoke to Egypt, a key intermediary between Israel and Hamas about the "urgency in achieving an immediate halt" to the fighting, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

Hamas earlier released images of several Israelis taken captive, and another army spokesman, Daniel Hagari, confirmed that soldiers and civilians had been kidnapped.

"I can't give figures about them at the moment," he said, adding that Hamas would "pay the price" for the attacks.

Hecht said there was also a "severe hostage situation" in the Negev desert communities of Beerli and Ofakim east of Gaza.

The Islamist group started the multi-pronged attack around 6:30 am (0330 GMT) with thousands of rockets aimed as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, some bypassing the Iron Dome defence system and hitting buildings.

Hamas fighters — travelling in ground vehicles, motorised paragliders and boats — breached Gaza's security barrier and attacked nearby Israeli towns and military posts, opening fire on residents and passersby.

## Pakistan grieved over devastating earthquake in Afghanistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday expressed deep sadness and condolence over the loss of precious lives and properties in the devastating earthquake that hit Western regions of Afghanistan on Saturday.

"The Government and people of Pakistan are deeply saddened by the devastating earthquake in Western regions of Afghanistan yesterday, resulting in tragic loss of life and widespread damage to property," a statement issued by the foreign office spokesperson said.

"We extend our sincerest condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and pray for the early and complete recovery of the injured." The statement added that Pakistan stood in complete solidarity with the brothers and sisters in Afghanistan during this difficult time.

## Afghanistan earthquake death toll rises to 2,000



PPA

HERAT, AFGHANISTAN: Death toll from strong earthquakes that shook western Afghanistan rises to 2,000, said a Taliban spokesman Sunday, in one of the deadliest earthquakes to strike the country in two decades.

Saturday's magnitude 6.3 quake — followed by eight strong aftershocks — jolted areas 30 kilometres (19 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Herat, toppling swathes of rural homes and sending panicked city dwellers surging into the streets.

Herat disaster management head Mosa Ashari earlier told AFP late Saturday there had been "about 120" fatalities reported and "more than 1,000 injured women, children, and old citizens".

A spokesman for the national disaster authority said they

expect the death toll "to rise very high".

As night fell in Sarboland village of Zinda Jan district, an journalist saw dozens of homes razed to the ground near the epicentre of the quakes, which shook the area for more than five hours.

Men shovelled through piles of crumbled masonry as women and children waited in the open, with gutted homes displaying personal belongings flapping in the harsh wind.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said more than 600 houses were destroyed or partially damaged across at least 12 villages in Herat province, with some 4,200 people affected. "In the very first shake all the houses collapsed," said 42-year-old Bashir Ahmad.

"Those who were inside the houses were buried," he said. "There are families we have heard no news from."

## Toshakhana sentence

# IHC to hear PTI chief's plea tomorrow

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) will take up tomorrow [Monday] PTI chief Imran Khan's petition seeking suspension of the trial court verdict in the Toshakhana case.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Amir Farooq and Justice Babar Sattar of the Islamabad High Court will hear the petition with objections from the Registrar's Office.

The petition was moved through by senior lawyer Sardar Latif

Khosa under section 561-A (saving of inherent power of high court) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

"That it is settled principle of law that inherent powers of High Court are very wide and undefinable. High Court can make all such orders to do real and substantial

justice and it is a fit case to exercise the powers under Section 561-A Cr. P. C. as the omission in not recording the contentions of the learned counsel for the applicant/appellant at the bar praying for suspension of the impugned order dated 05.08.2023 and subsequent non

mentioning of the same in the order dated 28.08.2023 is an omission floating on the face of the order," states the plea.

It added that the IHC in its August 28 verdict only suspended the sentence of the PTI chief and not the trial court order.

## Dua

MUZAFFRABAD: Prime Minister of AJK Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq and others offering prayer during a ceremony to mark the 18th anniversary of the devastating 2005 earthquake, in the city. Events were held across the country on the 18th anniversary of the October 8 earthquake that killed tens of thousands of people in 2005.



Photo: Online

## Terrorist Azeem Ullah Ghazi killed in North Waziristan fire exchange

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The security forces killed the active terrorist Azeem Ullah Ghazi in an intense fire exchange that took place between the Army troops and terrorists on October 7th in the general area of Razmak, North Waziristan District. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Sunday, the "terrorist 'Azeem Ullah @ Ghazi' was sent to hell due to effective engagement by Army troops." The weapon and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and the killing of innocent civilians. Locals of the area appreciated the operation. Sanitization of the area



has been carried out to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area, the ISPR said.

## Earthquake in Afghanistan



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Government and people of Pakistan are deeply saddened by the devastating earthquake in Western regions of Afghanistan yesterday, resulting in tragic loss of life and widespread damage to property.

We extend our sincerest condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and pray for

the early and complete recovery of the injured.

Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan during this difficult time.

We are in contact with the Afghan authorities to get a first-hand assessment of the urgent needs of those affected by the earthquake. Pakistan will extend all possible support to the recovery effort.

## Giving date of elections not mandate of caretaker regime: Solangi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said that it was not the mandate and responsibility of caretaker government to give date for general election in the country.

Talking to WE News on Sunday, the minister said Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was an autonomous constitutional institution, and since the day, he took oath as minister, he was in constant contact with the ECP.

The minister said he had full faith and confidence in the capability and leadership of the ECP, and the elections would be held on the date announced by the Election Commission.

To a question he said that Pakistan People's Party was one of the major political parties of the country.

"We are going through the phase of election and during the environment of election, any party and its leadership had the freedom to give their stand on any important issue," he maintained.

Murtaza Solangi said that



media in Pakistan enjoyed freedom and the courts were also free, adding all registered political parties had equal opportunities.

The Election Commission of Pakistan and caretaker government would ensure equal opportunities for all political parties in the upcoming elections, he added.

The minister stated that there was no ban on PTI as a political party.

Replying to a question, he said that the process of privatization was not initiated by caretaker government, previous parliament and its elected government decided to privatize various entities.

"We are bound to implement

the decisions of the previous parliament and the previous government," Murtaza Solangi opined.

The minister stressed the need for reformation in the institutions.

Answering a question, he said that public broadcasters were considered essential services, and as they were institutions of compulsory national service they were supported by the state worldwide.

He said he was against privatization of public broadcasters which was as a matter of principle and ideologically wrong.

However, the minister said that public broadcasters should not have such people who do not belong to today's modern broad-

casting mechanisms.

When asked about fundamental changes in national broadcasters, he said making such decisions was not included in the mandate of the caretaker government.

Answering a question about deadline given for deportation of illegal immigrants living in Pakistan, he said those who lecture Pakistan on human rights should check their own record on human rights.

The minister said no other country in the world had hosted as many refugees during past over four decades as Pakistan has done.

The countries could not survive with soft borders with anybody entering in its territory without documentation and living freely and prepare fake passports and identity cards, he said.

The minister said that the people residing illegally in the country should voluntarily leave the country by October 31.

After October 31, he added such illegal foreigners would be forcibly evicted from the country.

"Our aim is to defend our state and our citizens. Our

primary responsibility is to defend our citizens and secure our national borders," he remarked.

The minister said Pakistan only wanted deportation of illegal immigrants from its soil and the country would no longer allow anyone crossing the border and living here without fulfilling legal requirements.

He said that Nawaz Sharif's return had nothing to do with caretaker government.

The minister acknowledged that Nawaz Sharif was the leader of one of Pakistan's largest political parties and he did not flee the country illegally.

He said that on return of Nawaz Sharif law would take its course and Constitution of Pakistan will be abided by.

To a question about who would run the PTI election campaign, he said it was internal matter of that party.

The minister said that history was the witness that political parties conducted their election campaigns even in difficult circumstances and there was no restriction on PTI in that regard.

## PML-N will form next got in Sindh, claims Zubair Umar

MATIARI: Former Sindh governor Muhammad Zubair Umar said on Sunday that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) will form the next provincial government in Sindh,

ARY News reported.

Addressing a workers' convention in Matiari here, the PML-N senior leader said that Nawaz Sharif will land in Lahore on October 21 and the

entire Sindh will reach Punjab's provincial capital to welcome the PML-N supremo. "PML-N will give tough time to Sindh in upcoming general elections and will form next government,"

he said, adding that the PML-N supremo, president and other senior leadership would visit Sindh for the election campaign.

"PPP has ruined Sindh in the past 15 years," Zubair Umar

said, adding that PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif can proudly claim to turn Karachi into Lahore but when Bilawal says to turn Lahore into Karachi people will take it as a joke.

## China ready to provide assistance to earthquake-hit Afghanistan



Spokesman Report

BELJING: A Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said on Sunday that the Chinese side is ready to provide disaster relief assistance to earthquake-struck Afghanistan in accordance with its needs. "We deeply mourn the victims and offer our sincere sympathies to the injured and the families who have lost loved ones," he added. He said that China believes that the people of Afghanistan will overcome the impact of the disaster and rebuild their homes at an early date. No Chinese nationals have been injured or killed in the earthquakes so far, the spokesperson added.

## UNSC to hold emergency meeting on escalating Israeli-Palestinian conflict

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is scheduled to hold an emergency meeting on Sunday afternoon to discuss the recent escalating tensions between the Israeli-occupation troops and Palestinian resistance forces in the Gaza Strip. In a press statement, the 15-member Council announced that it will gather at 3:00 p.m. local time (midnight PST) to deliberate on "the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question." The closed-door meeting is taking place after hundreds of people were killed and thousands injured in Israel and Gaza.

Gaza-based Hamas launched an unprecedented assault on Israel Saturday morning, firing thousands of rockets and sending gunmen into Israeli communities by



land, sea and air. The multi-pronged attack appears to have caught the Israeli military and security forces completely by surprise. Israel's Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan sent a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Sergio Franca Danese, the Brazilian ambassador who holds the Security Council presidency this month, calling on the Security Council

to immediately condemn Hamas. Erdan also placed blame on Iran for funding and

directing Hamas. "The State of Israel will act in any way necessary to protect its citizens and sovereignty from the ongoing terrorist attacks originating from the Gaza Strip and carried out by Hamas and other terrorist organizations," he wrote.

"We will not stand idly by as Israelis are attacked and killed," Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh said Saturday the Palestinian group was on the "verge of a great victory" after it launched a surprise attack on Israel from the Gaza Strip. "We are on the verge of a great victory and a clear conquest on the Gaza front."

Haniyeh said in a speech broadcast on Hamas-run Al-Aqsa television. "Enough is enough, the cycle of intifadas (uprisings) and revolutions in the battle to liberate our (Palestinian) land and our prisoners languishing in occupation (Israeli) prisons must be completed." Amid grow-

ing tensions, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared a "state of war" in a post on his X account early on Sunday and warned of a response to the Palestinian reprisal attacks. Netanyahu ordered a significant mobilization of the occupation's reserve troops and initiated ground offensives against Palestinian forces near the besieged Gaza Strip.

Claiming that the regime's forces had destroyed "most" of the Palestinian targets, Netanyahu said the offensive into Gaza would continue "without hesitation and without respite until the goals are achieved." Meanwhile, Netanyahu's office said in a statement that the regime would stop supplying electricity, fuel, and goods to the besieged Gaza Strip, much of which is already thrown into darkness by nightfall after electrical supplies were cut off by Tel Aviv.

## NEOC session on humanitarian assistance to earthquake-hit Afghanistan held at NDMA



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Sunday held a special National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) session to review the situation and the Humanitarian Assistance package for Afghanistan after the 6.3 magnitude quake devastated villages near the city of Herat on Saturday, October 7th. Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik chaired the session which was attended by Pakistan's Ambassador in Afghanistan Ubaid Ur Rehman Nizamani, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other departments joined the session, a news release said.

The participants were briefed about the situation in Herat, Afghanistan and the assistance that can be sent immediately to our brethren country Afghanistan in distress.

NDMA has arranged to dispatch relief items which include food items, medications, tents and blankets. In addition to these items Search and Rescue Team have also been short-listed and are ready to be dispatched. The Chairman NDMA stressed swift relief assistance for Afghanistan and the assistance should be sent through the fastest means available utilizing air and land routes to Afghanistan. He also requested facilitation and coordination by all Government Departments and Agencies involved in the process.

# People's Party can achieve great success in all over the country: Gillani

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that the poor class has been left behind due to the economic crisis. Because the PPP prefers the politics of values rather than the politics of power, constituencies must be done but no injustice should be done to anyone on whom any question is raised. He will definitely get success from this constituency.

He expressed these views in a meet-



ing with former Member of National Assembly Nawab Liaquat Ali Khan at Gillani House. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani further said that we should prepare for the election and convey the message of Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari from house to house so that in the upcoming general elections, the People's Party can also achieve great success in All Over the country so that the deprivations and backwardness of the Saraiki region will end and the unemployed youths here will get employment opportunities.

# Condemned torture on journalist Adil Waqar in DHQ Hospital Dera

**Adam Khan Wazir**

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Dawn News reporter Adil Waqar from Dera Ismail Khan was brutally tortured by doctors at District Headquarters Hospital DI Khan, and after huge torture, he was shifted to the hospital for treatment.

Journalists of District Press Club Wana said that torture on journalist Adil Waqar is not only condemnable but also shameful, legal action should be taken against the involved doctors.

It may be remembered that journalist Adil Waqar went to the trauma center of DHQ Hospital Dera to report on the mysterious death of a patient.

Eyewitnesses say, when Adil Waqar was reported to the trauma center, the doctors attacked him on the spot, journalist Adil Waqar was attacked with punches by four to five doctors and staff.



Sources said, After the attack, the doctors also took away the mobile phone and other belongings from journalist Adil Waqar.

District Press Club Wana President Mujeeb Ur Rehman Wazir and other members said in their joint statement, that journalist Adil Waqar has not done any illegal work, he had gone to report the myster-

ious death of the patient. Journalists said, If any illegal act was done, action should have been taken against him according to law.

In a joint statement by the journalists, it has been further said that respect for freedom of expression is the beauty of democracy, such decisions to limit the language of journalists

is an attack on the freedom of the press

The journalists of District Press Club Wana strongly demanded from the provincial government, IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other law enforcement agencies, that they should take immediate steps to bring justice to journalist Adil Waqar and take legal action against the involved doctors.

# PM says memories of earthquake still fresh in Kashmir's hearts

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the dreadful memories of the deadly earthquake that shook the entire region were still afresh in our hearts and minds. The PM said this while speaking at a ceremony organized by the State Disaster Management Authority on the occasion of the earthquake martyrs' anniversary here today. Terming the 2005 earthquake as a disaster of titanic proportions, the PM said that it was such a big tragedy that its effects would be felt for a long time.

He said that tragedies do happen in nations' lives, but great nations focus on rebuilding and use their painful memories to reform their moral attitudes. He said that it was heartening to see that the region had recovered from the disaster but there was still a lot to be done. He said that building infrastructure worth 52 billion rupees was yet to be completed. He said that the whole nation has to shoulder this responsibility together. Lauding the role of the international community, the PM said that the United States, Europe, especially the Islamic countries including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE and other countries played



an important role in helping rehabilitate the survivors and building infrastructure. He said that the Pakistan Army played a crucial role during the rehabilitation and reconstruction process. Voicing his serious concerns over Israel's aggression against the Palestinian people, the PM said that the international community must redouble its efforts to stop the bloodshed of innocent civilians

in Gaza. Terming Kashmir and Palestine as two sides of the same coin, he said that the people of both the regions have suffered enormously at the hands of colonizers. He said that climate change has become a global challenge but Pakistan, and Azad Kashmir, rank among the most vulnerable regions to climate change.

The PM also paid eulogizing tributes to the martyrs of the Pakistan Army and hailed the armed forces' significant role in rehabilitation and reconstruction process. The function was attended and addressed by, Senior Minister Colonel R. Waqar Ahmad Noor, Sardar Javed Ayub, Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi, Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai, Abdul Majid Khan, Pir Mazhar Saeed, Professor Taqdees Gilani, Chief Secretary Dawood Mohammad Barich, and others.

## Earthquake 2005

# Anniversary of the 8th October devastating earthquake observed in Balakot

BALAKOT: People of Balakot and adjoining areas Sunday observed the 18th anniversary of the devastating earthquake that took thousands of lives and destroyed Balakot City, where hospitals and schools are still waiting for reconstruction.

At 8:52, a memorial ceremony was held at Balakot, where the survivors of the earthquake, members of civil society, and other organizations were present and also observed a minute of silence. 18 years ago, on October 8, 2005, at 8:52 a.m., some 80000 people died and houses were destroyed when an earthquake of 7.6 magnitudes hit Azad Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the statistics, the earthquake left more than 17,000 people dead in Balakot alone. Collective prayers for the victims will



be offered at different places in Balakot. The deadly earthquake brought a wave of destruction to the Hazara division, particularly in Balakot and surround-

ing areas. According to the figures of the Provincial Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (PERRA), 2,959 schools and colleges were destroyed, and less than half of the destroyed buildings could be rebuilt. On the 18th anniversary, the survivors are still waiting for the reconstruction of schools and health centers.

Owing to the delay in the construction of New Bakriyal City, where the victims of the 2005 earthquake would be accommodated, the people of Balakot are deprived. The devastating earthquake of 2005 destroyed the buildings and infrastructure of Balakot; unfortunately, rehabilitation projects have yet to be finished after 18 years, and no complete schools or hospital facilities are available in the earthquake-hit areas of Balakot.

## Traders Union serving to traders monthly free medical camp

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Multan Tajer Etihad Pakistan organized monthly free Medical and sugar camp for traders, employees and citizens, 180 people benefited. Traders, employees of shops and citizens did free check-up of the camp. The camp was formally inaugurated by the vice president of Tajer Ittehad Multan City, Shahid Haider Khan., Muhammad Yasin Bhatti, Malik Rabnawaz

Muhammad Yusuf, Kaleem Parvez Iqbal, Malik Rafiq and other traders were present. Chaudhry Muhammad Hanif while talking to the media on this occasion said that the trader's union has been serving the traders for the past 15 years through this free sugar camp so that in this era of inflation in this regard, free check-ups and medicines are also provided free of charge to the people

## Afaq pay tribute to teachers on 'Teachers Day'



**Correspondent**

KHARIAN: Undoubtedly, a teacher is like a candle, thus it burns itself to enlighten others. To pay tribute to this great profession, Afaq Gujarat Zone organized an event at Kharian office on the occasion of 5th October International Teachers Day to thank the teachers and to discuss the basic and moral values and responsibilities of teachers according to the current educational situation. An Eminent educational personalities of Tehsil Kharian were invited in this forum.

Respected Mr Mohammad Ahsan Zonal Manager Afaq was the host of the program. While Afaq Forum Coordinator XMPA Aamir Usman Adil was the host of the program while the special guest was Regional Manager Afaq Islamabad Respected Mr Abdul Qudous Qureshi who promoted the process of education as well as training. At the end of this beautiful ceremony the shield presented to him as a token of appreciation and honoured to his contributions in the field of education. Delicious lunch was also arranged by the Afaq.

## Pakistan Mercantile Exchange is the best institution for investment: Mian Rashid

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Mian Rashid Iqbal, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan, said that in this era of inflation, unnecessary expenses should be avoided and safe investment should be taken. Pakistan Mercantile Exchange is the best institution for investment. He expressed these things.

Addressing the seminar titled "Pakistan Investment Road Show" organized by Pakistan Mercantile Exchange and organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan/Securities Exchange Commission of Pakistan. Before this road show seminar, National Investment Trust (NIT), Bank Al Habib and other financial institutions' stalls were also decorated where a large number of people visited these stalls throughout the day and were provided complete awareness regarding safe investment.

Senior Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, Vice President Sheikh Muhammad Asim Saeed, Muhammad Shafiq Secretary General of the Chamber and other personalities participated in this event. Addressing the seminar, Mian Rashid Iqbal further said that it is a pleasure to hold an important event in Multan regarding investment.

Mian Rashid Iqbal, Murtaza Abbas, Habib Mamsa and Arif Ahmed are speaking at the Pakistan Investment Road Show in collaboration with the Pakistan Mercantile Exchange Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. Opening and inspecting the stalls

## PFA hold seminar on healthy, balanced diet at PMAS-AAUR

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) in collaboration with Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) organized a seminar aimed at raising awareness about the healthy and balanced diet. PFA Director Operations North Amna Rafique, Institute of Food and Nutritional Sciences (IFNS) Director Professor Dr Asif Ahmed, Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) Deputy Director Tahira Saddique, Assistant Commissioner City Shobana and faculty members of the university participated in the event.

The seminar was held under the Safe Food City Project (SFCP) of PFA at PMAS-AAUR.

A team of PFA nutritionists gave a detailed briefing to the students about the use of carbonated drinks and its disadvantages to their health. On the occasion, brochures and pamphlets were also distributed to create nutritional awareness among the students.

Government officials and food experts, addressing the participants, said that the purpose of the seminar was to sensitize the students to the balanced diet, nutritious food choices, precautions and efficacy of a standard diet. They said that eating a healthy and balanced diet helps you control your weight, improve your health, and keep yourself active and energetic. The experts imparted to the participants about the initiatives and future plans of the Punjab Food Authority.

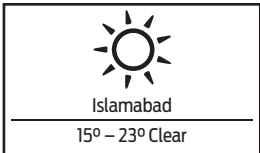
The participants appreciated the efforts of PFA and suggested to organize more such seminars as well as expressed their gratitude for collaboration in favour of students' health and wellness.

## AIOU to hold Int'l moot on Islamic Finance

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A three-day international conference on Islamic Finance will be held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) from November 1 to 3, 2023. National and International Islamic Scholars will present their papers on the consequences of interest systems. Renowned economists will shed light on the topic of Islamic banking.

Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood will preside over the inaugural session while Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi will be the host. Various panel discussions and working sessions will be held at the conference. As per the vision of vice chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, different seminars/conferences and other educational activities are being organized continuously in the university for the guidance and awareness of the students and this conference is a continuation of this initiative.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:44 am  
Zohr ..... 11:56 am  
Asr ..... 4:03 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:44 pm  
Isha ..... 7:06 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886

# Chief Minister announces upgradation plan for PIC emergency block

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: On the special direction of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi upgradation plan of the emergency block of Punjab Institute of Cardiology has been prepared. Emergency block will be upgraded under the plan and new surgeons will be hired. New ICUs and operation theatres will be established. 100 beds will be further increased. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to PIC so as to make onground review of the upgradation plan and ordered to start upgradation work of the ground floor of emergency block by the start of next week.

CM Mohsin Naqvi while directing to hire the services of surgeons from abroad stated that surgeons should be hired on contract basis as well after seeking approval of the Board of Management. Mohsin Naqvi directed to complete the upgradation project within three months adding that work on upgradation of the emergency block should be done in three shifts. The construction of Sarai should also be completed at the earliest. CM was informed during the briefing that LED screens will be installed for the facilitation of patients and their attendants. Mohsin Naqvi during his visit reviewed upgradation plan of the emergency block and



inspected relevant sections. CM Mohsin Naqvi met with the under treatment patients in the emergency and inquired from them about provision of treatment facilities along with availability of free medicines.

The patients expressed their satisfaction about provision of treatment facilities and free medicines and informed that treatment facilities in the PIC have improved. An under treatment patient in the emergency while talking with CM Mohsin Naqvi stated that only CM Mohsin Naqvi listens to them. On the direction

of CM Provincial Minister Doctor Javed Akram and Doctor Farqat Alamgir themselves attended the patient and prescribed him treatment. CM Mohsin Naqvi issued directions to Secretary C&W with regard to starting upgradation work of the emergency block. Provincial Minister for Specialised Health Care Doctor Javed Akram, Chairman PIC Doctor Farqat Alamgir, Secretary Health, Secretary C&W, Commissioner Lahore division, CEO PIC Doctor Anjum Jalal, MS Doctor Tehseen and concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

## Free medical camp and free test facility in Rawalpindi by KRL Foundation



**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: A free medical camp was organized in Rawalpindi by KRL Foundation. A large number of patients from different areas of Rawalpindi participated in the camp. They conducted free check-ups and tests in the camp and were appreciated for this facility. The doctors who examined the camp said that they continued to provide free medical facilities in the camp for the patients worried about inflation and expensive treatment and the free test facility doubled the happiness of the people. People of Rawalpindi appreciated this initiative of KRL Foundation.

10% discount is also being given on medicines from pharmacies affiliated to specialist clinics of KRL Foundation.

## Adoption of a Health Levy bill on Tobacco Products Vital for Pakistan's Health and Economy

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Health Activists have urgently appealed to the government to take prompt action in safeguarding the health and well-being of our nation's children through the immediate introduction of a health levy on tobacco products. In press release shared by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), in light of the alarming increase in tobacco-related health concerns among children and adolescents, health activists underscored the critical importance of implementing a health levy. Such a measure not only serves to curtail the use of these harmful products but also provides essential funding for initiatives aimed at enhancing child health.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head of the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, emphasized the severe health risks posed to our children and adolescents by tobacco use. He emphasized that the introduction of a health levy on tobacco products has a well-documented track record of reducing youth smoking rates and deterring tobacco consumption. The time has come for our government to take resolute steps to protect the health and rights of our youngest citizens.

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, former Technical Head of the Tobacco Control Cell at the Ministry of Health, drew attention to the widely recognized detrimental consequences of tobacco use on the overall health of our population. He stressed the urgency of prioritizing the health and well-being of our children by implementing a health levy on tobacco products. The generated revenue can be channeled into comprehensive tobacco control programs, further fortifying our endeavors to mitigate tobacco-related illnesses and safeguard our youth.

Khalil Ahmed, Program Manager at SPARC, emphasized that children represent the most vulnerable segment of our society, and their health and well-being must be accorded the highest priority. Implementing a health levy on tobacco products is not only a strategic measure to reduce tobacco consumption among our youth but also a means to generate funding for programs that will ensure a healthier future for our children. We fervently call upon the government to take this vital step to protect the rights and well-being of our nation's youth.

## Historical Nasir Bagh gets a makeover

**City Desk**

LAHORE: The work to restore the historical Nasir Bagh at The Mall to its former glory has entered its final stages, a spokesperson for the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) of Lahore said on Sunday.

Nestled between Lower Mall and Kutchery Road, the British-era park neighbors Government College University, Punjab University and the Town Hall, it is frequented by locals seeking a quick respite from the hustle of urban life.

Known as Band Stand Garden due to military band performances during the Raj, the park had been in need of a visual upgrade at this location, according to residents who had requested government support in this regard.

Acting on the instructions of Director General Muhammad Tahir Wattoo, the PHA has installed lush green grass, colorful flower beds and floodlights in the colonial park which spans over 100 kanals.

Additionally, the park's fountain has been revitalized and preventive measures against dengue, such as the application of anti-larva medicine, have been implemented.

Its boundary wall has also been removed to provide a "fresh visual experience," the spokesperson added.

## 18th anniversary of earthquake

MUZAFFRABAD: People light oil lamps to mark the 18th anniversary of the devastating 2005 earthquake, in the city. Events were held across the country on the 18th anniversary of the October 8 earthquake that killed tens of thousands of people in 2005.



Photo: Online

## Karachi Arts Council organized an Exhibition of portrait of Yahya Kemal Beyath

**City Desk**

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi organized exhibition of the portrait of YAHYA KEMAL BEYATH, the first ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, at Ahmed Parvez Art Gallery. On this occasion, Consul General of Thailand, Consul General of Japan, Consul General of Oman and Consul General of Indonesia also participated in this occasion. President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah expressed his views and said that we have ancient relations with Turkey, we are celebrating 75 years of friendship between Turkey



and Pakistan. Acting Minister of Law, Religious Affairs and Human Rights Umar Soomro said that today's photo exhibition is a manifestation of Pakistan-Turkey relations. Rather, it is a relationship of respect and

love. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to participate in this event today. Consul General Turkey Cemal Sangu said, "I welcome all the guests, today is a very important day for us, we are exhibiting the portrait

of our first ambassador, he was also a famous poet and writer of Turkey". Pak Turkey relations are not only 75 years but centuries old, our forefathers had deep ties with Pakistan, we are definitely two countries, but the basis of our views is the same, we are the same in lifestyle, tolerance and culture. Thank you very much to Arts Council Karachi they fully supported us in organizing this exhibition. In the portrait exhibition, the historical moments of Yahya Kemal Beyath, the first ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, spent in Pakistan, in which his Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other political figures of Pakistan are reflected.

# PIDE Research reveals internet shutdowns cost Pakistan PKR 1.3 billion in direct loss

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In a recent study conducted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), startling revelations have emerged regarding the economic impact of internet shutdowns in Pakistan. PIDE estimates show that the closure of internet services for just 24 hours results in a direct loss of PKR 1.3 billion, which equates to a staggering 0.57% of the daily GDP average for the nation.

This eye-opening revelation is part of PIDE's research infographic titled "The Economic Cost of Internet Closure" and highlights the severe consequences of internet shutdowns on the Pakistani economy.

According to Dr Nadeem ul Haque,

Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), and Mr Mohammad Shaaf Najib, Research Fellow at PIDE, the internet has become a fundamental necessity in modern times. However, Pakistan's internet infrastructure lags behind in terms of both quality and coverage.

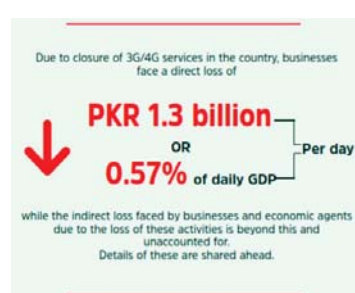
The recent internet closure in various parts of Pakistan has had a profound impact on multiple sectors, leading to substantial financial losses and operational challenges. Online cab services, online food delivery services, freelancers, transport companies, and postal services have all been severely affected by the prolonged disruption of internet services.

The PIDE infographic shows that online Cab Services, a cornerstone of

modern transportation, saw a staggering 97% reduction in the number of rides on days when the internet has been closed down. This significant downturn equates to a loss of PKR 29 to 32 million for the industry per day.

Similarly, Online Food Delivery Services suffered a 75% reduction in the number of orders, translating into a substantial daily loss of PKR 135 million.

Meanwhile, the freelance community, which contributes significantly to Pakistan's economy, has also felt the brunt of internet disruptions. Denial of orders to Pakistan-based freelance workers resulted in over \$1.3 million loss of revenue, equaling PKR 390 million, impacting livelihoods of many and the national economy as a whole too.



Besides, suspension of 3G/4G services for a single day causes a loss of PKR 450 million to the telecommunication sector alone.

Furthermore, PIDE had earlier estimated the economic costs of protests to be around 2.0% of the GDP. Closure of economic activity either through protests or due to closure of internet

services contributes a significant loss to economic activity in the country.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, PIDE's Vice Chancellor, said in the press release that access to high-quality internet not only enhances opportunities for the youth, particularly in remote areas but also plays a pivotal role in bridging the divide between the privileged and the common public. Utilizing online tools for education and professional purposes can empower youth from rural regions to compete on a national and international level.

PIDE has been a consistent advocate for "Internet for All" and believes that the government must prioritize immediate nationwide internet coverage. Additionally, regulatory measures should be introduced to encourage telecommunication companies

to expand internet access across the country. Spectrum auctions should be geared towards ensuring universal internet coverage rather than solely as a means of generating revenue.

The Internet is a critical tool for facilitating economic transactions and business operations. It is disheartening to note that internet shutdowns in Pakistan, often for arbitrary reasons, disrupt essential economic activities.

PIDE is committed to fostering a digital landscape that not only empowers individuals but also contributes positively to Pakistan's economic growth. The research findings underscore the urgency of addressing the challenges in Pakistan's internet infrastructure to ensure a prosperous and connected future for all.

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# Dhai-Chaal

**Masooma Khan**

**W**hen we hear about Balochistan, we picture a backward region rife with problems. Balochistan has been struggling with problems related to infrastructure management, unemployment and education for many years. Corruption and political power are the main factors preventing development in Balochistan. Baloch people are constantly fighting to support their families on a daily basis.

A potent weapon that can readily control a mind and propagate a message is media. According to a study of Indian and Pakistani films, the majority of Indian cinema productions propagandise against Pakistan and attempt to portray it as a haven for terrorists.

The lost and corrupted society is always ruling easily because one Who stands for nothing will fall for anything. The Balochistan difficulties and problems need to be brought to light by the Pakistani media and science sector. This is the primary and most significant content in Pakistan's media and cinema industries. We must expose the propeganda, terrorist operations, and Balochistan attacks. All aspects of our society are under the sway of the media. In addition, films produced by the Indian media call for brainwashing youth in other nations and countries against

Pakistan.

Indian media is unintentionally supplying other nations with their diverse sorts of cultural music. It frequently manipulates our young people's strong emotions. Through their films, Pakistani youth and culture are emulating Indian culture.

The majority of Pakistani films and dramas concentrate on materialism, beauty, western culture, sensual pleasures, and domestic difficulties, but the main problem is that Balochistan, in

British Balochistan. It was given up as part of the Gandamark Treaty in 1879.

In addition to Baloch or Brahui people, Pashtuns have a significant historical impact in Balochistan. Baloch people have fought in many wars and fights to protect their homelands, which has kept them tightly connected to their culture. The locals continue to treasure their history and never forget the advanced civilization that previously flourished here. The locals of Balochistan are friendly, obedient, and gracious. Balochistan is

outside of Balochistan characterise it as a country with poor conditions, a terrorism problem, no peace, ignorant people, no education, and people who are too narrow-minded, among other things. Unfortunately, one of the producers, Dr. Irfan, and his team, who are Balochistan natives, began their adventure to introduce the name of the province into the main trending content. One and only Pakistani film, Dhai-Chaal, directed by Dr. Irfan, depicts Indian terrorism plans and missions against Balochistan. The film's trailer has been released, and the majority of Pakistanis, particularly those in Balochistan, appreciated it. Shaheed Mir Siraj Raisani, one of the major legends, backed this kind of content and intended to assist his province and territory. The true peace in Balochistan will be depicted in the film Dhai-Chaal. This film will demonstrate and expose how India supported the insurgent organisations that attacked Balochistan and broke up the peace. The film's director, Dr. Irfan, put a lot of work on it. The production of a movie based on Indian reality is a first for the Pakistani film industry. The vast majority of Indian media is against this movie. Youth development and the film industry will come to Balochistan thanks to Dhai-chaal. Balochistan's natural beauty and beneficial aspects would be overshadowed by dhai-chaal.

*Writer is analyst and she can be reached at [masoomakhan99@icloud.com](mailto:masoomakhan99@icloud.com)*



particular, is disregarded. Prior to British rule, Baluchistan was primarily populated by tribes that were more or less independent. In actuality, Kalat was an exception. The land officially recognised as a part of British India in 1887 is known as

not being depicted in its true light; this is the reality. In reality, Balochistan is still not being represented in the content produced by our own Pakistani media sector. The majority of individuals from

## GSP Plus status to Pakistan

The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has welcomed the European Parliament's decision of extending the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Plus status to Pakistan for another four years till 2027, but has urged the government to remove regulatory obstacles to boost exports to the EU.

The GSP Plus status offers developing countries duty-free or reduced-tariff access to the EU market for over 6,000 products. It is a significant opportunity for Pakistan to boost its exports and create jobs.

In a statement, PBF Chairman (Capital Area) Atif Ikram Sheikh said that PBF appreciates the unwavering efforts of the Government of Pakistan in advocating for this extension, further strengthening trade relations and fostering economic growth for our nation. He said that the GSP Plus status, which Pakistan has enjoyed in the past, has significantly contributed to enhancing our export potential and economic prosperity. Atif Ikram said that GSP Plus status holds paramount importance for Pakistan's economy as it has played an important role in expansion of multilateral trade.

According to the trade statistics from ITC World Trademap, Pakistan's exports to EU, which were around 6.3 billion dollars in 2013, have increased over the time to 11.3 billion dollars in 2022, primarily due to the deeper market access provided by European Union under GSP Plus. He said that this essentially meant that due to GSP Plus, the European Union was by far the biggest destination for Pakistan's exports as more than 30 percent of our exports reach EU market.

The PBF office bearer said that this privilege has played a pivotal role in boosting our export sector, particularly in textiles, apparel and other key industries. The GSP Plus status has not only bolstered our economic prospects but has also supported job creation and sustainable development within the country. As looking ahead, the extension of the GSP program until 2027 presents an exceptional opportunity for Pakistan to further elevate its trade relations with the European Union.

Similarly PBF believes that by leveraging this extended GSP status, Pakistan can diversify its export base and explore new markets, thus amplifying the growth trajectory of our nation. The PBF's chairman also stated it is time time to carry out a deeper study as to what extent the country benefited from the scheme and why it could not maximize its benefits? How we improve it further including PBF asserted that to diversify our products and improve quality to access untapped European markets.

However, the PBF has warned that Pakistan is not making full use of the GSP Plus status due to a number of regulatory obstacles. These include complex customs procedures, lack of transparency, and inadequate infrastructure. The PBF has called on the government to take urgent steps to remove these obstacles and make it easier for businesses to export to the EU. This would help Pakistan to capitalize on the GSP Plus status and boost its exports. The PBF's recommendations are in line with the government's own stated goals of boosting exports and creating jobs. The government has already taken some steps to remove regulatory obstacles, but more needs to be done. One key area where the government can take action is to simplify customs procedures.

## Lebanon



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

## Pak Army Achieved the Highest Level of Public Approval - IV

The Gallup Survey of Pakistan is a vital instrument for understanding the diverse and complex dynamics of Pakistani society. Its extensive reach, rigorous methodologies, and comprehensive coverage make it an indispensable resource for policymakers, businesses, researchers, and the general public. By providing a voice to the people of Pakistan and offering valuable insights into their opinions and concerns, the Gallup Survey contributes significantly to informed decision-making and the democratic process in the country.

In a recent Gallup survey conducted across the country, the Pakistan Army has emerged as the institution with the highest level of public approval, earning an impressive 88 per cent rating. The survey, titled "National Public Opinion Poll Report," conducted between June 10 and June 30, gathered responses from 3,500 participants representing various regions in all four provinces of Pakistan. The survey illuminated the public's sentiments on various institutions and political figures, offering a comprehensive snapshot of Pakistan's current political landscape and the challenges it faces, including inflation, poverty, unemployment, and concerns about the efficacy of democracy.

The results of the survey showcased the public's perception of various institutions, with both the media and the courts receiving a 56 per cent approval rating, while the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) garnered a 42 per cent approval rating. The police earned a 54 per cent approval rating, while politicians secured the lowest rating on the list, with only 39 per cent of respondents approving of their performance. Region-wise breakdowns revealed Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) leading the approval ratings for the army with an impressive 91 per cent, closely followed by Punjab at 90 per cent. Sindh recorded an 88 per cent approval rating for the army, while Balochistan showed the lowest approval at 66 per cent. Remarkably, 57 per cent of respondents strongly approved of the army's performance.

The love and respect that people feel for their Pakistan's armed forces are sentiments deeply rooted in the human experience. Throughout history, Pak Army has

played a pivotal role in safeguarding the nation, upholding freedom, and providing security. One of the primary reasons people of Pakistan hold such deep affection for their army is the sense of security and protection they provide. Our Armed Forces are the shield that defends the nation against external threats and internal instability. This unwavering commitment to safeguarding lives and property fosters a profound sense of gratitude and love among the populace. The willingness of our soldiers to make the ultimate sacrifice for Pakistan is a testament to their dedication and devotion. People greatly admire the courage and selflessness displayed by servicemen and women who put their lives on the line to preserve the freedoms and values of the nation. This deep level of commitment generates an overwhelming sense of respect and love.

The military often represents the very essence of a nation's identity and pride. Uniforms, traditions, and symbols of the armed forces evoke a strong sense of national belonging. Pak Army is a unifying force, connecting people from diverse backgrounds under the common banner of patriotism and love for our homeland. Beyond their role in defense, Pak Army also remains engaged in humanitarian missions, disaster relief, and peacekeeping operations.

The sight of soldiers helping fellow citizens during natural disasters or assisting communities in conflict zones further strengthens the public's admiration and love for Pak Army. Heroic stories of our soldiers going above and beyond the call of duty often captured the public's imagination. These tales of bravery and valor inspire a sense of awe and respect, generating a collective love and admiration for our Army. Our soldiers who distinguished themselves in battle or in acts of service became symbols of courage and national pride. Our Military's traditions and ceremonies are an integral part of the nation's cultural heritage. Parades, memorial services, and the observance of military holidays reinforce the connection between our armed forces and the public. These events evoke a sense of nostalgia and appreciation for the sacrifices made by previous generations. Many families have a proud tradition of military service, and this heritage creates a strong bond between military

personnel and their communities. The support and love shown by families and neighbors contribute to the overall admiration people feel for the army. In times of crisis, uncertainty, or political upheaval, our armed forces often served as a symbol of stability and continuity. Their presence has provided reassurance to citizens, reinforcing their appreciation for the military's role in preserving order and safeguarding democratic values.

Readers, The love and respect that people hold for Pak Army are deeply ingrained in the collective consciousness of nation. Pakistan Armed Forces represent not only protection and security but also the embodiment of national pride, sacrifice, and tradition. This affectionate bond between citizens of Pakistan and the Army institution serves as a testament to the enduring role of our armed forces in safeguarding the well-being and values of the nation.

The love of people towards Pak Army is a sentiment that continues to strengthen the fabric of society and uphold the principles of freedom and democracy. Pak Army has got more popularity in people after witnessing the recent sincere and strict steps taken by Army Chief General Asim Munir and Pak Army towards betterment of the country. The results of the measures taken by the Pakistan Army and the caretaker government to improve the country's economy began to emerge. As crackdowns on hoarders increase the rupee and depreciate the dollar, the Pakistani rupee was named the world's best-performing currency in September. Not only this, the rupee recently touched a 7-week high against the US dollar, closing at Rs 287.74 with an increase of 0.35 percent or Rs 1.01 against the dollar. Gold prices in Pakistan witnessed a significant decline for the second consecutive session in the last week of September.

According to FBR, a record Rs 2407 billion was collected in the last 7 months, which is 17% higher than last year's Rs 2062 billion. For the first time in two-and-a-half months, the price of petrol was reduced by the caretaker government from October 1. Moreover, the cooperation of the government and the army will help in the economic recovery in the future as well. The results of Gallup Survey also gives a strong and firm message to our enemies and Anti-State elements that People and Pak Army are united and no one should dare to look at our country and Pak Army with dirty eyes.

*Concluded*

## Nawaz sharif: a perfect solution for Pakistan

**Umm-e-Fatima**

**M**ain Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is a Pakistani businessman and politician who has served as the prime minister of Pakistan for three non-consecutive terms. He is the longest Prime Minister of Pakistan, served across three tenures. Each term has ended in his ousting. Because of no such corruption he did but actually just he raised a voice against the wrong doer of the establishment Pakistan. If it is the end of his tenure in 1999 by General Musharaf or if it is the end of his tenure in 2018 by General Bajwa and gave the driving seat to Imran Khan and play him as a toy. After his government, Imran Khan became the prime minister of Pakistan. In 2018 the Pakistan supreme court disqualified Nawaz Sharif for holding public office, and he was also sentenced to ten year in prison by an accountability court. In the same year, Nawaz Sharif went to London for medical treatment in an expired jail. So much trouble or hardships was faced by the PMLN in the era of Imran Khan authority of PM, because he did the same role for what purpose he was being imposed on Pakistan by the establishment. Almost all the members of Pakistan Muslim League (PML) go to jail for a wrong propaganda called corruption and put them in a case of missing persons. The same is the case which is faced by members of PTT after the dissolution of Govt

of Imran Khan. He has not returned to Pakistan since 2020 because he faces multiple cases in Pakistan. In the same year, the courts declared him as a proclaimed Offender. The next 2year is difficult for PMLN. On 10 April 2022 the Imran Khan government ended due to ousting. After the Imran Khan government, Shabazz Sharif became the PM of Pakistan. Now this is the easy way for Nawaz Sharif to back Pakistan. Because this is the PMLN government. According to the surrounding news the (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan from London on 21 October 2023 to lead the party's political campaign in the upcoming election. The PML-N member Talal Chaudhry made a big statement on Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan. He said that Nawaz Sharif solved all the problems of Pakistan as Nawaz Sharif himself gave a statement that only PMLN is the solution to remove the crises of all departments especially economic crisis. He doesn't need the government. Although Pakistani people need Nawaz Sharif. As most of the people of Pakistan support Imran Khan including me, just because of his dialogue deliveries and gave us a great reel of his personality but we still have hope from Main Nawaz Sharif, that only he will put Pakistan situation on a great stable platform. He will have done it. Inshallah.

*Writer is student of Government College Women University Faisalabad. She can be reached at [kausarrazqo@gmail.com](mailto:kausarrazqo@gmail.com)*

# Pakistan, China agreed to invite third parties' participation in CPEC: Ambassador Haque

**Spokesman Report**

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a game changer and very important for socio-economic development of Pakistan and now, both Pakistan and China have agreed to invite third parties to participate in this project, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said on Sunday.

"This project has been a game changer and very important for socio-economic development of the country. Now, our two countries have agreed to invite third parties to participate in

this project," he told CCTV in an interview.

"We are now working to extend it to Afghanistan, the neighboring country of both China and Pakistan," he added.

Ambassador Haque said that China is a global leader in terms of many technologies like artificial intelligence, e-commerce, green technologies.

"So, it has been identified as one of the most important areas for the second phase, and we have established Joint Working Groups for cooperation," he added.

He said that new corridors like China-Pakistan Digital Corridor, Green Corridor and Health

Corridor have been launched to benefit on the emerging opportunities in the area science and technology and Information Technology (IT) fields.

Responding to a question about the transportation projects, he said that Lahore Orange Metro Train was one of the first early harvest projects under the CPEC framework.

"It was built in the second largest city of Lahore, a city of over 10 million people. It has provided efficient and affordable and very modern transport services to the people of Lahore," he added.

Ambassador Haque said that the number of passengers on the



Lahore Orange Metro Train has touched 100 million. In the last two years, it has provided the transport services to 100 million people.

He said the major focus was on the energy sector because at that time, Pakistan was facing acute shortages of energy and long hours of load-shedding,

and added, the new projects have put in almost 8,000 megawatts of new energy into Pakistan's system helping the not only the needs of the common man, but also the industrial needs.

About Gwadar port project, he said it is going to serve many of the Central Asian countries which are landlocked countries. "So, we provide very easy quick and very shortest route to the Arabian Sea."

He expressed the confidence that the advantages which are occurring from CPEC will not only help Pakistan, but also the regional countries.

While highlighting bilateral

relationship between the two countries, he said, "In Pakistan, we consider China is our best friend and in China, I know, Pakistanis are known as 'Battie', the iron brothers, an expression which is only reserved for Pakistan. It's very heartwarming."

To yet another question, he said that besides promoting economic relationships, trade, investment industry, both our countries are focusing on cooperation in culture, education and tourism.

He said that there are now 25,000 plus Pakistani students in China and they are also serving as China-Pakistan friendship ambassadors.

# Over 20,000 Children Benefit from Early Autism Detection Program

**PPA**

UAE, DUBAI: As part of its commitment to delivering top-quality services to its patients across various healthcare fields alongside its goal of improving individuals' quality of life and promoting early detection of mental disorders and autism, Emirates Health Services has developed an array of specialized mental health services for children and adolescents at its affiliated Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital, one of EHS' facilities which is renowned as one of the prominent healthcare facilities specializing in pediatric and adolescent mental health in the region.

EHS announced its innovative early detection program for autism spectrum disorder last year. This pioneering initiative involves referring cases with moderate to high severity to specialized evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment facilities in hospitals. The program's effectiveness is bolstered by an electronic system that integrates the widely adopted M-CHAT-R screening tool and a seamless referral process for positive cases through a centralized portal. And since its launch in 2022, the program has achieved an outstanding compliance rate of 97%.

In a recent statistical report, EHS

revealed that the number of children between the ages of 16 months and 30 months who benefited from this service from 2022 to the first half of 2023 reached 20,626 children. Furthermore, the total number of autism patients handled in 2022 amounted to approximately 1,093 cases.

According to Dr. Noor Al Mheiri, Director of the Mental Health Department at EHS, the program aims to direct suspected cases of autism spectrum disorder to specialized facilities for evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment. The goal is to provide necessary healthcare and specialized support to the beneficiaries and their families. Dr. Al Mheiri emphasized that the efforts to enhance early detection and support for autistic children represent a significant milestone in healthcare delivery and reflect EHS' commitment to providing comprehensive and effective healthcare services to various segments of the community.

Dr. Al Mheiri added that "EHS has worked on developing specialized mental health services for children and adolescents based on reliable evidence supported by scientific research at Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital, in partnership with Maudsley Health. Additionally, special-



ized clinics for child and adolescent mental health have been established at Al Qassimi Women's and Children's Hospital, with multidisciplinary medical teams including consultant doctors, specialists, a nursing director, speech and language therapist, social workers, clinical psychologists, as well as administrative and support staff."

EHS has also provided specialized outpatient clinics for children, operating in both morning and evening. These clinics offer assessment, treatment, and specialized rehabilitation services for psychological and behavio-

ral disorders, tailored to the child's age and psychological and social needs. Additionally, EHS offers 24-hour emergency services and a helpline to provide psychological consultations, support, and family guidance by trained psychologists, following an approved policy that ensures safety and quality.

In 2022, EHS has launched a weekly clinic for autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and attention deficit disorder in children and adolescents at Al Amal Psychiatric Hospital. It also established a network of teleclinics for community-based mental health services for children and adolescents in primary care centers in the Northern Emirates and general hospitals. This initiative aims to enhance integration between primary, secondary, and tertiary care services.

EHS is dedicated to fulfilling its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals by actively managing early childhood conditions. It ensures that all children visiting primary healthcare centers undergo early detection screenings for autism. Cases with moderate to high severity are promptly referred to specialized entities in hospitals for thorough assessment, diagnosis, and treatment.

## Sultan of Pakistan became the Sultan of Asia



**Spokesman Report**

CHINA: President of Pakistan Equestrian Federation Sahibzada Sultan Muhammad Ali has been elected as the head of Asian Tent Pegging Federation. All the 24 countries participating in the voting voted in favour of Sahibzada Sultan Muhammad Ali. After getting the most important position, Sahibzada Sultan Muhammad Ali has got the authority to make all the decisions for the promotion of Tent Pegging in Asia. It should be noted that the election of the head of the Asian Tent Packing Federation was held in China after the Asian Games organized by the Asian Equestrian Federation. The members of Asian Tent Packing Federation include Pakistan, China, Japan, South Korea, Iran, India, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and other important countries.

## OIC condemns the continuing Israeli military aggression against the Palestinians

**Noor ul Hassan**

JEDDAH: OIC Condemns the Continuing Israeli Military Aggression against the Palestinians, Affirms that the Continued Occupation is the Cause of Instability. The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (#OIC) is greatly concerned about the developments on the ground and the dangerous Israeli escalation in the occupied #Palestinian territory. It condemned the #Israeli military aggression that led to the fall of hundreds of martyrs and wounded among the Palestinian people, stressing that the continuation of the Israeli occupation and its failure to adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the escalation of the pace of its attacks and daily crimes against the Palestinian people, their land and sanctities, and depriving them of their legitimate rights is the main reason for instability.



The OIC held the Israeli occupation responsible for the escalation and, at the same time, called on the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to assume its responsibilities towards stopping the Israeli aggression, providing international protection for the Palestinian people, and sponsoring a credible political process to end the Israeli occupation and establish an independent, sovereign Palestinian state, with East Al-Quds as its capital on the lines of June 04, 1967, and achieving a just and comprehensive peace based on the vision of a two-state solution per international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

# Erdogan to open modern Turkish state's first new church

**News Desk**

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan planned Sunday to inaugurate the first church built with government backing in overwhelmingly Muslim Turkey's 100-year history as a post-Ottoman state.

The Mor Ephrem Syrian Orthodox Church's opening marks an important cultural and political moment for both Turkey and its powerful leader.

Erdogan drew widespread condemnation during his two-decade rule for converting ancient churches into mosques and making Islamic conservatism into a leading social force.

He has always countered that he was simply restoring the rights of pious Muslims in the staunchly secular republic founded by Mustafa Kemal



Ataturk in 1923.

Erdogan laid the first stone for the church's construction for Istanbul's 17,000-strong Assyrian Christians in 2019.

"This is the first newly built church to open its doors since the founding of the Turkish Republic," Istanbul Syrian Kadim Foundation president Sait Susin told AFP.

Assyrian Christianity traces its history to communities that lived in the first centu-

ry AD in a region stretching from southeastern Turkey to Syria and Iraq.

Its main church moved from the Turkish city of Mardin to Damascus in 1932.

Susin separately told the Anadolu state news agency that some small churches had quietly opened in Turkey in the past 100 years.

But they did so "without official permission. It is the first time that a church has

been officially built. This gives us great pride," Susin said.

Erdogan drew international indignation for converting Istanbul's iconic Hagia Sophia — once the world's largest cathedral — from a museum into a mosque in 2020.

The United Nations cultural body UNESCO expressed "grave concern" at the time.

Erdogan brushed the criticism aside and did exactly the same thing to Istanbul's Byzantine-era Chora Church later that same year.

Greece called that conversion "yet another provocation against religious persons everywhere".

Erdogan came under particularly strong attacks at home for unveiling a new mosque in 2021 on Taksim Square — a central Istanbul gathering point built around a monument celebrating

Ataturk's foundation of the secular Turkish state.

The new Istanbul church can accommodate 750 worshippers and offer Erdogan a chance to prove his critics wrong.

Erdogan wavers in his speeches between robustly defending pious Muslims and embracing Turkey's numerous communities.

He told supporters on the eve of the first round of May's presidential election that he had written a "love letter" to Turkey.

"We have penned a love letter for every individual of our nation, without any distinction of origin or religion," he told the crowd.

He ended that day by leading Muslim prayers at the Hagia Sophia mosque.

Erdogan edged out his secular rival in a runoff election two weeks later.

# Introducing the Eurasian Trade Environment Culture and Tourism Council

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Eurasian Trade Environment Culture and Tourism Council (ETEECTC) is pleased to announce its establishment as a new platform for fostering collaboration, promoting cultural exchange, and driving sustainable growth in the Eurasian region. Fouzia Noreen, the President of council elaborated with a focus on enhancing trade, protecting the environment, preserving diverse cultures, and boosting tourism, the council aims to create a thriving ecosystem that benefits all participating nations.

The primary objectives of the Eurasian Trade Environment Culture and Tourism Council are as follows:

**Promote Trade:** ETEECTC will facilitate trade and investment opportunities among participat-

ing Eurasian countries, fostering economic growth and regional integration. By identifying barriers and implementing strategies to overcome them, the council aims to create a more conducive and harmonized trade environment.

**Protect the Environment:** Recognizing the importance of environmental sustainability, ETEECTC will work towards the development and implementation of eco-friendly practices within the region. The council will encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources, promote responsible waste management, and support initiatives that mitigate the impact of climate change.

**Preserve Cultural Heritage:** ETEECTC aims to safeguard the rich cultural heritage of the Eurasian region. By facilitating cultural exchange programs, organiz-

ing events, and supporting initiatives that preserve traditional arts, crafts, and customs, the council seeks to foster mutual understanding and appreciation among participating nations.

**Boost Tourism:** ETEECTC recognizes the potential of tourism as a catalyst for economic growth. Through collaborative marketing campaigns, infrastructure development, and the sharing of best practices, the council aims to attract more visitors to the Eurasian region, ensuring sustainable growth in the tourism sector.

Looking ahead, ETEECTC envisions a future of enhanced regional cooperation and prosperity. The council's plan of work includes:

**Establishing Working Groups:** ETEECTC will form specialized working groups to address specific areas of focus, such as

trade facilitation, environmental protection, cultural preservation, and tourism development. These groups will collaborate closely to devise strategies, share knowledge, and implement initiatives.

**Conducting Research and Analysis:** ETEECTC will conduct comprehensive research and analysis to identify key challenges and opportunities in the Eurasian region. This information will guide the council's decision-making process and help shape effective policies and initiatives.

**Organizing Events and Workshops:** ETEECTC will host events, workshops, and seminars to facilitate knowledge sharing, capacity building, and networking opportunities among stakeholders. These platforms will promote dialogue and collaboration, fostering a culture of innovation and sustainable development.

**Strengthening Partnerships:**



ETEECTC will actively seek partnerships with international organizations, private sector entities, and civil society groups to leverage resources, expertise, and funding. By forging strong alli-

ances, the council aims to maximize its impact and achieve its objectives more effectively.

The President of Eurasian Trade Environment Culture and Tourism Council invites

all interested parties, including governments, businesses, NGOs, and individuals, to join hands in creating a prosperous and sustainable future for the Eurasian region.

*Sheikh Zunnurain presented bouquet to Mirza Muhammad Afridi*



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Business Group Organization Punjab Chapter Sheikh Zunnurain was invited by Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi on lunch where Chairman PBGO Punjab And Chairman Alfursan Group of Companies Sheikh Muhammad Zunnurain presented bouquet to Mirza Muhammad Afridi

While having a discussion on economic situation of Pakistan S. M Zunnurain suggest deputy chairman senate that Pakistan government should give relief on petrol & gas prices whereas Chairman S. M Zunnurain suggested him also to make long term 10 years trade policy for textile industry, automobile and also make some strong policies for civil Commercial pilots.

According to Chairman PBGO Punjab Chapter S. M Zunnurain Flying is a really serious business which is hijacked by PAF pilots and Retd PAF mafia whereas in comparison to them civil pilots are spending 15 million Rs on flying and hundreds of civil pilots are jobless.

S. M Zunnurain requested Deputy Chairman Senate to make a committee for the rights of civil pilots in Pakistan after listening all the suggestions from S. M Zunnurain Chairman PBGO Punjab His Excellency Mirza Muhammad Afridi Deputy Chairman Senate claimed that he is also a Private Pilot License Holder and he promised to S. M Zunnurain that he will look into this matter personally.

**Major cut in oil prices vital to ease inflation to 27% amid rupee gain, low global rate: BMP**



**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry' Businessmen Panel (BMP) has asked the government to make a substantive drop in petroleum products following a huge cut in the global oil market by almost \$9 per barrel and an immense recovery of the rupee to ease inflation to 27% in Oct, which has been hovering at around 31%.

FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the Pakistani rupee appreciated 2.7% to Rs283/dollar compared with the previous fortnight's average of Rs292/ a dollar.

In the same way, the price of petrol plummeted by 15% to \$84.3 per barrel in the international market compared with last fortnight's average of \$99.3. The international price of high-speed diesel dipped by 10% to \$110.6 per barrel compared with last fortnight's average of \$122.3.

Quoting a research report, he said that the price of Arab Light crude, which Pakistan imports from the Middle East, fell by 9.1%, or \$8.9 per barrel, to \$88.68 by October 5 compared to the average price of \$97.58 for the September 18-29 period.

Incorporating the drop alongside rupee appreciation and assuming the international prices and currency remain at the same level for the next 10 days, the local petrol and diesel prices should go down by Rs40 per litre and Rs20 per litre, respectively, in the next fortnightly price revision effective from October 16, 2023.

Mian Anjum estimated that exchange rate adjustments in the last fortnightly prices of petrol and diesel were Rs11.9 and negative Rs2.8 per litre, respectively. Even assuming the same currency adjustment for motor spirit/ petrol and nil adjustment for HSD in the upcoming fortnightly prices, the MS and HSD prices should be dropped by Rs29 and Rs20 per litre, respectively.

# Business Leaders urge government to consult with private sector for revival of economy

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Kashif Chaudhry, President, Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajran Pakistan and President Pakistan Business Forum Islamabad along with a delegation of Presidents of various market associations visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and assured that he would work with ICCI for resolving the key issues of the business community.

Addressing the delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that ICCI being the apex trade body of the federal capital is working actively for the progress and development of the business community and cooperation of Markazi Anjuman-e-Tijaran and market associations would further strengthen its hands to achieve common goals of the welfare of business community more effectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Kashif Chaudhry, President, Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajran Pakistan and President Pakistan Business Forum Islamabad said that the traders and



industrialists are facing multiple problems, which can be resolved with unity by working under the umbrella of ICCI. He said that we are working for the respect and dignity of the business community and the government should protect our constitutional rights. He stressed that the government should get input of the business community for decision making and

policy making. Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI and Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI also stressed for close cooperation among the trade bodies to advocate for a conducive business environment in the country.

Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI & Secretary General UBG, Raja Hassan Akhtar President Blue Area, Iftikhar Shehzada & Malik Arif F-8 Markaz, Ali Asghar Khan President Lehrar Road, Shahbaz Qadri President Ghori Town, Khurram Shakeel President Society Islamabad, Jahangir Abbasi President Nanbai Association, Attique Janjua President I-9 Islamabad, Malik Rizwan Chairman All Furniture Makers Association, Malik Imran Secretary General Islamabad Hotel Association, Haroon Kiani Tiger Group Blue Area, Shabbir Ansari G-9 Markaz, Shakeel Mirza former President Islamabad Estate Agents, Saeed Khokhar, Nasir Chaudhry, Abbas Hashmi, Babar Chaudhry and others also spoke on the occasion and called for unity among traders to resolve issues and promote the welfare of the business community.

## Lakh dana

LAHORE: A vendor is preparing Reddish Brown Seedlac (Lakh dana) for use in furniture polish, outside his workplace at Bhati Gate area in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## SECP warns the public against illegal investment scheme by Meilleuretech Services

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 8: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a warning advising the general public against investing in fraudulent investment schemes of Meilleuretech Services, a sole proprietorship concern.

The SECP has noticed that the entity, owned by Mr. Zeeshan Munir, is prima facie accepting deposits from the public illegally by offering various illegal "advertisement watching packages" and promising unrealistic daily and weekly returns. It is clarified that the said entity does not hold any license to collect deposits from the public.

SECP has also received multiple complaints that the individuals, after depositing funds with Meilleuretech Services, did not receive any packages but were asked to arrange for more individuals to buy packages or deposit further funds to get their earnings. The entity is using

the following website and social media accounts:

The SECP has initiated legal proceedings against Mr. Zeeshan Munir and his entities, which include deregistering/ winding up Meilleuretech Services (SMC-Private) Limited, disqualifying Mr. Zeeshan Munir from becoming chief executive and director of any company, and imposing penalties. The SECP is also referring the matter to relevant investigation authorities. The name of Meilleuretech Services (SMC-Private) Limited has been added to the "List of Companies engaged in Unauthorized Activities" available on SECP's website.

Therefore, SECP hereby WARNS THE PUBLIC NOT TO DEPOSIT/ INVEST FUNDS with M/s Meilleuretech Services, Meilleuretech Services (SMC Private) Limited, and Mr. Zeeshan Munir in any form or arrangement, as they are not allowed to accept deposits/ investments from anyone.

## Businessmen role crucial for economic uplift, stability: FPCCI Presidential candidate

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The presidential candidate for the FPCCI elections Muhammad Ali Sheikh has said that the role of business community is vital for the economic uplift and stability of the country, as the businessmen are the backbone of the economy and a leading contributor to the economic progress and prosperity of the country.

In a statement issued here today, the FPCCI former Vice President and GCCCI ex-Senior Vice President observed that the strengthening of the country's economy and promotion of trade and industry has been the motto and priority of the Businessmen Panel, who has nominated him as the FPCCI's upcoming election 2024 presidential candidate. He said that the present caretaker government has steered the country's economy out of the crisis by making sincere efforts. He said that he would utilize his best abilities to bring closer the various besides to promote trade and industry. He said that the country's economy was showing



the signs of stability which bodes well for the development and prosperity of the country.

He pointed out the problems faced by the business community along with sugges-

tions for their solution. He appreciated the role being played by the private sector, particularly the FPCCI, in the country's economic development. He said at present, tough economic conditions called for taking difficult decisions but the government should have been committed to improve the economy. He also stressed the need for technical education's close linkage with the industry. He said the government should give great importance to the business community and continue to support them by resolving their problems on top priority.

The new presidential candidate of the BMP said that Pakistan with its diversified resources and skilled workforce has tremendous potential to be the fastest-growing exporting region to the globe. We have huge potential in the area of tourism, agriculture, fisheries, industries, human development and many more. It's time we push the government to seize the untapped opportunity in this region, he added.

## PIAF for keeping check on expenditure, high cost, as debt jumps to Rs64 tr

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) has called for keeping check on government expenditure and high cost of debt servicing, as the federal government debt has soared by Rs14.5 trillion, constituting a substantial 29.2% rise compared to the same period last year. This rapid escalation in debt is widely seen as unsustainable, yet corrective measures to curb this alarming trajectory have not been implemented. He said that the debt burden is gradually increasing because of insufficient tax revenue collection that forced the government to borrow from the domestic and external resources to finance the soaring fiscal deficit.

Quoting the State Bank of Pakistan report, he said that the federal government's debt has soared by Rs14.5 trillion, constituting a substantial 29.2% rise compared to the same period last year. This rapid escalation in debt is widely seen as unsustainable, yet corrective measures to curb this alarming trajectory have not been implemented. He said that the debt burden is gradually increasing because of insufficient tax revenue collection that forced the government to borrow from the domestic and external resources to finance the soaring fiscal deficit.



PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that this unsettling trend has raised concerns about fiscal sustainability and the adverse impacts of steep currency devaluation come at a time when the World Bank has cautioned Pakistan about the growing risks of its macroeconomic framework.

## Public advised to invest in licensed organizations for safe investment

**Bureau Report**

MULTAN: The public should invest only in licensed organizations for the safety of their capital and regular profit by spending wisely and avoiding nonessential expenditures in the wake of current financial circumstances.

President Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) Mian Rashid Iqbal expressed these views in a seminar titled "Pakistan Investment Road Show" under the auspices of Pakistan Mercantile Exchange in collaboration with MCCI and SECP here.

He stated that holding of Road Show as safe investment was a welcome gesture adding that the week is being marked as "Investment Week" to sensitive people and put them on the path



of savings.

He appreciated the Pakistan Mercantile Exchange's efforts to gather all financial institutions under one roof and added that the public will have to shun nonessential expenditures.

President MCCI urged the exchange to

organize such events on a monthly basis so that people including the salarized class, pensioners and women could invest their savings for a good profit.

He noted that economic conditions were very tough and inflation was skyrocketing adding

that the public should make strict decisions on their spending because today's investment will result in tomorrow's good profit.

Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan Mercantile Exchange Business Manager Habib Ahmed informed their organization was the only registered institution which is offering online trading and purchasing in commodities whose regulator is the Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) which has been functioning since 2007.

He maintained public could do trading for 22 and a half hours.

Meanwhile, National Investment Trust (NIT), Bank Al Habib and other financial institutions had set up stalls which were visited by a large number of people.

# Pakistan wins bronze medal at Hangzhou Asian Games Kabaddi

**Sports Desk**

BEIJING: Pakistan has secured a bronze medal in the Kabaddi men's team final at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China marking their third medal of the Games after winning bronze in women's individual shooting and silver in men's team squash.

Previously, Pakistan's kabaddi team won the bronze medal at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta.

The kabaddi competition at the Asian Games is widely regarded as one of the most exciting and fiercely contested events. Teams from across the continent gather to demonstrate their prowess in the traditional South Asian sport, which combines elements of wrestling and tag. Known for their agility, power and strategic play, Pakistan's kabaddi team showcased their expertise, broadened knowledge and gained experience throughout the tournament, CEN reported on Sunday.

The journey to the medal was not an easy one for the Pakistani team. They face tough opponents from countries such as



India, Iran and South Korea, all of which boast formidable squads. During the match, Pakistan suffered 12 all-outs and failed to score a single all-out point against their arch-rivals India.

However, the Pakistani kabaddi players showed exceptional skill and determination with grace and resilience. The Pakistani athletes took the opportunity to express their gratitude and admiration

for the host country, China.

They spoke highly of the warm welcome and the remarkable hospitality extended to all participants and visitors during their stay in Hangzhou. Athletes praised the seamless organization, state-of-the-art facilities, and the extraordinary efforts made by the Chinese organizers to ensure a memorable experience for everyone involved.

The athletes' positive remarks about China reflect the bonds formed between nations through the power of sports. Team manager Rana Nabeel Ahmad said the Asia Games Hangzhou provided Pakistan with a platform to improve their weaknesses for the next international assignment.

As the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou Kabaddi draws to a close, Yousaf Anjum, News attache appointed by the Pakistani Olympic Association (POA), acknowledged the support and guidance provided by the Pakistan Olympic Association and other sports authorities in nurturing and developing the athletes' potential. He expressed his gratitude to the coaches, trainers, and officials who played a vital role in preparing the athletes for the Asia Games.

He added that "Pakistan and China have their own advantages in different Asian Games events. By exchanging knowledge, expertise, and training methods, we can enhance our athletes' capabilities and achieve greater success in the Asia Games."

# PCB hosts one-day cricket clinic at Gaddafi Stadium

**Kiran Asim**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board in its efforts to diversify cricket has arranged a one-day cricket activity at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore to encourage representative of all sections of our diverse Pakistani society to pick up the game.

The activity, which took place today aimed to provide an opportunity for these promising young players to hone their skills, receive coaching from renowned coaches, and experience the facilities available to top cricketers of Pakistan.

Pakistan Cricket has a long and proud history of being an equal opportunities employer, and participants of all walks of life have featured for the national team. Wallis Mathias, Duncan Sharpe, Mohammad Yousuf and Danish Kaneria are just some of those examples. The PCB continues to strive to provide opportunities to all Pakistanis as it aims to expand their outreach programmes.

It's a part of PCB vision to expand the game among all communities who haven't shown ample engagement towards cricket. As part of the PCB's ongoing commitment towards equity, diversity, and providing an inclusive environment in the cricket circle, today's



activity reinforced PCB pledge to draw players from various communities across Pakistan.

To reduce barriers to entry, as many as 21 players were invited up to feature in a comprehensive training program that included net sessions, fielding drills, and different sessions on game strategies. The participants had the privilege of learn-

ing the skills of the game from academy coaches who shared their knowledge and insights to inspire the next generation of cricket stars.

PCB Management Committee Chairperson, Zaka Ashraf: "Cricket is a unifying force in Pakistan, and it is crucial to ensure that the sport is accessible to everyone, regardless of their background.

This day camp at Gaddafi Stadium is just the beginning of our efforts to promote diversity and inclusivity in cricket. We hope that through such initiatives, we can discover and develop hidden talent from all corners of the country."

PCB will continue to explore opportunity to expand such programs to reach to all communities.

# 19th Asian Games concludes in Hangzhou, China

**Sports Desk**

BEIJING: The 19th Asian Games concluded at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on Sunday night. Raja Randhir Singh, acting president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), formally declared the 19th Asian Games closed. After 15 days of competition featuring 11,830 athletes from 45 countries and regions in 481 events across 61 disciplines in 40 sports, a total of 15 world records, 37 Asian records and 170 Asian Games records were set, highlighting the incredible performances and the efforts



behind them by the participating athletes as well as the teams behind them. China, which had 886 athletes, the second-most in Asian Games history, won a record 201 gold, 11 silver and 71 bronze medals, leading the

medal standings for the 11th straight time. Xie Zhenye, who won the men's 100-meter and the men's 4x100-meter relay gold medals at the Asian Games, carried the flag on behalf of China at the closing

ceremony. The closing ceremony of the Asian Games was an 85-minute-long farewell party that included four clips, two programs and one carnival. According to Zhang Shiqian, the creative director of the closing ceremony, some 40,000 light-emitting diodes (LEDs) were installed under the turf of the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium as an important part of the show, CGTN reported. Sunday, October 8, marked the beginning of this year's Hanlu, one of China's 24 solar terms. It began with the final blossoming days of lotus and the newly blossoming of sweet osmanthus. The LEDs, in combination of augment-

ed reality (AR) technology, generated tides and various pictures of both flowers, turning the stadium into "Asia's most beautiful garden," in the director's words, as a farewell to the visiting friends. The digital torchbearer that drew worldwide attention at the opening ceremony now has a name: Pioneer, a youngster who faces and battles the risks in an era that surges forward. The avatar came to the stadium again at the end of the closing ceremony and waved goodbye to the participants as the flame went out. The next edition of the Asian Games will take place in Aichi and Nagoya in Japan in 2026.

# India launch triumphant ICC World Cup 2023 campaign at Australia's disposal

CHENNAI: Virat Kohli and KL Rahul scored anchoring half-centuries after a disciplined performance by the bowlers as India edged Australia by six wickets in their ICC World Cup 2023 campaign opener on Sunday.

Set to chase a modest 200, India knocked off the winning runs for the loss of four wickets and 52 balls to spare.

The hosts, however, had a dismal start to their pursuit as they lost three batters with just two runs on the board as Ishan Kishan, Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer all fell for duck.

Following the slump, KL Rahul joined Virat Kohli in the middle and the duo launched an

astounding recovery.

Kohli and Rahul soaked in the pressure and put India in command with a magnificent 165-run partnership which lasted when Kohli fired his pull shot straight to Marnus Labuschagne at mid-wicket in the 38th over.

Star batter Virat Kohli fell short of his well-deserved century as he scored 85. His 116-ball knock featured six boundaries.

Meanwhile, KL Rahul held his ground firm and carried his bat all the way through to guide India to a hard-fought victory to launch their ICC World Cup 2023 campaign with a victory.

He also fell just shy of his century, scoring an unbeaten 97



in 115 deliveries with the help of eight boundaries and two sixes.

Josh Hazlewood led the bowling attack for Australia with 3/38 in his nine overs while

Mitchell Starck had a wicket to his name.

After opting to bat first, Australia lost their first wicket in the third over as Mitchell

Marsh fell with only five runs on the board.

David Warner and Steve Smith then stabilised the innings with a partnership of 69, before Kuldeep Yadav grabbed a returning catch to send the former back to the pavilion.

Warner scored 47 off 52 with the help of six boundaries, becoming the fastest man to score 1000 World Cup runs in 19 innings.

Steve Smith followed him after anchoring through the innings with his 46 from 71 deliveries, featuring five boundaries before Ravindra Jadeja knocked his off-stump when Australia had 110 runs on the board.

# Aqeel, Mehek clinch tennis singles titles

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Pakistan number one tennis star Aqeel Khan emerged triumphant in Men's Singles final while talented player Mehek Khokhar won the Ladies Singles title on the last day of Sheikhoo Steel Pakistan Open Tennis Championship, organised with the collaboration of Sports Board Punjab, at state-of-the-art NPSC Tennis Courts.

DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony.

Pakistan's world fame tennis star Aisamul Haq, his mother Nosheen Ihtsham, female tennis player Ushna Sohail and a large number of tennis enthusiasts were also present on this occasion.

The winner of Men's Singles Aqeel Khan was given a cash prize of Rs 1,75,000 while Rs 85,000 given to runners up. In Ladies Singles, winner Mehek Khokhar was given a cash prize of Rs 80,000 and runners up Rs 40,000.

According to details, the title of Ladies Singles category went to Mehek Khokhar, who was declared winner after her opponent Noor Malik withdrew from the title clash due to leg injury. On the other hand, veteran tennis star Aqeel Khan toppled M Shoaib in Men's Singles title clash by 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

In the seniors doubles 55 plus doubles final, Rashid Malik/Arif Feroze beat Israr Gul/Humayun Pervaz by 7-5, 7-5 to claim the title while the 65 plus doubles title was won by Davis Cupper Inam-ul-Haq and Waqar Nisar, who beat Brig Ghazanfar/M Babar by 6-2, 7-5.

Following are results:

In the ladies' doubles final, Mehek Khokhar/Soha Ali beat Amna Ali Qayum/Sheeza Sajid by 3-6, 6-2, 10-5.

In Boys Under-16 Singles Abu Bakr Talha defeated Asad Zaman 6-3, 6-2.

In Boys Under-14 Singles Hamza Ali Rizwan defeated Abdul Basit 6-4, 4-13, 11-4.



# Umar Akmal recounts memories of ICC World Cup 2011

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Pakistani cricketer Umar Akmal, who was ousted from the national cricket team after off-field controversies, claimed that he could lead Pakistan to win the ICC World Cup 2011, however, he failed to perform.

Umar Akmal, who was once a strong middle-order batter of the Pakistan team, recounted memories of the ICC World Cup 2011. He said that he could play a vital role in Pakistan's victory in the 2011 World Cup held in India, however, he failed to retain his performance.

While talking to a private news channel, Akmal said that he represented Pakistan in 2011 and 2015 World Cups besides several other series and has experience playing in India.

"During the semi-final against India, I thought I could lead Pakistan with the match and had confidence that Pakistan could become the world champion by winning the final. Unfortunately, I couldn't do it."

"I tried to give cent per cent performance but I couldn't perform well enough. During the match, the condition had changed and become difficult at that time."

The batter said, "I watched the highlights of the match after returning to Pakistan and discussed with then skipper Shahid Afridi, brother Kamran Akmal and star batsman Younis Khan."

"They also confirmed that you could win the world cup for Pakistan. If I became successful, then my name would last in cricket history for a long time. However, it is an honour to represent Pakistan," said Akmal.



# Jake Fraser shatters AB de Villiers' fastest century record

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: South Australia batter Jake Fraser-McGurk has shattered Mr 360 AB de Villiers' fastest century record in a domestic cricket match. This feat unfolded during a high-scoring encounter where Tasmania set a new Australian domestic one-day record with a total of 435/9 in their allotted 50 overs.

McGurk showcased an electrifying exhibition of his batting skills in the pursuit of this imposing target.

The 21-year-old prodigy achieved a century in just 29 deliveries, surpassing De Villiers' record of 31 balls, nearly orchestrating an extraordinary comeback.

As the opener, this right-handed batter concluded his innings with an impressive 125 runs off 38 balls, contributing to an opening partnership of 172 runs in just 70 deliveries.

His extraordinary innings featured 10 fours and a remarkable 13 sixes, setting the stage for the thrilling run chase. However, South Australia ultimately fell short by 37 runs.

Notably, Fraser-McGurk made a stunning impact in the second over of Sam Rainbird's spell, smashing 32 runs, including four sixes and two fours, rapidly accelerating his innings.



# Nadeem, Shah Jahan elected President, Secretary AFP

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Nadeem Aftab Sindhu and Col Shah Jahan Mir (R) have been elected as President and Secretary General respectively of Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) for a term of next four years.

General Council meeting of Athletics Federation of Pakistan was held in Lahore under the chairmanship of Major General Muhammad Akram Sahi (R). Provincial associations (Punjab, Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh), regional associations of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad besides Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Wapda and Higher Education Commission were present in the meeting.

In the meeting, new officials of the Athletics Federation of Pakistan were unanimously elected for the next four years.

Major Gen Mohammad Akram Sahi (R), would be the Chairman of Athletics Federation of Pakistan while Nadeem Aftab Sindhu has been elected as the President and Shah Jahan as the Secretary General, said a press release. The Athletics Federation of Pakistan office bearers include Chairman Akram Sahi; President Nadeem Aftab Sindhu; Senior Vice President Wajahat Hussain; Vice Presidents Imdadullah Memon, and others.