



President for greater collaborations to improve recovery of missing children

President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday called for greater collaborations among the civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national and provincial government departments to raise awareness about the issue of abducted and missing children. (Report on Page 8)

DAYS REMAINING
20

Only 20 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan
Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 20 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

Apex Committee Meeting

QUETTA: The Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

President for free & fair polls inclusive of all political parties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday stressed giving opportunity to all political parties to run the upcoming general elections. "Democracy becomes meaningless if people are not able to elect leaders of their choice", he said. The president expressed these views while talking to the former federal minister and Senator, Muhammad Ali Durrani, who called on him here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. President Alvi said the upcoming general elections should be free, fair, transparent and inclusive. He emphasized that all political parties and their leadership should be given equal opportunities to participate in the election process to strengthen democracy in the country. The president was of the view that there was a dire need for political, institutional and



stakeholder unity in the country to battle the difficulties on all possible fronts, including that of economy. "Bitterness must end and give way to cooperation and forgiveness", he said. He stated that difficult decisions needed backing of the people and their participative ownership. He said the forthcoming general elections provided a good opportunity to create the vibrancy needed to rebuild our country. The president also appreciated the statements given across the spectrum by all political leaders that there should be a level playing field as only this single issue of inclusivity was the essence of democracy.

PM for trickle-down effect of SIFC initiatives in each province

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday emphasised that the initiatives taken by Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) at the federal level should have a trickle-down effect in each province for the benefit of the people. The prime minister said this while attending the meeting of the Provincial Apex Committee along with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir and Caretaker

Chief Minister of Balochistan Ali Mardan Khan Domki. During the Apex Committee meeting, the forum was briefed about the revised National Action Plan, law enforcement operations, anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics operations in Balochistan, security of foreign nationals employed on CPEC or non-CPEC private projects. The meeting was also briefed about the repatriation of illegal foreigners, foreign currency regularization measures, and progress on SIFC initiatives in Balochistan. The prime minister expressed confidence in the progress made by the Balochistan government and assured full support of the federal government. During the session, Prime Minister Kakar emphasized that the socio-economic development of Balochistan was imperative for ensuring peace and development of the province. The COAS highlighted that the Pakistan Army would provide full support in concert with the law enforcement agencies and other government departments for enforcement actions against spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities. The prime minister said that Balochistan was rich with mines and minerals and that development in that sector would generate economic activity and job opportunities for the people of the area. Moreover, investments in agriculture and information technology should also be focused apart from human resource development, he added. He underscored the need for synergy among all relevant departments for gainful effects of the initiatives. The participants affirmed that state institutions, government departments, and people were united for the progress and prosperity of the province. Earlier, upon arrival, the prime minister and COAS were received by Balochistan chief minister and Balochistan corps commander.

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FM Jilani meets Turkish, Uzbek counterparts

News Desk

SHUSHA (AZERBAIJAN): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani on Tuesday met his counterpart from Turkish Hakan Fidan and Bakhtiyor Saidov of Uzbekistan, and discussed bilateral ties and the ways to further strengthen cooperation. The meetings were held on the sidelines of Twenty-Seventh ECO Council of Ministers held in Shusha city of Azerbaijan. In the meeting with Turkish foreign minister, they discussed the full spectrum of strategic partnership and committed to bolstering Pak-Turkiye cooperation in trade, investment, defense, education, culture, agriculture, and science & technology. In the "productive" meeting between FM Jilani and his Uzbek counterpart Bakhtiyor Saidov, the two sides recognized the significance of bilateral ties and reiterated the resolve to strengthen commercial ties and expedite the Trans-Afghan Railways Project.



849 killed, 4360 injured in four days of Israeli aggression on Gaza



Wafa

RAMALLAH: In its latest update on the death and injury toll in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, the Ministry of Health said 849 people have been killed and 4360 others were injured in four days of Israeli aggression. It said 830 were killed in the Gaza Strip and 4250 injured from Israeli air strikes and shelling of the cities, while 19 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank from Israeli army gunfire and 110 were injured.

Mohsin Naqvi undertook visits Gujranwala and Gujrat

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi undertook swift visits to two divisions within a span of 8 hours, first to Gujranwala and then to Gujrat. In Gujrat, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid visits to the Lari Adda Police Station and Aziz Bhatti Shaheed Hospital. At Aziz Bhatti Shaheed Hospital, concerns raised by patients regarding hygiene and management led to the immediate replacement of the Medical Superintendent. Surprisingly, the city administration was unaware of the Chief Minister's visit. Upon inspection, it was noted that the police station building at Lari Adda was in a state of disrepair and lacked cleanliness. The absence of a front desk operator was also evident, with his arrival taking 15 minutes after the Chief Minister's arrival. Notably, there was no banner displayed to guide visitors. Reacting swiftly, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi summoned the District Police Officer (DPO) and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and directed them to restore the police station building. Expressing dissatisfaction, the Chief Minister expressed his disappointment over the lack of progress in a motorcycle theft case pending for four days. He personally reviewed progress on citizens' requests at the front desk and ordered the installation of an information banner. Subsequently, Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi promptly arrived at Aziz Bhatti Hospital in Gujrat. Concerns about bedbugs, cleanliness, and patient complaints prompted the replacement of the Medical Superintendent. In response, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi summoned Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram to visit Gujrat and submit a detailed report. During the visit, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed his displeasure at patients and their families procuring medicines and undergoing tests from external sources. He directed refunds to patients who had brought in medicines and undergone tests externally, emphasizing the government's provision of medicines and testing services within the hospital premises. The Chief Minister noted that in certain wards, air conditioners were switched off, while in others, doors and windows were left open. He conducted inspections across different wards, assessed the CT scan machine, and visited the Rashida Shafi trauma center. In a briefing, it was highlighted that Aziz Bhatti Shaheed Hospital's upgrade in Gujrat is underway with a budget of 40 crores. Additionally, a 10 crore allocation has been designated for the overhaul of the hospital's sewage system.



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Israeli airstrikes leave Palestinian civilians killed, injured in Gaza

Wafa

GAZA: A number of citizens, including children, were killed today and others were injured, in two separate Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip. A number of citizens, including children, were killed in a raid launched by Israeli warplanes on a house in Sheikh Radwan, north of Gaza City, said sources. Israeli warplanes targeted a house belonging to the Al-Nafar family near the Sheikh Radwan Bridge, north of Gaza City, which led to the death of residents, including children, in addition to the injury of several others. In the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah, a number of citizens were killed and others were injured in an Israeli airstrike on a house in the Al-Nasr neighborhood.

Biden to offer support for Israel, American Jews in speech

PPA

GAZA: President Joe Biden on Tuesday will stress U. S. support for Israel as it reels from the killing of more than 1,000 people, including at least 11 Americans, from a surprise attack launched by Palestinian Hamas militants termed 'Al-Aqsa Flood'. Biden is set to speak at 1 p.m. ET (1700 GMT) from the White House. He will express concern about the potential that some Americans are being held hostage by Hamas, an Iranian-backed Islamist group, a senior White House official said.

Israel pounded the Gaza Strip on Tuesday with the fiercest air strikes in its 75-year-old conflict with the Palestinians, razing whole districts to dust despite a threat from Hamas militants to execute a captive for each home hit. Biden will speak after holding his third phone call in four days with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He will outline in his remarks the U. S. military assistance being sent to help Israel in its fight, the official said. The White House on Monday said it expected to fulfill additional security requests from Israel as quickly as possible.



The United States does not plan to put American military forces on the ground, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby told reporters. Israel has called up an unprecedented 300,000 of its own reservists. Biden and Netanyahu, despite differences on the way forward in the Middle East, have been thrust into a wartime partnership following the multi-pronged attack by Hamas militants from Gaza into Israel. Biden will also offer support for American Jews and say they should be allowed to worship in peace in the United States. Biden said last month that antisemitism in the United States had risen to record levels. Israel's embassy in Washington said the death toll from Hamas' weekend attacks had surpassed 1,000, dwarfing all modern Islamist attacks on the West since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Do not get involved in Israel crisis: US general warns Iran



Reuters

USA: The United States' (US) top general on Monday warned Iran not to get involved in the crisis in Israel and said he did not want the conflict to be broadened, as Lebanese armed group Hezbollah fired a salvo of rockets onto northern Israel. The White House earlier on Monday said that Iran was complicit even though the United States has no intelligence or evidence that points to Iran's direct participation in attacks in Israel by Palestinian Islamist group Hamas. Asked what his message for Iran was, General Charles Q. Brown, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said: "Not to get involved." Israeli shelling on Lebanon killed at least three Hezbollah militants on Monday, and Israel said one of its officers was killed during an earlier cross-border raid claimed by Palestinians in Lebanon. The cross-border violence marked a significant expansion of a conflict between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza to the Israeli-Lebanese border further north. Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel fought a brutal month-long war in 2006. "We want to send a pretty strong message. We do not want this to broaden and the idea is for Iran to get that message loud and clear," Brown told a small group of reporters traveling with him to Brussels, in his first public comments since being confirmed to the job last month. The U. S. military is "surging" fresh supplies of air defenses, munitions and other security assistance to Israel to help it respond to an unprecedented weekend attack by Hamas.

Zainab Alert implementation meeting

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting regarding the implementation of Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Act (ZARRA) 2020, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

President for greater collaborations to improve recovery of missing children

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ISLAMABAD, OCT 10 (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday called for greater collaborations among the civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national and provincial government departments to raise awareness about the issue of abducted and missing children.

He said that steps should be taken to ensure the implementation of Zainab Alert Response & Recovery Act (ZARRA) 2020 throughout the country to protect and safeguard our children.

The president expressed

these views while chairing a meeting regarding the implementation of Zainab Alert Response & Recovery Act (ZARRA) 2020, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Ministry of Human Rights Allah Dino Khawaja, Director General ZARRA, representatives of different NGOs working for children's rights, and senior government officials.

During the meeting, the president emphasised the need

for awareness at the grassroots levels about the ZARRA Act and responsibility of police officials to ensure timely registration of complaints and FIRs about the missing children.

He also called for raising awareness about the ZARRA helpline "1099" among the people to timely register complaints.

The president said that response time of the local police to missing children's complaints should be improved and they should take prompt action to find missing children as the first 24 hours

after a child's disappearance were critical for their recovery.

He called for increasing cooperation among the civil society and government departments to protect and recover missing children, besides providing psycho-social counselling to affected children and their families.

During the meeting, the president highlighted the need for further improving the implementation of ZARRA Act by identifying gaps and shortcomings in its implementation at the provincial and district levels.

He said that after taking input and advice from civil society and NGOs, corrective measures should be taken to bring about improvements.

The president said that ZARRA's coverage should be extended to the entire country by allocating adequate resources and creating awareness among the people.

He also called for ensuring better management of alerts and complaints about missing children on 1099 helpline, PM Citizen Portal and ZARRA app by ensuring 24/7 service to the complainants.

ECP, political parties to discuss election code of ethics today

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and various political parties are set to meet at the ECP secretariat on Wednesday (today) to discuss the draft code of conduct for the upcoming general elections. According to an ECP official, the Election Commission had previously held an initial consultative session with political parties to deliberate on various election-related issues.

In preparation for the upcoming meeting, the ECP has provided political parties with an initial code of conduct. This draft is expected to be an essential component in the final preparations for the upcoming general elections. The ECP has already distributed a preliminary code of

conduct to political parties, and this draft is anticipated to play a crucial role in the final arrangements for the upcoming general elections.

The draft code of conduct highlights the significance of political parties, candidates, and election agents in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the people of Pakistan, as guaranteed by the Constitution and the law.

Furthermore, it cautions against engaging in actions or expressing views that might jeopardize Pakistan's ideology, sovereignty, integrity, security, or the independence of its judiciary.

Additionally, the draft code imposes limitations on public officeholders, including the president and prime minister, preventing them from involvement in any capacity in election campaigns.

BRI paves way towards shared development, prosperity: White Paper

Xinhua

BEIJING: The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) not only provides a conceptual framework but also a practical roadmap for all nations to achieve shared development and prosperity, said a white paper released by China's State Council Information Office on Tuesday.

The white paper, titled "The Belt and Road Initiative: A Key Pillar of the Global Community of Shared Future," expounded on the principles, concepts, objectives and visions of the initiative. The BRI is founded on the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, it said.

The initiative emphasizes that all countries are equal participants, contributors and beneficiaries, and encourages economic integration, interconnected development, and the sharing

of achievements. The BRI is committed to open, green and clean cooperation towards inclusive and sustainable development. It has zero tolerance for corruption and promotes steady and high-quality growth, according to the white paper.

The document said that the BRI is a public road open to all, not a private path owned by any single party. The initiative embraces the global trend of green and low-carbon development, and clean governance is considered an intrinsic and necessary condition for its steady and sustained development.

The initiative pursues high standards, sustainability, and better lives by raising cooperation standard, investment effectiveness, supply quality, and development resilience, delivering real and substantive results for all participants.

MoST starts work on National STI Policy implementation framework

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Umar Saif Tuesday said his ministry has started work on a National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy implementation Framework. In a tweet, the minister stated, "At the Science and Technology Ministry, we have begun work on a national science, technology and innovation policy implementation framework for Pakistan which was long overdue". "We need to invest more in science and technology and ensure our governance frameworks support a knowledge economy", he said.

IMF projects Pakistan economy to grow at 2.5pc in 2024

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected Pakistan's economy to grow at 2.5% in 2024, ARY News reported World Economic Report.

In its World Economic Outlook report published on Tuesday, the global lender said that inflation in Pakistan will fall from 29.2% in 2023 to 23.6% in 2024.

The report also projected the unemployment rate in Pakistan to fall from 8.5% to 8% in the upcoming year. However, the current account deficit will rise from 0.7% to 1.8% in 2024.

Meanwhile, the IMF painted a bleak picture of the global economy but said that it was slowly recovering.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday announced that it kept its GDP growth forecast for the global economy constant at 3% for 2023, but lowered its expectation for 2024 by 0.1 percentage points to 2.9%.

The institute's growth expectation for the advanced countries were unchanged at 1.5% and 1.4% for 2023 and 2024, respectively, the IMF said in a report.

Emerging markets' GDP growth is



expected to be at 4% for both 2023 and 2024, while the fund's previous forecast, in July, was at 4.1% for 2024.

The euro area is expected to grow 0.7% in 2023, down 0.2 percentage points, and 1.2% in 2024, down 0.3 points.

Among major eurozone economies, Germany is expected to narrow 0.5% this year and grow 0.9% next year, while both expectations dropped.

The IMF's forecasts for the US economy were 2.1% this year and 1.5% next year, both showed a rise from the previous report.

The Chinese economy is expected to grow 5% this year and 4.2% in 2024, while these figures were at 2.2% and 1.1% for Russia, respectively.

The IMF also lowered its forecast for world trade growth volume from 2% to 0.9% for this year and from 3.7% to 3.5% for the next year.

Two terrorists sent to hell in two separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On night 9/10 October 2023, two terrorists were sent to hell by the security forces in two separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Kulachi, Dera Ismail Khan District where after intense exchange of fire, terrorist Ikram was sent to hell. He remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces including the recent terrorist attacks on Police Station Hathala & Rori Police Check Post.

In another encounter with terrorists in general area Miran Shah,



North Waziristan District, own troops effectively engaged the terrorist location as a result of which one more terrorist was sent to hell.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists.

Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

FM Jilani arrives Azerbaijan to attend COM-ECO

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani on Tuesday arrived in Shusha, Azerbaijan to attend the 27th Meeting of Council of Ministers (COM) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Foreign Minister Jilani will address the Council of Ministers (COM) and hold bilateral meetings with participating ministers of member states and other dignitaries on the sidelines of the event, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in an earlier press statement.

At the 27th COM, the member states will discuss the promotion of sustainable economic development of the ECO region through trade and

economic cooperation and mutual assistance in social, cultural, technical and scientific fields. The Theme of this year's event is "Green Transition and Interconnectivity".

As the policy-making forum of the ECO, the Council of Ministers approves the decisions and annual work plan of the Organization, it was added.

As a founding member, Pakistan remains strongly committed to ECO's aims and objectives and has remained at the forefront of all major ECO initiatives/agreements such as the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (ECOTTFA), the spokesperson said.

Caretaker Govt to ensure free, transparent elections: Solangi



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said the caretaker government would ensure free, transparent and impartial elections in a peaceful and conducive environment.

In a meeting with former Member of Provincial Assembly, former spokesperson of Balochistan Government and senior politician Farah Azim Shah, he said development and welfare of Balochistan was a priority of the caretaker government. The caretaker Information Minister said there would be no comprehensive progress of the country without the development of Balochistan province. They discussed the overall political situation of country, especially Balochistan including the elections.

Balochistan Information dept to organize National Conferences on Interfaith Harmony

PPA

QUETTA: The Balochistan Information Department has planned to organize a series of multiple National Conferences on Interfaith Harmony and peace-building across the country.

The Balochistan Information Minister Jan Achakzai on Tuesday announced that the first Conference would be held in Islamabad on November 23, with subsequent Conferences to be held in other major cities across the country.

The Conferences will be organized in collaboration with the Balochistan Rural Support Programme and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund and will bring together religious leaders, scholars, activists, and community members from all faiths to discuss and promote interfaith dialogue, understanding, and cooperation.

Achakzai said that the Conferences would be held to "foster the narrative of Interfaith Harmony, National Integration, and inclusive platforms by promoting peace, brotherhood, and coexistence in Pakistan."

Privatization process being advanced protecting public interests: Fawad Hasan Fawad

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad on Tuesday said the government was taking forward the privatization process in a transparent manner while ensuring the protection of public interest.

Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi, he highlighted the importance of privatizing loss-making State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) to enable them to compete effectively in the evolving global economy.

Fawad Hasan Fawad specifically noted that the privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) aimed at bolstering the country's aviation industry, positioning Pakistan as a potential regional aviation hub.

Regarding the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM), the minister indicated that the

government planned to present the matter to the federal cabinet, which will then make a decision in due course. He assured that a robust regulatory control regime would be in place to safeguard public interests throughout the process. Fawad Hasan Fawad expressed regret over the past governments' failure to adequately address the country's economic challenges.

He reminded that privatization efforts commenced in 1994, with some cases still pending in the courts. However, he reaffirmed the caretaker government's commitment to fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to it by the elected governments, emphasizing their adherence to the given mandate. The minister disclosed that in 2020, SOEs contributed to a 7 percent deficit in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

15 major SOEs were incurring losses amounting to Rs2 trillion, he added. Fawad Hasan Fawad also highlighted that the government allocated Rs2.542

trillion to support loss-making SOEs between 2018 and 2022.

He underscored that these funds could have been allocated to advance national development projects such as the Bhasha Dam. By the end of June 2023, the accumulated losses of PIA were recorded at Rs713 billion and out of which Rs263 billion comprised of debt, besides an additional amount of Rs13 billion was provided by the banks on government guarantee, he said adding the government also provided Rs150 billion from its own resources. The minister said other objective of the privatization of PIA was to regain the maximum value and avoid unbearable losses to national exchequer, which stood at Rs12.70 billion per month.

He said the Privatization Commission had suggested appointing a single-transaction adviser, for which approval would be taken from the federal cabinet on the basis of the report prepared in 2017.

Fawad Hassan Fawad said efforts were being made to resume PIA flight operations for Europe as soon as possible, adding that a team of experts was expected to visit Pakistan in December or January for reviewing the flight safety and security standards. He said Pakistani pilots were highly skilled and capable of landing and taking off in difficult areas; similarly "our engineers and supporting staff are also of international standards". Currently, he said the PIA fleet was consisted of 34 aircraft, out of which 15 were grounded including six leased-one and their accumulated losses were recorded at \$2 million. Regarding the privatization of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM), the minister said that the loss of PSM stood at Rs230 billion and it was operating with outdated technology. He said the transaction structure of the PSM was approved in December 2020, however, its privatization process was halted due to receiving interest from a

Resolution of Palestine, Kashmir issues vital for world peace: Mushaal Mullick

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Advisor to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick has said that the resolution of Palestine and Kashmir issues is vital for durable peace in the world.

Talking to the media men outside the Poet of the East Allama Iqbal's Mausoleum here on Monday, she said Palestinians and the Kashmiri people faced genocide at the hands of Israeli and Indian forces, adding that recent Israeli Gaza attack is violation of the Geneva convention.

To a query, Mushaal Mullick said the recent war on Israel is a natural outcome of the atrocities and human rights violations committed by the Israeli army against hapless Palestinian people.

"Israel deemed its security invincible, but the unarmed Palestinians breached the security wall and made forced Israel to its knees," she added.

Responding to a query, Mushaal regretted the fact that Indian Prime



Minister Narendra Modi was inciting Israel against Palestinian people, and it may pave the way to World War III, adding that a peaceful solution of Kashmir and Palestine issues is vital for world peace.

Mushaal, to a query, said Modi government is usurping people's rights like the East India Company in India, adding the Indian government is adopt-

ing the cruelest tools to suppress voices for self-determination in India.

The Advisor on Human Rights said Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik was incarcerated in a Death Cell in Tihar jail for year, expressing the fear that Indian government might hang the Kashmiri leader in jail.

To a question, Mushaal said Iqbal's message of Khudi and Shaheen is still

relevant in today's world, adding that she felt a spiritual bond with poet of the East Allama Iqbal. She said the realization of Iqbal concept of Shaheen and Khudi may be seen in the youth of Palestine and Kashmir who have been fighting fearlessly in Israel and Kashmir.

In her message to youth, she said freedom is a great blessing, adding that the day is not far away when the Kashmiri and Palestinian people will win freedom.

Stressing the need to save the world from war and human rights violations, Mushaal Hussein Mullick said it is need of the hour to promote inter-faith harmony in societies across the globe, but mosques are being locked away and desecration of the holy Quran are being committed shamelessly in India of today.

"All disputes must be resolved in the light of United Nations (UN) resolutions," she responded.

Earlier, The Advisor on Human Rights Mushaal Hussein Mullick laid a floral wreath at Iqbal's mausoleum and offered Pateha.

Pakistan should immediately call a meeting of the OIC: Maulana Fazlur Rehman



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Pakistan chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that Pakistan should not be vague on the issue of Palestine and an urgent meeting of the OIC should be called on this issue. Coercion and imposition are not the solution to any problem. Maulana Fazlur Rahman says that the attitude towards Afghans is contrary to our tradition. The Taliban has taken over the new government. On the issue of election, he says that the PPP had agreed on the election under the new census. It is the same for every party. There must be an environment

The election will be held, hold the election tomorrow, we are ready. Maulana Fazlur Rehman further said that Chairman PTI is the spoon of America. I don't speak much against Imran Khan these days.

Maulana Fazlur Rahman has said that Israel has been occupying Palestine for 70 years, despite all the atrocities, the Muslim Ummah, which has advanced towards Gaza for the first time, should stand behind Palestine. Modi has clearly stood with Israel.

ICMA launches Qarwali Night to support students with their hidden talents

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: ICMA Joint Director Samina Khan Kayani has said that we want more and more students to come on stage and express their hidden talents.

ICMA has introduced a vision that is a milestone in accountancy education in Pakistan. It has always been our tradition to provide education to our students as per the modern requirements of time along with quality facilities, which is a well-known practice in the cultivation of the new generation through digital apps. She expressed these thoughts in Qarwali night yesterday

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Students affair Shehbaz Ahmed said that ICMA provides facilities of all recreational programs to its students so that they can excel in extra-curricular activities along with education. Officer Chaudhry Abdul Qadir Muhammad Umar and others also spoke. A large number of students and teachers participated in the Qarwali Night.

Kaira House-Dream City dispute issue resolved in Sadiq Khan's absence



Correspondent

LALA MUSA (KAIRA HOUSE): Dream City dispute issue resolved in Kaira House Members of Aftab Ashraf Gondal's Exemplary Committee Syed Ziaullah Shah Advocate Malik Muhammad Shabir Awan Khan Muhammad Aslam Kaleem Geelani came to Kaira House along with Chaudhry Nadeem Asghar Kaira. And on this occasion of apologizing for the character of the Kaira family, all kinds of grudges will end. Speaking on this occasion, Chaudhry Nadeem Asghar Kaira said that I am very grateful to the committee and this committee has decided according to my mood. It is acceptable for me to decide against my mood. People's money will be very important, but I am not satisfied with my role. I have not seen money today, nor tomorrow. The attack was not acceptable to me, it was intolerable, but still I said the same thing. I was very related to my brother why my sister Baji Parveen voted for me in a difficult time but who will point a finger at my character I think my Lord has corrected it and exposed me to the whole world to correct it. I thank all my friends, committee members have an important role. I forgive them from the bottom of my heart for what my friends said. On this occasion, Tariq Aslam Bhatti Advocate said that I think it has been used by someone. I am most grateful to the committee. Today, no one is ready to interfere in anyone's affairs. Thanks to him. I thank the committee who played an important role in all these matters and Aftab Ashraf Gondal visited the house of Chaudhry Nadeem Asghar Kaira. Resolved and I thank Chaudhry Asghar Kaira who showed magnanimity speaking on this occasion Syed Ziaullah Shah Advocate said that I and the entire committee are heartily happy that this matter has been resolved amicably. And I apologize to Chaudhry Nadeem Asghar Kaira on behalf of the entire Kharian city, why his character was killed by the people of Kharian, which is condemnable. Ahmad Qureshi Aamir Mushtaq Shani Kamran Ali Butt and Usman Aziz Qadri B were present.

Special Measures are Being Taken to increase the Revenue: Chaudhry Danish

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the direction of Managing Director Wasa Chaudhry Muhammad Danish, special measures are being taken to increase the revenue. Monitoring is being carried out on the basis of the performance review also by all the circle in-charges on October 10 field survey report and detailed performance review of recovery from defaulters and yesterday 15 circle in-charges made 39 new commercial connections. Submitted the performance report of issuing bills to 38 domestic customers and issuing commercial bills to them and issuing bills to 345 new domestic customers.

And yesterday, 15 circle in-charges recovered 15 lakh 94 thousand rupees by identifying the illegal connections during the survey to the circle officers,



including them in the billing network and issuing bills according to the new tariff on category change to maximize revenue. Meanwhile, Deputy Managing Director Engineering and Chairman Recovery Committee Jawad Kaleemullah said that check the bills of commercial and domestic

users, if the tariff, category, area are not correct, the survey is presented on a daily basis. Such connections should be marked in the report

And the recovery should be increased by sending this data to the billing section on a daily basis. He issued these orders yesterday during

the meeting held to review the performance of the recovery department. Director Recovery Mansoor Ahmed, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors Recovery, All circle in-charges were also present in the meeting. DMD WASA issued instructions to the recovery department to work hard.

PAAPAM to hold 18th Edition of Pakistan Auto Show from Oct 27-29

News Desk

LAHORE: The forthcoming Pakistan Auto Show, scheduled to take place from Oct 27-29 is set to feature the debut of several prominent and distinguished exhibitors such as Honda, SITTECH, Crown Group, HACPL, and Ayesha Steel, which have already confirmed the participation in the event being held in the Pakistan's largest industrial hub of Karachi.

Furthermore, the governmental and trade entities of considerable stature, including the Engineering Development Board, Ministry of Commerce, SMEDA, PASPIDA, GDA, TMA, PAK Wheel, Trade Key, GDA, Auto Mark, Industrial Magazine, and Time's Trade

Directory, have pledged their proactive support and engagement in this significant endeavor.

This year's exhibition places a strong emphasis on the promotion of indigenization and fostering synergistic collaborations across diverse industries.

The organizer of the 18th Edition of the Pakistan Auto Show Zain Shariq observed that the automotive sector holds a pivotal role in Pakistan's economic landscape, with major players such as Toyota, United Motors, and Ghandhara Nissan playing instrumental roles in developing the domestic automobile manufacturing industry.

It's worth noting that Pakistan witnessed a remarkable surge of 171%

in automobile production between 2014 and 2018, contributing approximately 3% to the nation's GDP and providing gainful employment to over 4 million individuals as of 2018.

Additionally, the emergence of electric vehicles has ushered in a new era, with Jolta Electric leading the charge in the production of electric motorcycles and NLC forging strategic partnerships with Mercedes-Benz for local manufacturing of Mercedes trucks.

Nevertheless, despite substantial progress in achieving localization targets for various vehicle categories, Pakistan grapples with the challenges posed by economies of scale and relatively low motorization rates. Ensuring the

affordability of automobiles for the general populace necessitates a concerted effort toward maximizing production capacity and fostering technology transfer, similar to the successful model adopted by India.

The PAAPAM spokesperson and Secretary General Ghulam Murtaza said the Pakistan Auto Show has evolved into a premier brand of substantial significance, attracting national and international automotive brands, engineering professionals, trade delegations, and high-ranking government officials. It serves as a testament to Pakistan's automotive industry's growth potential and attractiveness, poised for further expansion and development.

Mental health care experts launch awareness ceremony



Qayyoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, an awareness ceremony was organized by doctors specializing in psychiatric diseases at the Quaid-e-Azam Medical Complex in Hyderabad. Retired Chief Psychiatrist Dr. Hameed Memon, Prof. Dr. Khalid Hussain, Prof. Abdul Rahim Nonari and Prof. Abdul Samad Memon participated in this event and

Informed about mental illness. On this occasion, Chief Psychiatrist Retired Dr. Hameed Memon said that there is a need to understand psychiatric patients, these patients can be treated with drugs as well as through behavior.

Walk organized by VC Gomal varsity on World Mental Health Day

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: A walk was organized from the main gate of Gomal University Quaid-e-Azam Campus to the Department of Psychology on the occasion of World Mental Health Day under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Gomal University Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah.

In which deans of all departments of Gomal University, heads of all departments of Quaid-e-Azam Campus, teachers, students participated. The walk was organized under the supervision of Maryam Siddiqi, Chairperson, Department of Psychology.

Addressing the awareness walk, Vice Chancellor Gomal University Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah said, that there is a dire need to celebrate mental health globally, to inform and educate people about it, just as physical health needs to be taken care of, it is also very important



to heal the mind.

Because when you are mentally healthy, you can avoid many physical diseases.

Chairperson Psychology Department Maryam Siddique had more to say, that a special walk was organized on the occasion of World Mental Health Day on the special instructions of Vice

Chancellor Gomal University Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah, and to provide awareness about mental health on the occasion of this World Day.

He said that a counseling cell will be opened in Gomal University on the direction of the VC, so that the people of Dera and suburbs can benefit from it. Maryam Siddique had more to say, I

am grateful to all the faculty members and students for the successful initiative of this awareness walk, whose hard work and efforts made this walk a success today. At the end of the walk, Gomal University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah also visited the awareness camp set up for World Mental Health Day.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:46 am
Zohr 11:55 am
Asr 4:01 pm
Maghrib 5:41 pm
Isha 7:04 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
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316

Support Palestine as it fights Israel



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Support the Muslim Ummah of Palestine. The Israeli policy of the West is hostile to Muslims. Israel's siege of Gaza is the height of cruelty. Depriving the Palestinians of food, electricity and gas due to the Jewish siege is a violation of the international laws of war. Ban on war crimes. The silence of the international community is tantamount to supporting the power game. The government of Pakistan should clarify its position by announcing Palestinian aid. Chairman Azad Awam Tehreek Javed Intizar, while reacting to the Israel-Palestine war, said that the Hamas-Israeli war is not in the interest of the world. The alliance of the Zionist state, America and the European Union is against the Muslim Ummah. Let's go. Hamas's attack on Israel is a precursor to the reaction against oppression. Pakistan should reiterate its determination to stand with the truth.

Pakistan's prosperity lies in implementing skills education: Madad Ali Sindhi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Madad Ali Sindhi attended the 'Laptop Distribution Ceremony' as the chief guest, organized by National Skills University today on 10th October 2023.

Madad Ali Sindhi said that skills development and technical education can play a critical role in the economic prosperity of the country. He said that institutions like the National Skills University need to be developed in every district of the country. He said that NSU's curriculum and teaching-learning practices must be replicated nationwide due to its unique nature.

Education Minister said that Pakistan's future lies in enhancing youth employability by improving soft and hard skills required at workplaces. Further elaborating on skills, the Minister stressed the need to enhance opportunities for youth to learn skills in all provinces of Pakistan. He said that there is a dire need to develop

more such institutions in all provinces of the country.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, in his briefing/welcome message, outlined the successes of the university over the past four years. The university has been transformed from a deserted place to the most progressive skills learning center, got recognition from the UNESCO/UNEVOC, participated in the UNEVOC Network Coaction Initiative 2022, and is continuing this honor for 2023.

The Federal Minister interacted with students receiving laptops in their meritorious accomplishments. He advised students to pay attention to their studies and learn employable skills. Students and faculty praised the Federal Minister's vision related to enhancing the employability of Pakistani youth across the country.

Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi also took a tour of laboratories/workshops and advised



Faculty members to pay full attention to training Pakistani youth. He also praised the contribution of the National Skills University Islamabad Advisory Council

toward their support of curriculum development and its alignment with workplace-ready learning. According to the Federal Minister, continued community

and employer support for empowering Pakistani youth with employable skills is the ultimate solution for a prosperous Pakistan.

Watering

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) are busy in gardening of the newly install plant saplings on green belt along the Margalla Avenue in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

AIOU Core committee holds meeting for Golden Jubilee celebrations



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood presided over the meeting of core committee regarding Golden Jubilee Celebrations of AIOU at the main campus yesterday. It was decided in the meeting that the university will hold convocations in main campus in Islamabad, four provincial capitals including Muzaffarabad and Skardu from January to May 2024.

Moreover, 12 international conferences, seminars/symposiums, home alumni coming, book exhibitions, research and literary conferences and cultural events will also be organized. The meeting unanimously approved the official logo for the Golden Jubilee and the logo will be launched next week and then it will be used for official correspondence. Dr. Nasir directed controller examinations to provide students data and Director ICT to create and upload the student registration form for convocation on the university website as soon as possible.

The committee also approved publishing the convocation advertisement in the first week of November. Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir said that MPhil and PhD graduates of the Urdu Department have written around 10,000 books, which will be displayed in 2 exhibitions. The Vice-Chancellor said that graduates from Faculty of Sciences, Arabic and Islamic Studies and the Faculty of Education will also be given the opportunity to display their books in book exhibitions. Alumnis will be invited in "Alumni Home" and video clips of the graduates will also be recorded.

Secretary BISP hosts live E-Katcheri to address beneficiary concerns

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Secretary of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Mr. Amer Ali Ahmad, conducted a Live E-Katcheri session today at the BISP Headquarters in Islamabad. This online interactive session, hosted on BISP's official Facebook page, served as a follow-up to a meeting held last week, dedicated to address the unresolved complaints related to the tranche disbursement under the Benazir Kafalat Programme.

During the Live E-Katcheri, Secretary BISP actively engaged with BISP beneficiaries and the general public, listening to their live calls and inquiries. He took the opportunity to directly communicate with the beneficiaries and understand the challenges they encounter during the registration process.

The issues brought up during the session primarily revolved around eligibility status and non-provision of financial assistance. In response, Secretary BISP promptly issued directives to the concerned officers to establish direct contact with the affected beneficiaries and resolve their concerns within a day.

A total of 897 complaints have been resolved so far, leading to the recovery of more than Rs. 1.4 million. In a swift response to these matters, BISP management has taken immediate action against the agents responsible for deductions.

To date, 12 First Information Reports (FIRs) of Environment have been registered, and eight agents have been arrested.

International Seminar on Forest Health and Environment

News Desk

ABBOTTABAD: "International Seminar on Forest Health and Environment" was organized by Department of Environmental Sciences COMSATS University Islamabad, Abbottabad Campus on October 9, 2023.

Department of Environmental Sciences often organizes such events to spread the awareness among community, students and academia.

Several distinguished speakers from various departments were invited to talk on various aspects related to forests and environment.

The seminar was moderated by Dr. Akhtar Iqbal and attended by faculty and students of CUI, Abbottabad campus.

After recitation of Holy Quran, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Irshad, Chairman Department of Environmental Sciences (CUI, ATD), welcomed the audience and briefly discussed the importance of forests in environment.



Then Prof. Dr. Mohammad Maroof Shah, Director COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI, ATD), delivered a talk on "Challenges faced by forests in Pakistan".

Talking on this very important issue, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Maroof Shah enlightened the audience from various domains of life about the status of forests in Pakistan and their importance in our life.

He also briefly discussed the types of forests in Pakistan.

The focus of his talk was to draw the attention of audience and other speakers

towards deforestation due to timber logging, industrial and commercial activities (such as mining and real estate development), encroachment and agricultural expansion.

Mr. Sajid Hussain, WWF Nathiyagali, briefed the audience over forest fires and wildlife.

He presented various projects run by WWF like: Forest Fire Detection-Early Warning System installed in Mansehra, Installation of Collar with leopard and creation of a small dam in forest area.

Then Dr. Alidehou Jerr-

old Agbankpe, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin, talked about Forests in Africa with particular perspective of Benin.

Mr. Syed Zahid Kazmi, Director Galiyat Development Authority (GDA), talked about role of Galiyat forests in ecotourism.

The last speech was delivered by Mr. Syed Rizwan Shah Kazmi, DFO forest department, who enlightened the audience with performance of forest department.

He also insisted on establishing a collaboration between academia and various departments of the Government.

Furthermore, he shared some ideas with the students for further research in the domain.

The seminar was concluded with an award ceremony to honour the resource personnels and organizers with souvenirs distribution by director of the campus accompanied by Prof. Dr. Faridullah, HoD dept. of Environmental Sciences and guests.

Pakistan's future lies in just energy transition to renewables

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Speakers at a consultative meeting held here by the SDPI on Tuesday underscored the need for timely transitioning of the country's energy mix over clean and green renewable power solutions of solar and hydropower for a sustainable future amid a strategic position to be maintained at the global forums negotiating on clean energy shift.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized a consultation session with Senators and leadership of different political parties to mull over the country's challenges and opportunities to shift over clean energy for a sustainable future in the prevailing testing times of economic turmoil.

The discussion was participat-

ed by Senators Musadik Malik, Engineer Rukhsana Zuberi, Farah Naz, Seemi Ezdi, whereas former MNA Shahida Akhtar Ali and former SAPM Malik Amin Aslam were also present.

Senator Musadik Masood Malik of PML-N said the country's local energy resources, gas, production is declining and its precious foreign exchange is burdened with the heavy import bills of oil and gas. In the middle of these economically unsuitable conditions, there is an elite capture in the energy sector that consumes one-third of the total gas produced for manufacturing of fertilizer whereas the decision was made to provide subsidized fertilizer to the farmers.

Senator, Engineer Rukhsana Zuberi from PPP said there should be a legal restriction on attorney general to not appear in

the cases of such public or private entities usurping public rights through tainted use of power agreements.

Former SAPM, Malik Amin Aslam said the country has submitted an important document of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was designed after looking deep into solutions for renewable energy solutions available for the country's energy mix shift.

Deputy Executive Director SDPI, Dr Shafiqat Munir in his opening remarks briefed the participants that climate crisis was racing at an unprecedented pace whereas the natural disasters due to carbon emissions demand the world to phase out fossil fuels from human



consumption cycle and replace it with ecofriendly solutions of renewables.

Research Fellow, SDPI, Dr Khalid Waleed in his presentation noted that the country had borne serious impacts of global crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia conflict that casted bleak impacts on its energy sector.

Dr Waleed noted that the multifaceted chaos prevailing in the country should be used as a ladder to develop integrated policy solutions for energy sector.

Ubaid Chaudhary from Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) said suggested that the devolution of power generation, transmission infrastructure and distribution mechanisms is

need of the hour to make the power sector more reliable and efficient.

Former MNA, JUI-F, Shahida Akhtar Ali appreciated the suggestions by CPDI at the district level and termed it convincing and promising to yield results.

She assured that she would take up those recommendations

to be incorporated in her party's manifesto.

Senator Seemi Ezdi from PTI said the dialogue was a much needed initiative and it was commendable that the Institute would continue it.

Senator Falak Naz of PTI said her region of Chitral was worst impacted due to climate change as an entire city in the region was washed away by floods due to glacial melt.

CEO, Policy Research Institute for Equitable Development (PRIED), Badar Alam in his concluding remarks said that there are 30 solar and wind projects lying unimplemented since 2012 despite the fact that their letter interests were signed by the then governments.

The political parties should join their voices and forces on such issues to hold the quarters

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How Hamas Stunted Israel? - II

In the early days of October 2023, an unprecedented escalation of conflict between Hamas and Israel occurred, marked by a large-scale invasion and offensive.

The Hamas' "Operation Al-Aqsa Storm," can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, it highlights Hamas' perception of Israeli actions as desecration of the holy Islamic site, the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Additionally, the increasing trend of Arab states normalizing relations with Israel, as exemplified by the 2020 Abraham Accords involving the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco. This trend is a cause for concern among Palestinians, as it reduces pressure on Israel to reach a settlement with them and signals a prioritization of peace with Arab states over peace with the Palestinians.

Hamas, while not recognizing Israel, has indicated it would observe a truce if Israel withdrew to its 1967 borders, but skepticism remains about Israel's willingness to do so, especially if Saudi Arabia were to conclude its own deal with Israel. Furthermore, the timing of the attack is significant as it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur or Ramadan War in 1973, potentially symbolizing the aspiration of surprising Israel, as Egypt and Syria did back then.

The trajectory of the conflict remains uncertain. There are concerns about Hezbollah's involvement in Lebanon, depending on Iran's stance, and

the potential for Palestinian militants in the West Bank to launch their own attacks, creating a third front against Israel. Moreover, there is the possibility of attacks on Jewish Israelis by Arab Israelis living in Israel, leading to a fourth front.

The Israeli response to this unprecedented attack on Israeli Soil is surely going to be robust, devastating and exemplary. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Israelis to brace themselves for a long and difficult war on Sunday (8th October). It responded with huge strikes on cities in the blockaded Gaza Strip, destroying dozens of buildings. The Israeli military said it had called up an unprecedented 300,000 reservists and was imposing a total blockade of the Gaza Strip, signs it could be planning a ground assault there to defeat Hamas after it launched a humiliating attack. In a further signal of Israel's rapid shift on to a war footing, a cabinet member from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party said it could set up a national unity government joined by opposition leaders within hours.

The recent assault has led to a significant and devastating impact on both sides, with no clear resolution in sight. President Joe Biden has pledged support for Israel, indicating that Israel is like-

ly to face these challenges with strong backing. However, Israeli actions in Gaza may be constrained by the fact that some Israeli citizens have been kidnapped by Hamas militants and taken to Gaza.

The conflict has the potential to impact global markets and economies in several ways. One significant concern is the potential for disruptions in oil prices and supply chains, which can have far-reaching consequences. The Middle East is a critical region for oil production, and any instability in the area can lead to increased oil prices, affecting not only energy costs but also the global economy.

Moreover, the conflict's disruption of supply chains and movement of essential commodities can exacerbate global supply shortages and inflationary pressures. As transportation routes are affected and infrastructure damaged, the flow of goods can be impeded, leading to delays and increased costs for essential products. This, in turn, can lead to rising commodity prices, making basic necessities more expensive for consumers around the world.

Weak economies, like Pakistan and others in the region, may face additional challenges as they grapple with the impact of higher oil prices and disruptions in the supply chain. These coun-

tries may experience increased costs for imports, which can strain their already fragile economic situations and potentially lead to balance of payments issues and inflation.

This conflict once started is not going to go down any time soon. For Israel, going full scale against Hamas will be an uphill task as indiscriminate Israeli bombing would put the lives of the Palestinian mostly civilians at greater risk creating worldwide reaction against civilian killings. Balancing a robust response with concerns about international opinion remains a challenge for Israel, though Western governments have largely expressed support for Israel in the current conflict. Ultimately, this situation underscores the need for Israel to develop a comprehensive policy to manage the possible opening of war fronts with Hamas, AlFatah, Hezbollah and its own citizens of Arab origin.

While Hamas justifies its attacks by citing the 16-year blockade of Gaza and Israeli crackdowns in the West Bank, Israel and Western countries have condemned the mass killing of civilians. The situation has jeopardized efforts to normalize relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, which could have had implications for Palestinian aspirations and Iran's influence in the region. As the conflict continues, there are growing questions about Israel's intelligence failures and the fate of Israeli hostages, further complicating the path to a resolution.



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awcat)

Here we go again: Deceit, Deception & Disinformation

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

On October 9, 2023, Nitish Birdi, Indian delegate to the United Nations claimed at the UN Fourth Committee 'the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will always remain an integral part of India.' Earlier on October 4, 2023, Dr. Kajal Bhat alleged at the Sixth Committee 'Kashmir was an integral part of India.' Dr. S. Jaishankar went one step ahead of both by saying, 'Jammu-Kashmir Was, Is And Will Always Be India's Integral Part.' Amit Shah, the India's Home Minister also joined the bandwagon when he said, "Jammu and Kashmir will truly be integral part of India." Rajnath Singh, India's Defense Ministry could not remain aloof from his compatriots, so he professed, "J&K will always be an integral part of India." All these statements are nothing but claptrap. These Indian distinguished diplomats and politicians have mastered the art of deception by creating the illusion of truth. They have well understood what Joseph Goebbels meant when he said, "Repeat a lie often enough and people will believe it."

It is fair to say that India will get nowhere by explaining away Kashmir as an integral part of India. India is promoting this narrative because she trembles at any attempt to resolve the Kashmir crisis because she is frightened by its outcome. When a former Defense Minister, Krishna Menon, was questioned as to why India would never hold a free self-determination election in Kashmir, he confessed that all of India's political leaders knew it would lose. The question answers itself.

Why else must India deploy an arresting 900,000 military and paramilitary forces, making Kashmir as mentioned by Arundhati Roy, one of India's best-known authors, "the most militarized zone on earth." India surmised that she needs 6,000 to 12,000 troops to hold a free and fair plebiscite (referendum / election) in Kashmir during the negotiations at the Security Council in early 10950's.

Anyhow, these erroneous and misguided statements need to be explained from the Kashmiri perspective.

First, India knows it well that she stands in flagrant violation of UN Security Council resolutions mandating a self-determination plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir to be conducted and monitored by the UN.

Second, Kashmir is not and cannot be regarded as an integral part of India because under all international agreements, which were agreed by both India and Pakistan, negotiated by the United Nations, and endorsed by the Security Council, Kashmir does not belong to any member state of the United Nations. If that is true, then the claim that Kashmir is an integral part of India does not stand.

Third, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights said on July 8, 2019, that both India and Pakistan should give the people of Kashmir right to self-determination. She added that the people of Kashmir should be included in all talks between India and Pakistan. Why to give Kashmiris right to self-determination, if it is an internal matter of India?

Fourth, Mr. Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General said on August 10, 2019 that Kashmir issue has to be resolved under UN Charter and under applicable UN Security Council resolutions. Why?

Fifth, Ms. Helen Clark, the Prime Minister of New Zealand told the Parliament on October 15, 2004, that, "It is perfectly obvious to the whole world that Kashmir is a flashpoint for tensions between the two countries. Most countries do not regard it as simply an internal affair."

Sixth, the distinguished Indian delegates at the United Nations need to read a write-up by another distinguished diplomat of India, Barrister Mino Masani, former Indian Ambassador to Brazil. His account was published in Dalit Voice, Bangalore, India on August 1, 1990. Ambassador Masani wrote, "A lady asked me other day, 'why Gorbachev would not agree to the Lithuanian demand for independence from the Soviet Union.' I countered with the question: 'Do you believe that Kashmir belongs to India?' 'Yes, of course' she said. 'That is why?' I said, 'There are too many Russians who wrongly believe that Lithuania belongs to the Soviet Union, just as you believe that Kashmir belongs to India.'

Seventh, Arundhati Roy, a prominent Indian intellectual confirmed it by saying 'It's (Kashmir) not ever been really a part of India, which is why it's ridiculous for the Indian government to keep saying it's an integral part of India.'

Eighth, Robert Bradnock of Chatham House (British Think-tank) released a survey on May 26, 2010, that 74% to 95% of the people of the 'Valley of Kashmir' want Aazadi (Independence).

Ninth, when Dr. Jaishankar met Mike Pompeo, American Secretary of State in Bangkok on August 2, 2019, he told him that, any discussion on Kashmir will only be with Pakistan and only bilaterally. (The Times of India, August 3, 2019).

We remember that Prime Minister Maranda Modi lead the G20 delegation to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi. Now is the time that Modi Ji need to also pay attention to the wise counsel of Gandhi 'Kashmir's real rulers were its people and not its Maharajas.' Modi Ji should consider himself as Maharaja.

Now is the time that world powers, including the United States should realize that today, no issue is of greater urgency and concern than the Kashmir issue where two nuclear powers, uninhibited by any treaty constraints, glare at each other over this territory. Kashmir and Pakistan alone is the issue that has kept India and Pakistan from normalizing their relations, and it is Kashmir alone that has led to three wars, excessive militarization and nuclearization; and it is Kashmir dispute alone that has brought both India and Pakistan to the brink of nuclear catastrophe. UN intervention is needed in Kashmir. If not now, when?

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai is the Chairman, World Forum for Peace & Justice. He can be reached at: WhatsApp: 1-202-607-6435. Or: gnfai2003@yahoo.com

The International Day of the girls (IDG)

Ansharah Farooq

The Beijing Declaration is the first to specifically call out girls' rights. On December 19, 2011 United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

The International Day of the Girl (IDG) - observed annually on 11 October - is a global platform to advocate for the full spectrum of girl's rights. At the time of this year, we are seeing a range of movements and actions to curtail girls and women rights and roll back progress on gender equality, we all see particularly harsh impacts on girls. From maternal health and parenting support for adolescent mothers, to digital and life skills training; from comprehensive sexuality education to survivor support services and violence prevention programs; there is an urgent need for increased attention and resourcing for the key areas that enables girls to realize their rights and achieve their full potential.

In almost every country, patriarchy and power dynamics afford boys comparative advantages compared to girls in most domains. These advantages occur over time. During adolescence, paths diverge considerably. Social and gender norms constrict adolescent girl's access to public spaces, socialize girl's to be docile and obedient (good girls), and reinforce perception that girl's appearances, potential and actual role in care work, is valued more than their studies in school, leadership in business or voice in policymaking.

The divergent path is fraught with multifaceted challenges and interconnected violations of girl's rights. As a result of these patriarchal dynamics playing out at every level from formal policymaking institutions to community norms, family behaviors and individual attitudes - we see stark ways in which girl's are left behind across multiple dimensions.

Nearly, 1 in 5 girls are still not completing lower-secondary and nearly 4 in 10 girls are not completing upper-secondary school today. In certain cases, the numbers are even more dismal. Around 90% of adolescent girls and young women do not use the internet in low-income countries, while their males' peers are twice as likely to be online.

Globally, girls aged 5-14 spend many hours every day in unpaid care and domestic work. This work intensifies in adolescence with serious implications for girls' well-being. Adolescent girls continue to account for 3 in 4 new HIV infections among adolescents. Meeting adolescent girls demands for family planning with modern methods has been slow, increasing from 55% to 60% since 2012. This means that 4 in 10 adolescent girls ages 15-19 who want to avoid pregnancy are not using a modern method and teenage pregnancy is a leading cause of mortality for adolescent girls. Nearly 1 in 4 married adolescent girls aged 15-19 have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner at least once in their lifetime.

Targeted and evidence-based investments in key areas that promote girl's leadership and well-being are needed to secure their rights and development - in every setting and context. It is imperative to increase funding in key areas, including girl's health, education, violence prevention and economic empowerment. Such investments represent a critical step to realize girl's rights under the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Moreover, the international community will not meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets without investing in adolescent girl's themselves, their families, communities and societies. Education and health are two basic need of every girl and its state responsibility to provide these needs. When a girl is educated then next generation is also educated.

Writer is Student of law in University of Sargodha

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The Nippon Foundation donates books to Gandhara University Peshawar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, in collaboration with The Nippon Foundation, has donated a collection of 55 books on Japan to Gandhara University Peshawar as part of the "Read Japan Project" aiming to promote further understanding of Japan and its culture through books.

H. E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiko, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, presented the books to Mrs. Roceeda Kabir, Chairperson of Gandhara University, at a ceremony held on Tuesday October 10. The 55 carefully selected books in English language cover a range of topics related to Japan such as politics, economy, security, philosophy, art and culture.

Ambassador congratulated the students and teachers for receiving this valuable gift from the Nippon Founda-



tion and expressed the hope that with these books, students will have more

fascinating information on Japan.

"I also hope that the students as well as the faculty members would continue to explore new ways of learning more about the Japanese culture. On our side, we would provide our cooperation to facilitate this endeavor especially at a time when we have celebrated 70 years of diplomatic relations last year and will celebrate the 70 years of Japanese ODA support for Pakistan next year. Young people are the future of the country. It is my desire that more and more future generations of Japan and Pakistan will get to know each other, and cooperate in order to make our countries better," said Ambassador Wada.

The Read Japan Project was initiated by The Nippon Foundation in 2008 to promote the understanding of Japan through the donation of Japan related books in English to universities and libraries around the world.

Pakistan welcomes OIC Special Envoy

Noorulhassan Gujjar

JEDDAH: The Government of Pakistan is hosting the OIC Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir Ambassador Yousef Aldobeay along with his three-member delegation for a visit to Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) from 11-14 October 2023.

The Permanent Representative of Pakistan to OIC, Ambassador Fawad Sher, briefed the Special Envoy today on the outline of the visit and also the alarmingly precarious situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The Special Envoy's visit to the AJK was mandated by the OIC Plan of Action (POA) on Jammu and Kashmir adopted by the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Islamabad in March 2022. The POA envisaged the OIC Special Envoy's visits to Jammu and Kashmir enabling him to take stock of the situation on the ground and report upon his observations to the CFM. The Special Envoy earlier visited Pakistan and AJK in March 2020 and November 2021. Comprehensive reports on these visits were presented before the 47th and 48th CFMs.

This year marks the fourth anniversary of the imposition of India's unlawful actions of 5th August 2019 which aimed at effectuating demographic changes, electoral gerrymandering, and dispossessing the Kashmiris of their distinct cultural and ethnic identity.

The OIC Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir has played an important leadership role in articulating the OIC's unequivocal position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and in highlighting Indian occupation forces' gross violations of human rights in the IIOJK. This year, the Special Envoy's visit carries greater significance in the wake of the upcoming OIC Islamic Summit in Gambia in December. The Special Envoy's observations from this visit would be reflected in his report submitted before the Summit.

The OIC Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir's visit is a testament to OIC's unwavering commitment to upholding the inalienable right of self-determination of the Kashmiris. It also bears witness to Pakistan's firm commitment to highlighting the plight and the relentless persecution of the Kashmiris at the hands of the Indian occupation forces at every forum.



Solidarity

MUZAFFERABAD: Women are shouting slogans during protest to show solidarity with Palestinian people in the Capital of AJK



Photo: Online

Al-Shifa begins corneal transplantation with cutting-edge technology



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital has authorized the use of Bowmann Layer Transplantation (BLT) for keratoconus patients after reviewing two years' postoperative outcomes.

The hospital has begun treating keratoconus patients using cutting-edge Swiss femtosecond laser technology, which is expected to benefit many people in Pakistan who have keratoconus and are awaiting corneal transplantation.

According to Major Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan, President of the Al Shifa Trust, the trust has become the first hospital in Asia to employ femtosecond laser technology in public for the treatment of Keratoconus, an eye condition that damages the cornea. He went on to say that BLT strengthens the weak cornea, avoiding or delaying the need for a full corneal transplantation.

He told reporters that the most recent technology was used experimentally for the first time in 2020 and is now being used in patient care as a result of successful testing.

He went on to say that the decision would not only allow our ophthalmologists to deliver cutting-edge care to their patients, but it would also allow us to train medical experts from other hospitals.

He added that with this latest technology, layers of one donor cornea can be used to treat two to three patients with different corneal problems. Presently, more than two hundred and fifty thousand patients are waiting for corneal transplants while we operate on 800 patients every year, he said, adding that a big deficit exists between corneal supply and demand.

Maj. Gen. Retired Rehmat Khan said that 53% of the eye patients have no access to donated corneas as local corneal donations are insignificant; therefore, we have to

Pakistan Ulema Council will celebrate Palestine Solidarity Day on Friday

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Tahir ul Hassan, Central Deputy General Secretary of Pakistan Ulema Council and Member of Provincial Ittehad-e-Bain-Muslimeen Committee, Punjab Government, said this in his special statement and added that the United Nations and all countries have taken strict notice of Israeli aggression and bombing and oppressed Israel. Stop and stop Israel's obstinacy and give Palestine the full right to statehood and return the occupied lands. Israel's atrocities are not hidden from anyone. World powers should know that peace in the world is a dream without solving the Kashmir and Palestine problem. India and Israel are bent on destroying the peace of the whole world, Allama Tahir ul Hassan added that now enough is enough, the Muslim Ummah should not be afraid and the OIC should respond to India and Israel and the resolutions of the United Nations. Accordingly, the problem should be resolved soon. Israel's attack on Gaza is a clear violation of the Geneva Convention. India and Israel are committing genocide against Kashmiris and Palestinians. On the appeal of Mahmood Ashrafi, Friday will be celebrated as Palestine Solidarity Day in the whole country and today the whole world stands with the oppressed Palestine. Take strict notice of Israel's aggression and support the struggle for the freedom of the Palestinians and provide full assistance to the Palestinians.

India urged to respect human rights of Kashmiri people in IOJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: In a compelling statement, Dr. Raja Zahid Khan, Member of the Advocacy Committee at the AJK State Commission on the Status of Women (Women's Commission Azad Jammu and Kashmir) and a prominent human rights advocate representing Amnesty International, emphasized the urgency for India to confront its human rights violations, notwithstanding its claims of economic stimulus.

The Member of the Advocacy Committee at the Women's Commission AJK also drew attention to the recent report by the UN Human Rights Commission, which meticulously documented the widespread state-sanctioned torture, abductions, and gender-based violence both before and after the abrogation of Article 37A and 370.

Dr. Raja Zahid Khan reminded the international community of the horrific crime of mass rape committed against the female residents of Kunan Poshpora, including innocent baby girls, stressing the imperative need to bring the perpetrators to justice. Furthermore, Dr. Zahid emphasized the pivotal role of the State Commission on the Status of Women, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, as the primary representative body dedicated to defending the rights and well-being of women and children on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC).

He highlighted the media embargo imposed by the Indian state, which has allowed those responsible for violence against women to evade accountability for their heinous actions.

The Women's Commission Azad Jammu and Kashmir remains steadfast in its commitment to advocating for justice, human rights, and gender equality, and calls upon India to address these pressing issues, promoting a more inclusive and just society for all.

International Conference on Medical Education 2023 kicked off in Baku

News Desk

BAKU: The Fairmont Hotel in Baku was busy with enthusiasm and anticipation as the International Conference on Medical Education (ICME) 2023 kicked off in grand style at the start of this week. ICME is a grand event organized by Riphah International University and Azerbaijan Medical University to bring together all the health professionals around the globe. The opening ceremony witnessed a gathering of around 450 guests, including high-ranking government officials and leaders in the field of medical education, who shared their insights and aspirations for this transformative event. Delegates from a diverse array of countries graced the opening ceremony and joined ICME 2023, including representatives from Azerbaijan, Brazil, Georgia, Hong Kong S. A. R., Iran, India, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and USA. This international participation underscores



the global significance of ICME and its role in shaping the future of medical education worldwide. Emin Amrullayev, the Minister of Education Azerbaijan, welcomed the attendees with a speech that highlighted the importance of international collaboration in advancing medical education. On this occasion, Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan, Chancellor of Riphah International University, emphasized the

significance of cross-border collaboration in fostering medical education excellence. The ICME 2023 will feature a diverse array of sessions, workshops, and discussions, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among participants from diverse backgrounds. With a rich tapestry of insights and expertise, the conference promises to shape the future of healthcare education and practice.

Daraz expands 'Proudly Pakistani' initiative

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Daraz, Pakistan's leading e-commerce platform, has announced the expansion of its "Proudly Pakistani" initiative through a strategic partnership with the Social Welfare Department of the Government of Punjab, under which Daraz has trained over 200 female entrepreneurs from Lahore and Faisalabad on digital marketing and online selling skills. This collaboration reflects Daraz's commitment to supporting local communities and promoting home-grown products on a national scale.

The "Proudly Pakistani" initiative, launched by Daraz earlier this year, is aimed at promoting locally-made products and empowering Pakistani entrepreneurs and artisans. This expansion, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, Government of Punjab, takes this commitment to its second phase, with a focus on social impact and

community development. Through this partnership, Daraz will work closely with the Social Welfare Department to identify and support local female artisans and small businesses across Punjab. These individuals and businesses will be given the opportunity to showcase and sell their products on the Daraz platform, thus gaining access to a wider customer base.

The partnership will also include initiatives to provide training and skill development opportunities to women in Punjab. By enhancing their skills, these individuals can secure better livelihoods and contribute to the local economy. Furthermore, Daraz and the Social Welfare Department will jointly monitor and measure the socioeconomic impact of these initiatives, focusing on income generation, and community development in the region.

Speaking about this partnership, Ehsan Saya, Managing Director, Daraz

Pakistan said, "We are excited to collaborate with the Social Welfare Department, Government of Punjab, to expand our 'Proudly Pakistani' initiative. This partnership aligns with Daraz's mission to empower local businesses and communities while celebrating the rich cultural diversity of Pakistan. We believe that by working together, we can make a meaningful impact on the lives of many."

The Government of Punjab also lauded this partnership, with Muddasir Riaz Malik, Director General Social Welfare & Bait-ul-Maal, Punjab stating, "We applaud Daraz's commitment to empowering the women of Punjab through the 'Proudly Pakistani' initiative. Such collaborations are essential to promote entrepreneurship, uplift communities, and drive economic growth in the region. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact of this partnership on the lives of our female entrepreneurs."



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
48,140.27	47,721.79
Day's High	Day's Low
48,166.36	47,708.11
Index Value	Change
8,071,259,147	+418.48
Percentage	Time
+0.88%	10 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,628.21	+136.00
Percentage	Time
+1.82%	10 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,796.36	+191.71
Percentage	Time
+0.57%	10 Oct, 1:49 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
31,746.53	+751.86
Percentage	Time
+2.43%	10 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	176.25	178
Bahrain Dinar	757.11	765.11
Canadian Dollar	208	210
China Yuan	39.1	39.5
Danish Krone	39.69	40.09
Euro	291.1	294
Hong Kong Dollar	36.35	36.7
Indian Rupee	3.46	3.57
Japanese Yen	1.4	1.47
Kuwaiti Dinar	920.53	929.53
Malaysian Ringgit	61.27	61.87
New Zealand \$	166.61	168.61
Norwegians Krone	26.92	27.22
Omani Riyal	739.41	747.41
Qatari Riyal	79.03	79.73
Saudi Riyal	73.5	74.2
Singapore Dollar	201	203
Swedish Korona	26.34	26.64
Swiss Franc	311.36	313.86
Thai Bhat	7.79	7.94
U.A.E Dirham	75.5	76.25
UK Pound Sterling	346.6	350
US Dollar	277.3	280

FFC wins Best ESG Reporting Award



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) was conferred with "Best ESG Reporting Award" at 20th Annual Excellence Awards Ceremony organized by the CFA Society Pakistan in Karachi. FFC was represented by Brig Irfan Khan, Company Secretary and Syed Imran Rizvi, Manager Corporate Affairs. The Company Secretary received the award on behalf of FFC. This award is an acknowledgement of best ESG practices, compliance to international ESG disclosure frameworks with our continued commitment to global ESG implementation mission.

PPL achieves production enhancement milestone

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has achieved significant production gain of 13 MMscfd gas and 90 bpd condensate from existing wells through a rigless production enhancement campaign. The company is vigorously pursuing production enhancement utilizing latest techniques and production optimizations efforts. These initiatives were successfully carried out on a number of wells in Sui Gas Field, Gambat South and Hala between June and September 2023. Against the backdrop of maturing producing assets, PPL remains committed to enhancing their production to secure energy for the future.

Engro Polymers offers support for flood-resilient housing solutions!

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Engro has extended its support for flood-resilient housing solutions, in partnership with Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) and Indus Valley School (IVS). In this regard, Engro recently shared findings from two projects at a briefing held at the IVS, Karachi.

Engro Polymer & Chemicals led the collaborative project with Indus Valley School to explore PVC as the material of choice in rehabilitation efforts. Through extensive research into flood-responsive housing and the socio-cultural aspects of rural Sindh, the IVS students shared a shelter design using regional materials and construction techniques, incorporating locally sourced bamboo, sun-dried brick, concrete blocks, and recyclable UPVC sheets.

These materials not only align with the region's climate but are also highly adaptable as they are designed to float, transform, submerge, or block in response to flood disasters, ensuring safety and security for their inhabitants. The partnership exemplifies how industry and academia can unite to address pressing real-world challenges using the wisdom of local materials and construction whilst making use of the next generation of architects and designers.

Similarly, Engro Foundation—the social investment arm of Engro Corporation—in partnership with the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) supported the construction of 146 climate-resilient residential units in two hard-hit villages of District Kambar Shahdadkot.



Elevated three feet above ground level, these units were constructed using readily available materials, and recyclable UPVC sheets. Thatched roofs were provided to regulate temperatures and make the rooms habitable during hot weather, and each unit consisted of one room, kitchen, bathroom, and a courtyard. What's exceptional about this initiative is the extensive community mobilization, with an immense focus on empowering local communities to own and carry out construction activities.

During the briefing for the media, Favad Soomro, Head of Engro Foundation said, "At Engro, we believe that operating businesses

sustainably at a globally competitive level need not be a zero-sum game. We are committed to serving underprivileged communities across Pakistan with strategic community investments in environment, quality education, health, and livelihoods."

"As a responsible company, we are actively pursuing three sustainability streams, including carbon offsetting, advanced recycling through circularity of plastics, and water conservation," said Muhammad Idrees, Chief Commercial Officer of Engro Polymer & Chemicals. "Our goal is to develop the local construction industry by promoting the use of modern PVC mate-

rials that are not only environmentally friendly but also designed to withstand the toughest conditions, including flash floods. We are proud to be at the forefront of the sustainable construction movement in Pakistan," he added.

Further explaining the benefits of PVC, Idrees shared that PVC is water and termite proof, fire retardant and a light-weight material, which offers high durability and requires negligible maintenance. It is aesthetically much more pleasing than iron and aluminum. PVC products have superior longevity and can withstand different climatic conditions.

These projects showcase the power of knowledge, innovation, and community engagement in creating sustainable solutions to the pressing challenges of our time. As climate-related disasters continue to escalate, such collaborations serve as a beacon of hope for vulnerable communities seeking safety, dignity, and a chance to rebuild their lives.

Engro Polymer & Chemicals is the first affiliate member from Pakistan to join the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), as part of its sustainability efforts to promote a circular economy and contribute to achieving zero plastic waste. At the group level, Engro is also a member of the UN Global Compact and is committed to making a meaningful impact by incorporating the UN's ten principles into its strategy, culture, and day-to-day operations.

Pakistan is one of the five most climate change-vulnerable countries in the world where global warming and climate change are causing increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, especially in regions like the Indus floodplains.

Mondelēz winner in medium scale organization in Pakistan award

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mondelēz Pakistan has been recognized as the "Best Place to Work-Winner in Medium Scale Organization" at the Best Place to Work (BPTW) in Pakistan Award Gala 2023. The brand known for its snacks and confectionery items has also been able to secure the position of Runner-up for the "Best Place to Work in the FMCG Industry" category.

The BPTW Award is a joint initiative of the Pakistan Society of Human Resource Management (PSHRM) and Engage Consulting. Among the 140 organizations nominated, 30 were honored for their outstanding dedication to creativity, well-being, growth, and CSR.

Syeda Khadija Khan, Head of HR, Mondelēz Pakistan shared, "We are deeply honored and feel immensely grateful for receiving this award. This acknowledgement is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our teams in uphold-



ing the highest standards of a positive and productive workplace. This recognition will go a long way in keeping us motivated to continue the path towards excellence at all

levels. We will ensure that the principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, continue to define our work environment for best growth and prosperity."

Any new type of wealth tax will be detrimental to economy

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Muhammad Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI, has apprised that the business, industry and trade community is worried over the news that some sort of renamed wealth tax is being considered to be imposed to fulfill the never-ending, anti-business conditionalities of international financial institutions (IFIs). We have time and again maintained that business, trade, commercial and economic

activities should be rewarded not discouraged, he added.

Mr. Suleman Chawla explained that wealth or asset-value-tax on movable assets or property cannot be levied on savings, investments, working capital, stock-in-trade, equity holdings and capital assets of businesses.

Otherwise, it would be counterproductive and result in contraction of documented or formal-sector due to excessive taxation as it will equate to disincentive to taxpayers, he added.

PTA hosts meeting with religious scholars to promote safe & responsible use of social media/internet

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) took a significant step toward fostering safe and responsible internet usage by organizing a meeting with prominent religious scholars at PTA Headquarters, Islamabad. The event, held today marked a collaborative effort between the PTA and religious leaders to address the challenges of social media and the internet while promoting a digital environment that aligns with cultural and religious values.

The meeting was attended by Islamic scholars from various schools of thought including Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology (CII); Moulana Abdul Khabeer Azad, Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and



Maulana Tariq Jameel among others. Senior PTA officers were also present at this occasion.

The event commenced with a welcome note from Director-General, Web Analysis Division (WAD) PTA, who provided an overview of PTA's initiatives.

Chairman PTA, Maj General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman addressed the audience and highlighted the pivotal role of religious scholars in guiding the masses toward ethical and

responsible internet usage. He emphasized the potential for even greater impact if the scholars lend their support to PTA through their own platforms.

An open-floor discussion and recommendation session provided a platform for active engagement and dialogue. Key highlights of the meeting included a strong emphasis to educate the youth about responsible social media and internet usage especially the critical role of parents

in educating their children. The Quran & teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) were highlighted as a guiding light in this endeavor.

Recognizing the gravity of online threats such as anti-state, blasphemous and hate speech online, it was emphasized that addressing them is the collective responsibility of the State, judiciary, PTA, PEMRA, FIA and the individuals.

The scholars expressed their appreciation for PTA's commitment and efforts in promoting safe and responsible internet usage and reassured their full cooperation and support to the regulator. This meeting marks the beginning of a series, towards collaborative efforts with respected Ulama to combat harmful and unlawful online content.

TikTok's commitment to well-being: Supporting and encouraging #MentalHealthAwareness in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: TikTok, the global social media platform, is at the forefront of promoting mental health awareness, with a special emphasis on Pakistan's vibrant community. On World Mental Health Day and beyond, TikTok celebrates the resilience and courage of its users, reinforcing the message that we are "Better Together" when we prioritize mental well-being.

Dr. Yasir Masood Afaq, Clinical Psychologist and Founder of House of Wellness said, "TikTok is playing a pivotal role in raising awareness about mental health. TikTok's massive outreach will go a long way to create an enabling mental health ecosystem."

As a part of this initiative, DASTAK Women's Rights and Awareness Foundation has found TikTok as a fresh and creative channel to raise awareness and educate users on pivotal mental health issues and sexual and gender-based violence, allowing to break societal stigma and address these interconnections in a more profound manner.

Hira Amjad, Executive Director of DASTAK Women Rights and Awareness Foundation, said, "TikTok has emerged as a powerful platform for promoting mental health awareness, with its commitment to fostering a supportive community. We look forward to nurturing this partnership for a sustainable and violence-free Pakistan."

LCCI demands special authority for overseas Pakistanis to protect their lives and property

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Progressive Group in the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has called upon the government to set up a dedicated authority which should work for the security and respect of the lives and properties of overseas Pakistanis.

There were over 9 million Pakistanis living abroad contributing to the national foreign exchange by sending remittances of billions of dollars every year thus playing their role in strengthening the national economy.

Progressive Group's President

Khalid Usman and Deputy Secretary Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer, who both are LCCI executive committee members in a joint statement issued here on Tuesday, said that such an authority should actively work to protect the rights of overseas Pakistanis. This includes ensuring their property and inheritance rights and safeguarding them from fraudulent activities or scams.

"Overseas Pakistanis often face security concerns when they visit or invest in Pakistan. An authority can collaborate with law enforcement agencies to provide enhanced security measures, reducing the risk

of crime and ensuring their safety", they added.

They said encouraging overseas Pakistanis to invest in the country can boost the economy. An authority can facilitate and promote investments, creating jobs and economic opportunities. He said such investors should be given a 10-year tax-holiday on setting up industries in the country.

Both were of the view that setting up a dedicated authority could streamline various services for overseas Pakistanis, such as visa processing, property registration, and legal assistance, making it easier for them to navigate bureaucratic processes.

Overseas Pakistanis may encounter legal disputes or conflicts related to property, business, or personal matters. An authority can provide a mechanism for dispute resolution, potentially reducing the burden on the judicial system.

They said engaging with the Pakistani Diaspora could have diplomatic and political advantages. Overseas Pakistanis could act as unofficial ambassadors, promoting Pakistan's interests and contributing to the country's soft power.

Advocating voting rights to overseas Pakistanis, Progressive Group leader said that such an authori-

ty could work to ensure that overseas Pakistanis have the opportunity to exercise their voting rights in a convenient and secure manner, thereby promoting civic engagement and democracy. They even went on to say that overseas Pakistanis could be allotted special seats in the Parliament.

Concluding his remarks, Khalid Usman & Ejaz Tanveer said establishing an authority dedicated to the security and respect of overseas Pakistanis could provide numerous benefits, not only for the overseas Pakistani community but also for Pakistan as a whole.

