

Arbitration Law Review

ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan, Chairman of the Arbitration Law Review Committee convened the third meeting of the Committee today at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.



Photo: Online

Review of the Arbitration Legislation in Pakistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan, Chairman of the Arbitration Law Review Committee convened the third meeting of the Committee today at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad. Mr. Muhammad Makhdoom Ali Khan, Senior Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, Mr. Feisal Hussain Naqvi, Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Barrister Mian Sami Uddin, Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Ms. Riffat Inam Butt, Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Khashih-ur-Rehman, AS/EDGII, Board of Investment, Islamabad, Mr. Zafar Iqbal Khokhar, Research Officer, Research Centre Supreme Court of Pakistan and Mr. Hassan

Mehmood, Consultant Ministry of Law and Justice, Islamabad participated in the meeting.

Mr. Feisal Hussain Naqvi gave an overview of the proposed legislation on arbitration. The proposed legislation is based on the UNCITRAL Model Law and deals with both domestic and international arbitration.

The proposed law will help in resolving all sorts of arbitration related disputes expeditiously and swiftly. It will repeal the Arbitration Act, 1940 and replace it with a modern law consistent with international best practices.

The LJCP will soon share the draft legislation with the general public as well as with experts and stakeholders to obtain feedback so as to make the law more comprehensive and inclusive.

Quality education, major requirement for country's development: President

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday stressed the universities to provide quality education to the students as it was the foremost requirement for the development of the country. He directed the education ministry and Higher Education Commission (HEC) to support universities in designing the courses and departments in accordance with demand of jobs in the market. Addressing the Convocation ceremony of the Quaid-i-Azam University here, the president said Pakistan was passing through the economic crisis but hoped

that the country would rise again soon by ensuring quality education, rule of law and justice.

"Pakistan has full potential to develop and the sun of development and prosperity would rise in the country soon," he remarked. During the ceremony, the president gave away medals to the top position holders and conferred degrees to the successful students in various departments of the university. Referring to shortage of professionals especially in medical field in the country, the president advised the female professional not to sit at home after completing their degree. He



said women of the country were very hardworking and they could play key role in development of the country by working shoulder to shoulder with the men.

However, he stressed the need to stop their harassment at work places so that they could work freely. The president said literacy rate in the country was alarmingly low as over 20 million or 40% of children were currently out of

school. He said to accommodate all the children at once, the government would need 55000 more schools that would be unaffordable for it. Comparing the regional statistics, the president highlighted that in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, around 98% of the children were enrolled in schools. He feared that this huge number of out of school children could become burden for the country in future. He said the Brick and Mortar structure could be followed to educate maximum number of children.

"Justice is the foundation of Islam, it is the foundation of good human society," Caretak-

er Minister for Federal Education Madad Ali Sindhi on the occasion said the government was promoting education at every level. He said he had directed to provide all basic facilities to the schools in Islamabad as without basic facilities, the quality of education could not be improved. Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar said in total 7,738 BS, MS, M. Phill and Ph. D students were awarded degrees in the convocation. He informed that currently Rs 14 billion worth of development projects in the university were in progress with support of China.

Pakistan calls for end to 'inhumane' blockade of Gaza: FO Spokesperson

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemning the indiscriminate use of force by Israeli authorities in Gaza, called for an end to the "inhumane" blockade causing the humanitarian situation, besides urging the United Nations' proactive role in facilitating a ceasefire. "We are deeply concerned about the fast-deteriorating and dire humanitarian situation in Gaza due to the inhumane blockade and collective punishment by Israeli forces. The decision to cut off electricity, fuel and water supplies is unjust and should be reversed, as it would severely impact the lives of the Palestinians residing in the enclave," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

She said the current cycle of aggression and violence was a sad reminder and a direct consequence of over seven decades of illegal foreign occu-

pation, aggression, and disrespect for international law, including UNSC resolutions that recognized the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. Pakistan has been constantly warning against serious consequences of Israel's escalatory and provocative actions in recent months, she added. Spokesperson Baloch called for the international community's role for a just, comprehensive, and lasting two-state solution with a viable, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. She told the media that Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the OIC in Jeddah was in consultation with other member countries of the OIC and discussions are ongoing with respect to a special meeting of the OIC with regards to the current situation in occupied Palestinian territories.

Apprising the media men of the diplomatic engage-



ments during the last week, the spokesperson mentioned Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani's participation in the 27th Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Azerbaijan. Besides addressing the event, he also held bilateral meetings on the sidelines with foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan as well as the Secretary-General of ECO, Khusrav Noziri. Moreover, she said OIC's Assistant Secretary General (Political) and the Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir Yousef Aldobe-

ay was on an official visit to Pakistan and called on Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi and held detailed discussions with Additional Foreign Secretary (United Nations) Ambassador Syed Haider Shah. The meeting with Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, the foreign minister and Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs were also on his agenda besides undertaking a visit to Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Highlighting the situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson told the media

that on October 5, 2023, the Indian occupation authorities banned the Jammu & Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) for a period of five years. The JKDFP is the fourth Kashmiri party banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) after the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front, Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir, and 'Dukhtar-e-Millat'. The party is led by Shabir Shah, who remains imprisoned since 2017. Shah has spent more than half of his 70-year life in detention. The spokesperson also informed the media men of the prime minister's upcoming visit to China to participate in the 'Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF)' for International Cooperation, being held in Beijing from October 17-18, 2023. He will hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and senior Chinese leaders and with a number of leaders attending the Forum, besides interacting with leading Chinese entrepreneurs.

Pak-China companies join hands to develop new building materials

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: A Pakistani delegation led by Shahid Firoz, representative of Pakistan



Arfeen Group and vice chairman of Belt and Road Development Company, recently paid a visit to the Hydro-Blok Company in Guangzhou, China, and had an in-depth discussion

on deepening China-Pakistan cooperation in building material industry.

Chen Yuwei, chairman of Hydro-Blok Company, accompanied the delegation to visit the workshops and display areas of the company, showing the key technologies.

"Our core product polymerized quartz board, with characters including waterproof, heat insulation, zero deformation and environmental protection, etc, is widely used in prefabricated buildings worldwide," introduced Chen Yuwei, CEN reported on Thursday.

Huawei launches world's first product solutions with 5.5G capabilities

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Huawei launched the world's first comprehensive solutions for products with 5.5G capabilities during the 14th Global Mobile Broadband Forum (MBBF) held this week in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

The solutions aim to provide tenfold improvement in network capabilities compared to 5G through innovations in broadband, frequency band, antenna and other aspects, according to Cao Ming, president of Huawei's wireless solutions.

5.5G, or 5G-Advanced



technologies, has been widely regarded as a transitioning solution before 6G. It will upgrade the five major connections of people, homes, Internet of Things (IoT), industries and vehicles by providing 10 times the network capabilities and multi-dimensional new capabilities, CGTN reported on Thursday.

The high-bandwidth and low-latency networks can

provide better experience to consumers and industries, which includes services such as glasses-free 3D streaming, autonomous driving, smart manufacturing and broader coverage of IoT devices.

According to the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP), an international standards organization for telecommunication, there are six technical standards from R15 to R20 between 5G and 6G, of which R15 to R17 are the first stage of the 5G standard, and R18 to R20 are the second stage of the 5G standard. In April 2021, 3GPP officially defined the R18 protocol version as 5.5G.

PM to attend Belt & Road Forum in China on Oct 17-18



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will visit China to participate in the 'Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF)' for International Cooperation, being held in Beijing from October 17-18, the Foreign Office said Thursday.

The prime minister is undertaking the visit at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Foreign Office spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing.

Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said PM Kakar would attend the opening ceremony of the BRF and address the high-level forum titled 'Connectivity in an Open Global Economy' on October 18.

The prime minister during his stay in China will hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and senior Chinese leaders and other foreign dignitaries attending the Forum,

she said. The prime minister, she said, would also meet the leading Chinese entrepreneurs to expand bilateral trade and investment.

He will also visit Urumqi, Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China to meet with local leaders and businesspersons, aiming to enhance trade, investment and people-to-people relations, the spokesperson said.

"The visit of the prime minister comes in the backdrop of the ongoing celebrations marking the ten years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative," Baloch said.

"The prime minister will highlight the key achievements and the future priorities of CPEC, and reaffirm Pakistan's strong commitment to jointly promote its high-quality development," she said.

Colleges' lecturers joined hands with protesting teachers in Attock



Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The protest and pen down strike by the teachers and employees of the provincial government intensifies on Thursday as male and female lecturers serving in the all six tehsils of district Attock join hands with the protesters as their protest enters its third day on Thursday.

The call for the strike and protest rally was given by All Government Employees Grand Alliance (AGEGA) to press for their demands, against the implementation of new leave encashment and pension rules.

The three-day strike and protest brought the academic activities in the schools across the district to grinding halt due to strike by teachers while the official work in the government offices, especially revenue department left the hundreds of the visitors in trouble unabated. President Punjab professor and

lecturers' association Attock chapter President Prof Hub-e-Ali and Asif Kamran- Chairman AGEGA Attock chapter while addressing on this occasion has said that seriousness of the rulers to address the issue could be judged from the fact that no government representative approached them to address their concerns despite their three days protest as scores of male and female employees are on the road.

Malik Muhammad Afzaal President AGEGA Attock chapter and Yasir Ali Khan Alizai Chairman All Pakistan clerk association (APCA) Attock chapter while speaking on this occasion has condemned the recent action of the Punjab government under which decision was made to cease leave encashment for employees, modified pension rules, and declared plans to transfer public schools to non-government organizations. These actions have raised concerns among employees from all government departments.

Mushaal welcoming to OIC delegation for its visit to Pakistan and AJK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir Meets Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment

OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir, H. E. Yousef M. Al Dobeay along with a high level delegation met Ms. Mushaal Hussain Mullick today.

Welcoming the OIC delegation for its visit to Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, SAPM Mullick thanked the Special Envoy for OIC's consistent and unequivocal support to the oppressed people of Jammu & Kashmir, particularly since India's illegal actions of 5 August 2019. She expressed her deep appreciation for OIC's sustained advocacy in their just cause for realization of the right to self-determination.



Minister briefed the OIC Special Envoy on aggravating human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, particularly incarceration of the entire political leadership including Yasin Malik.

She urged the OIC to rally the international community for protection of the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri people.

Ambassador Yousef M. Al Dobeay reaffirmed OIC's principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He stated that the OIC was fully committed to the Kashmir cause and his visit to Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir in his capacity as OIC Special Envoy on Jammu and Kashmir was an expression of that commitment. He reassured the Kashmiri people of OIC's full support for protection of their rights, including the right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions. He further underlined that all OIC bodies, including the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission would continue actively playing their part to extend all possible support and assistance to the Kashmiri people.

IRC and EPA KP join hands for Environmental Sustainability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

News Desk

PESHAWAR: The International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) to collaborate on initiatives of mutual interest across the province. The signing ceremony took place on Thursday, 12 October 2023 in Peshawar, at the EPA office. The LoU was signed by, Ms. Lubna Javaid Deputy Director Programs of IRC, and Mr. Muhammad Anwar Khan Director General, Environmental Protection Agency. Other representatives of IRC & EPA attended the event. The event was facilitated by the Research, Development & Coordination (RD&C) section of EPA KP.



Muhammad Anwar, DG EPA, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, speaking on this occasion noted that the partnership between EPA KP & IRC will pave way for environmental protection, promoting planation and contributing to reduction in carbon footprint of the province.

Speaking at the ceremony, Lubna Javaid Deputy Director Programs IRC, stated, "IRC is delighted to join hands with EPA KP, in our shared commitment to protect communities facing climate vulnerabilities. Through this collaboration, we aim to engage policy makers on the imminent discourse and likewise communities on safeguarding the environment."

The signing of this LOU marks an important milestone in the efforts of IRC and EPA KP to sensitize masses as well as the key decision makers. Through the combined expertise, resources, and commitment of both agencies, the collaboration is expected to have a transformative impact on the lives of people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

UNDP team monitoring MAGP G1 garlic plots in SW Lower

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On Thursday in District Agriculture Officer Habib Ur Rehman Wazir said while talking to the media, that 15 MAGP plots of G1 Garlic seeds have been approved by UNDP for deserving farmers of Lower South Waziristan District.

The Agriculture Officer said that the UNDP team regularly visited and monitored the plots of G1 Garlic.

Which UNDP staff selected for cluster farm plots in Karizkot village near Wana FC camp.

Habib-Ur-Rehman Wazir said that the selection of plots through the cluster farm was necessary so that the plots



were located in the same place, because of which timely access is possible for maintenance and monitoring teams.

Habib Wazir has also made it clear that there is no truth in the news that was published yesterday regarding G1 Garlic, and it was contrary to the facts.

Finally he said that G1 garlic seed has been introduced on the number one priority in the world which will higher production.

Agriculture Officer Habib-Ur-Rehman Wazir said that the Agriculture Department is making all possible efforts with the support of the district administration, that better facilities should be provided to the farmers in Lower South Waziristan district.

Mobilink Bank and VBF team up to drive financial literacy for women and youth

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank, in collaboration with Vision-Building Future (VBF) and Shirakat Partnership for Development, was actively engaged in the European Union (EU) initiative, "Power to Youth." This strategic endeavour, funded by the EU, was dedicated to providing financial literacy training to more than 100 young individuals, especially women. The "Power to Youth" program's core objective is to empower youth socially and economically, enabling them to be change agents in their communities, establish livelihoods, and enhance their leadership and visibility in targeted districts. The program consisted of three structured sessions, each thoughtfully designed to equip participants with financial knowledge and essential skills. Through this partnership, Mobilink Bank strived to foster financial literacy, with an emphasis on inclusivity,



particularly in empowering women and youth. Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON

is transforming people's lives by creating opportunities for increased digital inclusion and by driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

"The 'Power to Youth' initiative, carried out in partnership

with VBF, exemplifies the Bank's steadfast focus on driving genuine transformation through financial empowerment," shared Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO Mobilink Bank. "We recognize that knowledge is the linchpin of progress and 'Power

to Youth' embodies our resolute dedication to equipping low-income individuals and aspiring young women entrepreneurs with the skills and insights essential for success. Our partnership with VBF serves as a testament to our commitment to shaping a society where everyone has the means to thrive, thereby fostering a more equitable and prosperous future for all," he added.

Mobilink Bank serves as a strategic catalyst for socio-economic development in Pakistan, firmly anchored in its mission to empower women and youth. By amplifying its skill development and capacity-building initiatives, the Bank is actively fostering financial inclusion and promoting financial literacy, thus enabling under-banked individuals to proactively shape their financial destinies. With each strategic partnership, the Bank reaffirms its promise to cultivate a more prosperous and equitable banking landscape for all.

Iftikhar Khan posted as DEO(M-EE) Nankana Sahib

Muhammad Abdullah Rashid



FAISALABAD/NANKANA SAHIB: According to the reliable sources, the Government of Punjab Secretary School Education under the notification NO. SO(SE-I)-129/2020, Mr. Iftikhar Khan District Education Officer (SE/BS-19) Mianwali has been transferred with immediate effect and posted as

District Education Officer (M-EE/BS-19) in District Nankana Sahib against a vacant post by relieving Mr. Muhammad Saleem from the additional charge of the said post.

Teachers' community has cordially welcomed on this posting of Mr. Iftikhar Khan in District Nankana Sahib because of having good experience, knowledge & aptitude.

Furthermore sources informed that Mr. Khan would perform his duties dedicatedly as per his previous practice scaling down the problems of the teachers & students in order to escalate educational spirit promptly, because he has the working potential and known as a man of determination focusing on "Honestly is the Best Policy"

Separate meetings of MAWA delegation with top officials regarding houses compensation

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In relation to the relief fund allocated by the federal government regarding the houses compensation of Mehsud tribes, the delegation of Mahsud Welfare Association (MAWA) Democrats called on DG PDMA, Secretary for Budget & Finance and Secretary for Relief and Resettlement had separate meetings with them on Thursday.

The houses of the mehsud tribes were damaged during the displacement.

It has been learned that the federal and provincial governments have formed a standing committee for the early release of the 1.5 billion relief fund, and so that it can be paid to the deserving people without further delay.

These views were expressed by Engineer Ghani Gul Mehsud, head of Mahsud Welfare Association Democrats.

He said that the (MAWA) Democrats will not sit down comfortably until the Mehsud tribes are paid compensation for their houses and their rights will not be compromised.

He said that the Mehsud tribes have sacrificed a lot for the sake of the nation and endured various sufferings, so their problems should be solved.

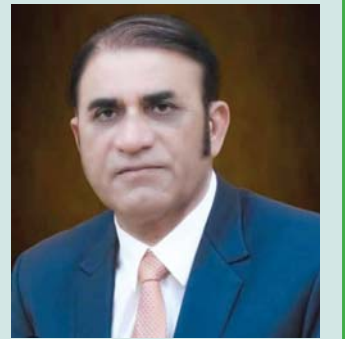
MEPCO operations against dead defaulters continue

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the direction of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Leadership Of Chif Executive MEPCO Mahar Ullah Yar Bhawanana an operation is underway in South Punjab against running and dead defaulters. So far, 1 billion 89 crore 47 lakh 20 thousand rupees have been received from 97 thousand 793 defaulters in the recovery campaign. In the recovery campaign launched on September 7, till October 11, 83 crore 14 lakh 70 thousand rupees were collected from 86 thousand 834 domestic consumers, 7 crore 5 lakh 60 thousand rupees from 6 thousand 229 commercial defaulters, 18 crore 63 lakh rupees from 662 industrial defaulters. 80 thousand rupees, 80 crore 16 lakh rupees from 3 thousand 862 agricultural tube wells. While 47 lakh 10 thousand rupees were collected from 208 defaulters of other categories. 32 crore 23 lakh rupees from 12 thousand 462 defaulters with a period of two to three months in the category of running defaulters in South Punjab.

37 crore 74 lakh rupees from 10 thousand 373 defaulters with a period of 4 to 6 months, 19 crore 63 lakh rupees from 2 thousand 576 defaulters with a period of 6 months to one year, 2 crore 49 lakh rupees from 326 running defaulters with a period of one to three years and deposited in the treasury. In the category of dead defaulters from one month to dead defaulters, 4 crore 55 lakh rupees from 3 thousand 35 defaulters with a period of one month, 2 crore 48 lakh rupees from 1 thousand 829 defaulters with a period of two months, 1 crore 99 lakh rupees from 1 thousand 399 defaulters with a period of 4 to 6 months, 1 thousand 661 defaulters with a period of 4 to 6 months from Rs 3 crore 32 lakh.

3 crore 25 lakh rupees were collected from 1 thousand 513 defaulters with a period of 6 months to one year, 4 crore 53 lakh rupees from 990 defaulters with a period of one to three years and 2 crore 69 lakh rupees from 473 permanent defaulters with a period of more than three years.



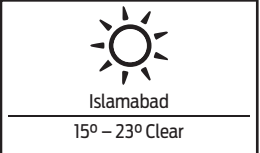
FAO marks WFD with Clean River Indus Drive

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: To mark World Food Day (WFD) with the theme "Water is Life, Water is Food. Leave no one behind," the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in partnership with the Government, World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Oxfam GB, organized a riverbank cleanup near Kotri, Jamshoro in Sindh along the River Indus.

The large number of people participants from universities, UN agencies, NGOs, government departments, and more collected and safely disposed of debris items, highlighting the vital role of clean water in agriculture and well-being. On this WFD, FAO Pakistan along with the Government and other UN agencies working in Pakistan is launching the "Clean Indus" campaign, focusing on water conservation and quality improvement to enhance food production. This campaign aims to raise awareness and inspire action to protect the Indus River. Haji Khan Jamali Chief Engineer irrigation, Pritam Das Managing Director Sindh Irrigation And drainage Authority (SIDA) Asadullah Khoso, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro and Agha Fakher, Director General Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in partnership with the Government, World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Oxfam GB, organized a riverbank cleanup near Kotri, Jamshoro in Sindh along the River Indus.

Representatives from farmers' community, Zulfiqar Ali Kachelo and Naghma Naz shared the problems faced by the farmers' community and importance of water. They told that water is vital for the farmers. They can survive with fertilizers and nutrients for their fields but it is impossible to survive without water. Florence Rolle, FAO Representative in Pakistan highlighted the country's agricultural significance, with its extensive irrigated land ranking it as the world's third largest in this category. This underscores the relevance of the "Clean Indus" initiative in Pakistan.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:47 am
Zohr 11:55 am
Asr 3:58 pm
Maghrib 5:38 pm
Isha 7:01 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 555489

UNFPA and SoLF Launch Community-Based Theatre Performances



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in collaboration with the School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF) has embarked on a mission to raise awareness and spark a discussion on social norms around reproductive health of young people, gender-based violence, child marriage and more, across Pakistan. Under the umbrella of the Hifazat campaign, initiated in 2022 to enhance reproductive health and well-being awareness through digital media, this groundbreaking project will bring the power of theater to the forefront to foster meaningful discussions within communities across 10 districts in Pakistan.

Twenty impactful theater performances will be curated and executed by Theatre Wallay, a non-commercial group of dedicated artists passionate about theater and literature. To ensure a widespread reach across provinces, these performances will take place in Charsadda, Swabi, Swat (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa); Lasbela (Balochistan); Rawalpindi, Multan, and Bahawalpur (Punjab); as well as in Sukkur, Khairpur, and Larkana (Sindh). "This play should be performed in rural communities in the far-flung areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, and Balochistan where these issues are prevalent", highlighted Shoaib Ali, a young boy who attended the theater performance in Stars College, Rawalpindi.

Experts gather to contribute towards sustainable flood resilient strategies

City Desk

KARACHI: Community Resilience Activity North (CRAN), dedicated to fostering community resilience, spearheaded a comprehensive two-day workshop focused on flood recovery strategies for Sindh and Baluchistan. The event aimed to generate innovative ideas and proposals to collaborate with the governments of Sindh and Baluchistan in their efforts to address the aftermath of floods. The workshop brought together key stakeholders, experts, and community leaders. The workshop was attended by the representatives of USAID, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Community Resilience Activity North (CRA-N), Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA), district administration, directorate of climate change. Sindh, Baluchistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speakers focused on the need of the hour to increase cooperation between CRA-North, Government Entities and other stakeholders to speed up the process of flood relief in the most affected regions and make communities more resilient and



prone to future disaster events. This was followed by an icebreaking and objective setting session by the organizers. Later, Jannat Durrani, Deputy Chief of Party Community Resilience Activity North (CRA-N) shed light on the background and main idea of the workshop and how it would help gain more effective results and outcomes of the flood relief interven-

tions carried out by CRA-North and its partners. Next, Kashif Karim Democracy, Rights and Governance Specialist USAID Pakistan briefed the participants about the USAID and CRA-North Resilience Journey based on resilience interventions, especially related to the communities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan, carried throughout the years.

The two day workshop came to an end with the project ideas from Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa teams for the flood recovery initiative in Sindh and Baluchistan.

With the support of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan Provincial Disaster Management

(PDMA) Units and District Disaster Management Units (DDMU's; representation from the Swat, Dadu, Jacobabad, Kairpur and Quetta District Administrations and USAID partners; CRA-N will further organize two Quarterly Community Resilience 'Flood Recovery' Strategy Workshops' which are scheduled between October 2023-June 2024.

Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong receives souvenir from Interim Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Sami Saeed during Seminar on " Belt and Road Initiative and Paying the Path to Shared Prosperity" at local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Poland

City Desk

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi in Collaboration with the Federal Urdu University organized a ceremony to Commemorate the 60th anniversary of Pakistan-Poland Diplomatic Relations held in Auditorium II, In which President Arts Council Mohammad Ahmad Shah, Polish Ambassador to Pakistan Maciej Pisaszki were present. Honorary Consul General in Karachi Mirza Umer Baig, University of Warmia and Mazury Professor Dr. Arkadiusz Zukowski, Urdu University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Ziauddin, Faisal Javed, Dr. Asghar Ali Dashti and Dr. Arif Khan participated in this Ceremony. The ceremony started with the national anthems of Pakistan and Poland. The documentary of the joint international confer-



ence organized by the Department of International Relations, Federal Urdu University, Karachi and the Institute of Political Science, University of Warmia and Mazury, Poland in 2022 was shown. The Ambassador of Poland to Pakistan While Speaking that After the World War, Poland

gave importance to public relations and increased contacts with the world including Pakistan, through modern era and technology we can move forward, he said that in the field of education, Poland wants to pave the way for students. The 60-year relationship between the two countries is a sign that the people of both the countries want reconciliation and wider relations. Professor Dr. Ziauddin said that the Department of International Relations is the most active and dynamic department of the university in which the teachers are carrying out academic, teaching and research activities with full energy. Prof. Dr. Arkadiusz Zukowski highlighted various aspects of relations between Pakistan and Poland. President of the Department of International Relations Dr. Asghar Ali Dashti thanked all the guests, students and participants for coming and participating in the event. At the end of the ceremony, gifts were presented to the Chief Guest and other guests by the Department of International Relations. Assistant Professor Dr. Rizwana Jabeen performed the duties of Moderator,

Jasmine Lions Club donated an electric kettle to Wilayat Hussain College Multan



City Desk

MULTAN: Multan Jasmine Lions Club donated an electric kettle to Government Wilayat Hussain College. On this occasion, President of Multan Jasmine Lions Club Shahnaz Zulfiqar said that the private sector should help the educational institutions and their environment. There is a need to move forward in the field so that facilities are available to educational institutions and students. Sustainable projects for the development of educational institutions and provision of facilities need to be highlighted at the community level. Multan Jasmine Lions Club Valuable Welfare Service Projects is being completed and steps are in progress on planning on a future basis.

Mohammad Ijaz Hussain, Principal of Government Wilayat Hussain College, while explaining the objectives of the Jasmine Lions Club, said that the Jasmine Lions Club has provided support for the development of the institution at various times and has given an action to other members of the society and philanthropists. Everyone needs to play their role to build and beautify the institutions. Rifat Azam, Sajda Khalil, Farhat Shafiq, Shaista Zeeba were present in the ceremony.

UAJK to open School of Nursing to honour Dr. Kanth

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: In a significant development, the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) has announced to establish a School of Nursing to be named in honor of Dr. Bashir Ur Rahman Kanth, a distinguished healthcare expert. This School of Nursing represents a significant expansion of the university's academic programs.



The decision taken on the proposal of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi who was chairing the 30th meeting of the academic council of the university

Dr. Bashir Rehman Kanth who is currently is Associate Dean of Faculty of Allied Health and Medical Sciences had earlier served as Director General Surgery and Secretary to government for long period of time prior to joining the UAJK. He was lauded for his long and dedicated service to the medical field in the state and now taking on the responsibility of imparting modern medical education and training to the region's aspiring young minds.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, in his address to the council, emphasized an unwavering commitment to merit-based appointments and promotions within the university. He underscored the importance of fostering a nurturing environment for both students and prospective educators. Prof. Abbasi acknowledged the university's outstanding and highly qualified faculty and expressed confidence in their capacity to contribute to the development of a knowledge-friendly environment in the institution. He urged them to harness their talents for the betterment of education quality and the growth of the UAJK.

Ulema and media can play an important role in raising awareness to reduce non-communicable diseases: Sanaullah Ghumman

Spokesman Report

QUETTA: Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart, diabetes, kidney disease, stroke and several types of cancer are skyrocketing in Pakistan. Unhealthy foods such as ultra-processed foods are one of the major causes of diseases. Ulema and the media can play an important role in educating people about unhealthy diets. This was stated by health experts in a program with religious leaders and media on the health Harms of Ultra-processed foods. The program was organized at a local hotel in Quetta. Among the people who participated in the program included Maulana Anwar Haq Haqqani, Dr. Attaur Rehman, Maulana Muhammad Jan Qasmi, Pir Habibullah Chishti, Allama Hashim Mousavi, Mr. Syed

Naqibullah Agha, Ex-Commissioner FBR Mr. Abdul Hafeez, Ulema, A large number of civil society and journalists participated. Director General Health Dr. Noor Muhammad Qazi was the chief guest. The event was hosted by PANAH Secretary General Sanaullah Ghumman.

Dr. Noor Muhammad Qazi said that Ultra-processed foods are a major cause of diseases. Various countries around the world have taken other policy options to reduce the consumption of ultra-processed foods as well as put nutrition warning labels on them so that people can know about the healthier foods.

Sanaullah Ghuman said that thousands of Pakistanis are losing their lives every day due to unhealthy food. Evidence shows that reducing

consumption of ultra-processed products can reduce mortality and morbidity and save many Pakistani lives. Ultra-processed foods contain harmful ingredients like salt, sugar, trans fats and saturated fats. Imposing taxes on ultra-processed foods, regulating their marketing, front-of-pack labeling warning signs and removing these products from schools can go a long way in reducing deaths and illnesses. He said that he appreciated the government's move to increase taxes on sugary drinks in the Finance Bill 2023-24. This will reduce these diseases. He said that raising taxes is the first and most effective step to reduce the consumption of ultra-processed foods, but to improve the situation much need to be done. PANAH has now launched a campaign to impose front-of-pack labeling on



ultra-processed foods. This will help people making healthier food choices. He said that Ulema are highly respected in Pakistan. What is said by them

is listened to very attentively. Panah is working with Ulema across the country to raise awareness among people. Today we have come to you people in Quetta to

convey our message to the people that they should eat healthy food and avoid unhealthy foods like ultra-processed foods and demand the government to put a front on ultra-processed foods.

Representatives of journalists said in his address that the media has always been the strong partner of PANAH. We stand shoulder to shoulder with PANAH in this cause.

In their respective speeches, the Ulema praised PANAH's efforts to protect people from heart and related diseases over the last 40 years and supported PANAH in its campaign against the health hazards of ultra-processed foods.

Abdul Hafeez thanked the participants on behalf of PANAH. He said that we except that Ulema and media will stand with PANAH for its noble cause.

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The Role of ISPR, ISI, and MI in addressing internal and external threats - II

ISI is widely recognized as one of the largest intelligence agencies globally, although the precise number of its agents remains confidential for security reasons. Nevertheless, conservative estimates suggest that it boasts a force of over ten thousand agents.

Since its inception, ISI has played a crucial role in ensuring the security and well-being of Pakistan. Its contributions have been both significant and commendable, often operating discreetly. Notably, during the conflict between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, ISI played an instrumental and proactive role. At that time, Pakistan's primary objective was to thwart the Soviet Union's ambitions in Afghanistan. The training provided by ISI personnel prepared Afghan fighters to resist the Russian invaders. A noteworthy achievement was the successful fight against terrorism in Afghanistan, which was largely attributed to ISI's clear vision and determination to defeat the malevolent intentions of global adversaries.

The late Hameed Gul, a former head of ISI, once remarked, "When the history of the world is written, it will be written that ISI defeated the Soviet Union in Afghanistan with the help of America. Then another sentence would be that the ISI defeated the US with the help of the US." The subsequent withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan after two decades validated his assertion.

As of November 20, 2021, Lieutenant General Nadeem Ahmed Anjum, a three-star general in the Pakistan Army, has assumed the position of Director-Gen-

eral of ISI. He has served in various high-ranking roles, including Inspector-General of the Frontier Corps in Balochistan and Corps Commander of the V Corps. Under his leadership, ISI has implemented measures to maintain operational security, such as restricting the release of photos and videos from official meetings to the media.

ISI is often likened to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Israel's Mossad and is considered Pakistan's foremost line of defense. While we enjoy a sense of security, ISI's personnel are dedicated to safeguarding our borders, often putting their lives on the line. Just a few months ago, Brigadier Mustafa Barki of ISI made the ultimate sacrifice in a battle against terrorists in South Waziristan. In times of criticism directed at institutions and their leadership, it is important to acknowledge the unwavering commitment of ISI in its mission against anti-national elements, which has never been more resolute.

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the exceptional contributions made by our intelligence agencies, numerous illustrative instances serve as self-evident testimony. A few months ago, in a high-profile and triumphant intelligence operation, the leading intelligence agency apprehended a significant target known as Gulzar Imam, alias Sham-bay, as reported by the media wing of the Pakistani Army. The ISPR disclosed

that Imam had an extensive history as a hardcore militant and was the founder and leader of the banned organization Baloch National Army (BNA), which came into existence following the merger of the Baloch Republican Army (BRA) and the United Baloch Army (UBA). BNA had been responsible for numerous violent terrorist incidents in Pakistan, including attacks on law enforcement agency installations in Panjgur and Noshki. Until 2018, Gulzar Imam had

served as the deputy to Brahamdagh Bugti in the Baloch Republican Army (BRA). Additionally, he played a pivotal role in the establishment of Baloch Raji Aajoi Sangar (BRAS) and served as its operational head. His documented visits to Afghanistan and India raised suspicions, and his connections with hostile intelligence agencies are currently under investigation. Reportedly, these agencies attempted to exploit him to work against the interests of Pakistan and its national security. His capture was the result of a meticulously planned and executed operation that spanned several months and covered various geographical locations. DG ISI Lieutenant General Nadeem Anjum and the ISI leadership merit commendation for their pivotal role in apprehending such a high-profile terrorist. The Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) stands as our foremost intelligence agency.

In collaboration with Pakistan Army

and with the support of intelligence agencies, Pakistan launched two highly successful operations, namely Zarb Azab and Radd al-Fasaad, within the country to apprehend or neutralize those involved in terrorism, extremism, and radicalism, including their instigators, backers, supporters, financiers, and sympathizers, both within our borders and beyond. Thanks to the sacrifices and unwavering efforts of our intelligence agencies and armed forces, Pakistan has thus far effectively combated the scourge of terrorism. These operations, primarily driven by intelligence, played a crucial role in eradicating extremism, terrorism, and radicalization, while also dismantling cells responsible for financing terrorism. The timely and accurate information mechanisms employed by our intelligence agencies played a pivotal role in transforming these operations into a resounding success story for Pakistan.

Hostile entities, along with various international agencies such as RAW and Mossad, there are also some internal elements consistently endeavor to undermine the credibility of ISI and MI through their malevolent schemes. On record, there exist unfounded and baseless allegations made by Imran Khan and PTI against ISI and MI. Imran Khan has publicly and repeatedly accused General Nadeem Anjum and General Faisal Naseer, both of whom have consistently demonstrated their loyalty to Pakistan through their professional service on numerous occasions.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

China, Arab countries share similar position on Palestinian issue

China and Arab countries have similar positions on the Palestinian issue and both sides called for a ceasefire and an end to violence as soon as possible, condemned actions that harmed civilians, and prevented the situation from escalating and causing a humanitarian disaster, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Thursday. "We have noticed that the Arab League convened an emergency foreign ministers meeting and passed a resolution supporting the Arab League in playing an important role on the Palestinian issue," he said during his regular briefing held here.

The Arab League foreign ministers convened an emergency in Cairo, Egypt to discuss the intensifying Israeli aggression and adopted a resolution. The meeting underscored the necessity for international cooperation to halt the surge of violence and ensure air reaches the impacted regions. The spokesperson said that China and Arab countries believed that the international community should play an effective role in providing humanitarian support to the Palestinian people and promote the resumption of peace talks as soon as possible.

"The fundamental reason for the recurring conflict between Palestine and Israel is that the Middle East peace process has deviated from the right track, the foundation of the "two-state solution" has been continuously eroded, and relevant United Nations resolutions have not been effectively implemented," he added. Wang Wenbin said that China was willing to maintain communication and coordination with the Arab League and other parties, actively promote peace talks, and make unremitting efforts to bring the Middle East peace process back on track.

Responding to a question about the massive killing of people including foreign nationals during the escalating tension between Palestinian and Israel, he confirmed that three Chinese nationals were killed, two remained missing and several were injured. "We extend our deep condolences and our sympathy to the bereaved families and injured," he added. Wang Wenbin said that the Chinese diplomatic missions were doing everything they could to coordinate efforts to treat the injured and deal with the follow up work. He urged the relevant authorities to search for the missing and take all measures to keep Chinese nationals and institutions safe. Over 2,500 people have been killed on both sides as Israel intensified its air strikes on Gaza and imposed a "complete siege" on the Palestinian enclave following Hamas weekend surprise attack on Israel.



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

Hamas and the Largest Gaza Prison

The 2.3 million prisoners of the prison called Gaza have finally decided on a decisive battle and started the operation called Al-Aqsa Flood in order to respond to Israel in the same language. Along with the open attack on Israel from three sides, 5000 rockets were also fired, as a result of which around 100 Israelis were killed and around 700 were injured. The graph of losses caused by Israel's counter-attacks is also quite high. At this time, the war is going on in the vicinity of Gaza. Al-Aqsa Brigade, the military wing of Hamas, has made some progress in the occupied areas and has taken some Israeli soldiers hostage. Now the question arises that what has happened to Hamas suddenly that it started an open war with Israel? Since the Israeli occupation of the land of Palestine, many groups have been in the field to defend the Palestinian territories. Before Hamas, Fatah was a prominent party founded by former Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in 1956.

Al-Fatah recognized the right of Israel on the occupied territories. Overall, its policy did not reflect the aspirations of the Palestinians, due to which the Palestinian people were uneasy. As a result of this uneasiness, the prominent Palestinian resistance leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin Shaheed founded the organization called "Harakat al-Mughazirah al-Islami" in 1987, which is commonly known as Hamas. Hamas is by all accounts a popular party among Palestinians. It will not be wrong to call it the most organized resistance party in the world. This organization has its own educational, welfare, political and military system.

In the 2006 elections, the Palestinian people made Hamas successful with a huge majority, but all possible efforts were made by the rivals to

deprive it of power. Those external powers who do not get tired of singing the tune of democracy day in and day out were also part of this plan. When the problem could not be solved by soft talk and sweet tone, in 2007, Hamas forcibly evicted Al-Fatah from Gaza and occupied it. Hamas' occupation of Gaza not only dealt a blow to Al-Fatah, but also affected Israel's interests. In response, the Zionist usurper state blockaded the air, sea and land links of Gaza and turned it into a prison. There is no name in the Guinness Book of World Records, but without a doubt, Gaza with a population of more than 2.3 million can be called the largest prison in history. No one dares to explode near this prison. Friends will remember the fate of the ship Freedom Flotilla sent to Gaza by Turkey. On one side of Gaza is the sea, on two sides is land occupied by Israel, while the third land is adjacent to the border of Egypt. The most tragic aspect of this prison is that even from the part that looks like Egypt, Palestinians are not allowed to travel and import and export. One of the faults of the Ikhwan government was that it had opened the Rafah crossing, i.e. its border, for Palestinians. The Sisi government was brought in so that he could protect Israeli interests, so now when General Sisi wants, the border opens, when he wants, it is closed.

Now let's come to the answer to the question why Hamas suddenly started such a big war. From the details, it must have been understood that Israel's oppression of Hamas and the people of Gaza has been going on since 2007 in the form of the strictest blockade. For this reason, sixty percent of the population of Gaza is unemployed and poverty is on the rise there. Apart from this, Israel conducts aerial attacks whenever it wants and kills aerial targets through drones whenever

it wants. Today's attack by Hamas is not an act, but a reaction given by all these scoundrels under extreme pressure. The second big and most important reason is that before the Palestinians had many hopes and expectations from other Arab countries, now since the Arabs have come to love Israel and they are building diplomatic relations with it and justifying its occupation. Since they have started to provide, the hopes of the Palestinians are also fading. Now they feel that the dragon that was slowly swallowing them since the age of forty-eight, due to their infidelities, has become capable of devouring them at any time. Therefore, a decisive confrontation with the competitor has become inevitable. What to say if you win, even if you lose, don't beat yourself up. I see this war of Hamas as the last and final effort made in the midst of extreme hopelessness. Maybe not today, but tomorrow, this flickering lamp will be extinguished, but I consider it my duty to offer him the greetings of devotion. I always find myself in the ranks in which the Palestinians and their supporters stand with pride and dignity. The tragedy of Palestine is a bigger tragedy than the tragedy of Andalusia. They are all around, but still these oppressors are alone.

People of Palestine! Due to the insecurity of about fifty-eight Muslim countries, Israel is determined to wipe you out and may be successful in its nefarious intentions for a while, but the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) assured you of your ultimate victory and the destruction of the Jews. The tidings of decisive defeat, humiliation and loss have been given fourteen hundred years ago. We are confident like the rising sun in the morning that you will be victorious and victorious in the final, fierce and decisive battle. Stay with you even though we are far away.

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Analysis

Shahid Awan

'Are the Flaws in this Earth's Soil?'

The greatest person in the world was the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). He was the teacher and the goal of the universe. When the Prophet (peace be upon him) became narrow in his land, he (peace be upon him) migrated to Medina. From where Muhammad (peace be upon him) migrated, on the land of Madinah, which was the abode of green valleys and soft-hearted people. It was a vision of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his training that such a group was formed from the Ansar and the Muhajirin. They are called the Companions. These Companions sacrificed their body, mind, and soul for each other, the likes of which cannot be found in any history of the world. The people of Madinah gave so much love that if it was possible, the Prophet (peace be upon him) would have forgotten Makkah. But whenever Makkah was mentioned, tears would come to his (peace be upon him) eyes. This was the love of the soil. Because thinking, training and action in construction and development are the values that cultivate not only humanity but also societies, nations are prosperous. Our beloved Prophet (peace be upon him) saw all this by doing it. He (peace be upon him) also practiced training with his best thinking and wisdom and also saw it by making others do it. Muhammad (peace be upon him) is a torch for all humanity to the living world.

Today, the country of Pakistan came into existence in the name of Kalima Tayyaba, why is the Islamic country of Pakistan getting into trouble day by day? Ever we think about it, what is the fault of the soil of this mother land? Allah Almighty did not create or create anything without any purpose. The establishment of this country Pakistan in a blessed night is a great purpose, not a common thing. It came into existence by the intention of Allah. This soil was obtained by making great sacrifices

The soil of this country has a lot of right over us. Mothers sacrificed their loved ones for the freedom of this earth, honors of sisters and daughters were auctioned, bloodshed was played with innocent people.

The difficulties we are facing today, it is the fault of those few personalities sitting in this country that put everything of the country at stake in every institution for the sake of their personal interest and satisfaction of their personal ego. Because of this, the people of this country are poorer than poor. It is happening, every day and suffers from mental problems every day. It is the fault of those generals who sometimes enjoy the islands of Germany, sometimes Australia and sometimes Switzerland for their luxury. It is the fault of the judges who collect billions of rupees sometimes in the name of dams, sometimes in the name of steel mills and sometimes in the interest of other big institutions, and prolong it by giving long stay orders to satisfy their personal ego. This state has experienced that for a long time, a few political parties have

considered this country as their fiefdom, and they give each other turns and fill their coffers.

From the beginning, this country has not got a leadership who loves this country, its soil. If we carefully study the time since independence, we will realize that despite being a democracy, the country of Pakistan has seen periods of military rule and continuous political chaos. Despite this, the people of Pakistan have always wanted a government that respects their rights and freedoms. Overcome challenges related to minority rights and religious freedom, communal violence, economic development, inflation, corruption and governance.

When all the power, machinery and all the attention of the state is spent in futility, then how will the problems of the country and the nation are solved? How will the country develop? Our methods have been going on for many years. And the journey of development is moving backwards. Hatred

does not come from institutions. Institutions are always made of personalities and personalities emerge from elections. There should be a system, procedure, transparency to select them. If sympathetic, sincere, good and honest people are chosen, then the institutions will be strong because of them. And when its institutions are strong, accountable and transparent, then there will be justice, if there is justice, then the society will develop.

Today, the thing called justice has disappeared. If we look at it, the biggest responsibility and right of the people in democratic states is to elect officials and representatives through elections, bring them forward. There will be no benefit in trying those who have been tried again and again. They will lead to the worst situations that the nation is suffering from today. It is not necessary that all Wali Allah come into being here, but there must be people who are sincere for the country and nation. Do not trust the words and promises of corrupt, greedy and evil people.

Today, those who say that we are competent, smart, honest and knowledgeable. It should be that Allah has blessed every human being with qualities. You are the best of creation. You should have these qualities. They say that we were not allowed to work, but we have to ask them that you were given an opportunity, why did you miss it? Why did you make incompetent people a part of your cabinet and harm the country and the nation by gathering them around you? No chance will be given to them in future. Because of those, thousands of people are facing problems today.

Newspapers and magazines are a great and effective means of revealing truth and lies can help us to play their role and right of journalism to bring forward such visionary people who are sincere for the state of this mother land Pakistan, who love the soil of this country. Remember the situation we are facing today is not the fault of the soil of this country, it is our fault.

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Adherence to the UN Charter principles in their entirety and interconnection underwrite int'l peace and stability

Sergey Lavrov

The recently held general political discussion during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly affirmed that the world is going through profound and tectonic changes.

We are witnessing the emergence of a new and fairer multipolar order that reflects the world's cultural and civilisational diversity. The future world is taking shape in the midst of a battle. The global majority, representing 85 percent of the world's population, advocates a more equitable distribution of global resources and respect of cultural diversity, as well as consistent democratisation of international affairs. On the other hand, a select group of Western nations led by the United States is endeavouring to hinder progress through neo-colonial methods and to maintain its waning dominance.

The disregard for the principle of equality and total inability to reach and honour agreements has become the hallmark of the collective West. Accustomed as they are to looking down at the rest of the world in a leader-follower relationship, the Americans and their Western satellite nations make commitments left and right. Some of them are made in writing and are legally binding, but they disregard them anyway. President Vladimir Putin has accurately called the West an "empire of lies." Like many other nations, we know this first-hand from the time when even prior to the surrender of Nazi Germany, our WWII allies – Washington and London – were devising plans for a military operation code-named Unthinkable against the USSR. In 1949, the United States was developing plans for nuclear strikes on the USSR. These plans were thwarted when Moscow developed its own retaliatory capabilities.

After the Cold War ended and the Soviet Union played a crucial role in the reunification of Germany and the establishment of a new European security framework, the Soviet and later Russian leadership were given concrete assurances that NATO would not expand to the East. The records of these talks can be found in our archives and the archives of the Western countries. However, the assurances by the Western leaders were a deception and they had no intention of honouring them. They were never concerned by the fact that bringing NATO closer to Russia's borders was a gross violation of their formal commitments made at the top level in 1999-2010 through the OSCE not to strengthen their own security at the expense of other countries' security and to avoid the military and political dominance in Europe of a country, a group of countries or organisations. Yet, NATO has persistently pursued precisely what it pledged not to do.

In late 2021-early 2022, they spurned our proposals to sign agreements with the United States and NATO on ensuring mutual security guarantees in Europe without altering Ukraine's non-aligned status. The West continued its systematic efforts to militarise the Kiev regime, which was brought to power in the wake of a bloody coup and has been used as a bridgehead for making direct military threats to our country and obliterating its historical heritage on land that falls under Russia's legitimate interests.

The series of recent joint exercises conducted by the United States and its European NATO allies, including scenarios involving the use of nuclear weapons on Russia, was unlike anything seen since the end of the Cold War. The stated objective of inflicting a "strategic defeat" on Russia has impaired the vision of the reckless politicians who are convinced of their own impunity and have lost their basic sense of self-preservation.

The attempts to expand the alliance's sphere of influence across the entire Eastern Hemisphere under the deceptive slogan of "the indivisibility of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security" are a new and dangerous manifestation of NATO expansionism. To achieve this goal, Washington is creating and running military-political mini-alliances, such as AUKUS, the US-Japan-South Korea trio and the Tokyo-Seoul-Canberra-Washington quartet. It is encouraging their participants to engage in practical cooperation with NATO, which is establishing its infrastructure in the Pacific theatre. The openly anti-Russia and anti-China focus of such efforts seeking to break up the inclusive and consensus-based regional architecture built around ASEAN creates risks of a new explosive geopolitical hotbed of tensions in addition to the already simmering Europe.

One can't help but get the strong impression that the United States

and its subservient "Western team" have decided to impart a global dimension to the Monroe Doctrine. These ambitions are as illusory as they are extremely dangerous, yet it doesn't stop the masterminds of the new edition of Pax Americana from doing what they are doing.

It has reached the point where Western ruling elites, in violation of the UN Charter, are telling other countries who they should maintain relations with and how. In fact, they are taking these nations' right to national interests and an independent foreign policy away from them. In NATO's Vilnius Declaration, the growing partnership between Russia and China is viewed as a "threat to NATO." Speaking before French ambassadors some time ago, President Macron expressed deep concern about the expansion of BRICS, calling it evidence of "complications in the international arena which pose the risk of weakening the West and, in particular, Europe... The international order, its principles, and various forms of organisation where the West continues to hold dominant positions are being revised." These confessions are quite telling; if anyone anywhere is getting together and making friends without them, or without their permission, it is seen as a threat to their dominance. NATO's advancement in the Asia-Pacific region is positive, whereas the expansion of BRICS is dangerous.

The US-led collective West has unilaterally assumed the role of master of the fate of all humanity and, driven by a complex of exceptionalism, is increasingly disregarding the legacy of the founding fathers of the United Nations. They intend to replace the UN-centric architecture of global governance with a rules-based order. No one has ever seen these rules (or, rather they were never shown to anyone), but by observing the duplicitous and hypocritical actions of Anglo-Saxon and other geopolitical engineers, one can gain a clear understanding of how this scam is being put into practice.

In words, the West never denies the importance of respecting the norms and principles of the UN Charter, but it always applies these principles selectively, picking the ones that serve its momentary, self-serving geopolitical interests.

However, all charter principles should be upheld not selectively but in their entirety, as a collective and interconnected set, for the sake of ensuring the fair regulation of international relations, namely, sovereign equality of states, non-interference in their internal affairs, respect for territorial integrity, equality and self-determination of peoples, and respect for fundamental freedoms for all, as well as the obligation to implement UN Security Council resolutions and to strengthen the UN as the coordinating centre.

It is quite telling that Washington, London, and their allies never mention, let alone engage, the foundational charter principle that the Organisation is based on – the principle of the sovereign equality of all its members.

This principle is meant to ensure that all countries have a dignified place in the world, regardless of their size, form of government, or political and socioeconomic structure. However, the West is trying to divide the world into democracies which can do as they please, and others, which must serve the interests of the golden billion. Western exceptionalism is epitomised by EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell publicly calling Europe a garden, and the rest of the world a jungle. This is not sovereign equality, but pure colonialism.

The collective West consistently violates the fundamental principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. There are numerous examples ranging from Central America and Yugoslavia to Iraq and Libya. Currently, their focus is on expanding into the post-Soviet space.

It is widely known that since the breakup of the Soviet Union, the United States has openly sought to bring Ukraine to heel. As acting Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland proudly stated in late 2013, Washington spent \$5 billion nurturing obedient politicians in Kiev. In 2004-2005, aiming to bring a pro-American candidate to power, the West gave the green light to the first coup in Kiev, forcing the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to make an unlawful decision to hold a third round of elections that was not provided for by the country's fundamental law. An even more brazen act of interference in the country's internal affairs occurred during the second wave of Maidan protest in 2013-2014. Back then, a bevy of Western envoys strongly encouraged participants in anti-government demonstrations to engage in violence.

In particular, Victoria Nuland



discussed with the US Ambassador to Ukraine the members of the future government to be formed by the coup plotters. At the same time, she reminded the EU of its actual place in global politics telling it to mind its own business. In February 2014, the individuals hand-picked by the Americans became key figures in the violent takeover of power, which happened just one day after an agreement was reached by the legitimately elected President of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, and opposition leaders with the mediation of Germany, Poland, and France. The UN Charter principle of non-interference in internal affairs was repeatedly trampled upon.

Immediately after the coup, its leaders said that their top priority was to curtail the rights of the Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine. Residents of Crimea and Donbass, who refused to accept the outcomes of the unconstitutional seizure of power, were labelled terrorists, and a punitive operation was unleashed against them. In response, Crimea and Donbass held referendums in full compliance with the principle of equality and self-determination of peoples, as outlined in Article 1, Paragraph 2 of the UN Charter.

Western diplomats and politicians consistently avoid mentioning this crucial norm of international law when they talk about Ukraine, and seek to reduce the ongoing developments to respecting territorial integrity.

In this regard, it is essential to point out that the unanimously adopted in 1970 UN Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the UN Charter of the United Nations stipulates that the principle of respecting territorial integrity applies to "States conducting themselves in compliance with the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples... and thus possessed of a government representing the whole people belonging to the territory."

The fact that Ukrainian nationalists who seized power in Kiev in a coup did not represent the people of Crimea or Donbass does not require proving. The unwavering support provided by the Western capitals to the actions of the criminal Kiev regime constitutes a violation of the principle of self-determination, which followed blatant interference in internal affairs.

The adoption of racist laws banning all things Russian, including education, media, and culture, and the destruction of books and monuments, the ban on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and the seizure of its property during the post-coup administrations led by Petr Poroshenko and then Vladimir Zelensky constituted a blatant violation of Article 1, Paragraph 3 of the UN Charter regarding the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion. Not to mention the fact that these actions directly violated the Ukrainian Constitution which obliges the state to respect the rights of Russians and other ethnic minorities.

Kiev had a responsibility to honour the international commitments it had taken on as part of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements dated February 12, 2015, which had been approved by UN Security Council Special Resolution 2202. This responsibility was imposed on Kiev in strict accordance with Article 36 of the Charter which supports "any procedures for the settlement of the dispute which have already been adopted by the parties." In this context, those parties included Kiev, the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic. However, last year, all the signatories to the Minsk Agreements with the exception of President Putin (namely, Angela Merkel, Francois Hollande, and Petr Poroshenko) publicly and even enthusiastically admitted that they had no intention of honouring this document when they initially signed it. Their primary objective was to buy time to bolster Ukraine's military capabilities and to arm it against Russia. Over the years, the EU and NATO openly

supported every effort to undermine the Minsk Agreements, pushing the Kiev government towards a military solution to the "Donbass problem." These actions violated Article 25 of the Charter, which obligates all UN members to "accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council."

As a reminder, the leaders of Russia, Germany, France, and Ukraine signed a declaration which came as part of the Minsk Agreements. In this declaration, Berlin and Paris committed to many things, including helping restore the banking system in Donbass. In fact, they did not lift a finger to act on their commitments. All they did was watch Poroshenko impose a trade, economic, and transport blockade on Donbass contrary to their pledges. In the same declaration, Berlin and Paris also pledged to facilitate the strengthening of trilateral cooperation within the Russia-Ukraine-EU format in order to address Russia's trade-related concerns and to promote the "creation of a shared humanitarian and economic space extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific." This declaration had also been approved by the Security Council and was supposed to be acted upon in accordance with Article 25 of the UN Charter. Unfortunately, the commitment made by the leaders of Germany and France turned out to be another empty promise and a breach of the principles outlined in the Charter.

Legendary Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko rightfully pointed out on multiple occasions, "Ten years of talks are better than one day of war." Staying true to this legacy, we engaged in lengthy talks pushing for the conclusion of European security agreements, approved the Russia-NATO Founding Act in 1997, and adopted at the top level the OSCE declarations on indivisible security. Starting from 2015, we insisted on the unconditional implementation of the Minsk Agreements, which were the outcome of these talks. All of these efforts were fully aligned with the UN Charter's stipulation to "establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained." Nonetheless, our Western counterparts disregarded even this fundamental principle when they signed these agreements, knowing in advance that they would not honour them.

Presently, we hear nothing but slogans in the rhetoric of our opponents such as "invasion, aggression, and annexation." Not a word is said about the deep-seated roots of the problem or the fact that they had been nurturing an openly Nazi regime for a long time, a regime that unabashedly rewrites the outcomes of the Second World War and the history of its own people. The West avoids any meaningful dialogue based on facts and respect for UN Charter requirements. It lacks arguments for a candid dialogue.

There is a strong perception that Western representatives shy away from engaging in professional discussions that could expose their demagoguery. While they vocally support Ukraine's territorial integrity, former colonial powers conveniently ignore UN resolutions calling on Paris to return "French" Mayotte to the Union of the Comoros and London to withdraw from the Chagos Archipelago and to engage in negotiations with Buenos Aires regarding the Falkland Islands. These "proponents" of Ukraine's territorial integrity now pretend to forget what the Minsk Agreements were about, which were designed to reunite Donbass with Ukraine while ensuring the protection of fundamental human rights, particularly the right to their native language. The West, which foiled the implementation of these agreements, bears direct responsibility for the breakup of Ukraine and instigating the civil conflict there.

I would like to highlight Article 2 of Chapter VIII of the Charter as another UN Charter principle that could have prevented the security crisis in Europe and facilitated confidence-building measures based on a balance of interests, were it respected. This article underscores the importance of developing the practice of peacefully resolving disputes with the assistance of

regional organisations.

In line with this principle, Russia, alongside its allies, consistently advocated for establishing contacts between the CSTO and NATO to support the practical implementation of OSCE summit decisions regarding indivisible security in Europe. However, numerous appeals coming from the top CSTO authorities to NATO were ignored. Had NATO not rejected CSTO's offers of cooperation, it might have played a role in averting many of the negative developments that led to the ongoing crisis in Europe, as Russia was consistently ignored or misled over the course of many decades.

The Western-centric liberal order relies heavily on double standards. When the principle of self-determination conflicts with Western geopolitical interests, as was the case when the people of Crimea, Donetsk and Lugansk people's republics, and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions expressed their desire to be one with Russia, the West not only conveniently forgets about it but also vehemently condemns people's choices and imposes sanctions. However, when self-determination aligns with Western interests, it is upheld as an absolute rule. A notable example is the recognition of Kosovo's separation from Serbia, which took place in the absence of a referendum.

The ongoing deterioration of the situation in this Serbian region is a matter of deep concern. NATO supplying weapons to Kosovo and helping them create an army of their own constitutes a flagrant violation of the fundamental UN Security Council Resolution 1244. The world is witnessing a repeat of the sad situation with the Minsk Agreements concerning Ukraine, which envisaged a special status for the Donbass republics and which Kiev openly undermined with Western support. Currently, the EU appears unwilling and unable to compel its Kosovo underlings to honour the 2013 Belgrade-Pristina agreements on the establishment of the Community of Serbian Municipalities in Kosovo, which should have special rights regarding their language and traditions. In both cases, the EU acted as a guarantor of the agreements, and it appears that they will share the same fate. The outcome is exactly what you would expect with such a sponsor.

Pursuing its geopolitical ambitions, Brussels imposes its mediation services on Azerbaijan and Armenia, thus destabilising, alongside Washington, the South Caucasus. Now that the leaders of Yerevan and Baku have resolved the matter of mutual recognition of sovereignty, it is time to promote peaceful life and build trust. The Russian peacekeeping contingent is prepared to contribute in every possible way.

In their efforts to prevent the democratisation of relations between countries, the United States and its allies are increasingly privatising the secretariats of international organisations. They push through decisions to establish subordinate mechanisms with non-consensual mandates in circumvention of the established procedures, all while claiming the right to place the blame with the parties which, for whatever reason, are not liked by Washington.

It is worth emphasising that the UN Charter requirements also apply to the UN Secretariat. According to Article 100 of the Charter, the Secretariat must act impartially, without receiving instructions from any government and, of course, it must respect the principle of sovereign equality of member states. In this regard, there are serious questions about the statements made by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on March 29, such as "autocratic leadership is not a guarantor of stability; it is a catalyst of chaos and conflict," and that "strong democratic societies are places that are capable of self-correction – and self-improvement. They can enable change – even radical change – without bloodshed and violence." One cannot help but think about the "changes" brought about by the aggressive moves of "strong democracies" in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and many other countries.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General stated that "[d]emocracies] are centres for broad-based cooperation, rooted in the principles of equality, participation and solidarity." Notably, this was said at the Summit for Democracy convened by President Biden outside the UN, the participants of which were selected by the US administration based on loyalty, not so much loyalty to Washington as to the ruling Democratic Party. The attempts to use such forums to discuss global issues directly violate Article 1, Paragraph 4 of the UN Charter, which emphasises the need to ensure the role of the Organisation as "a centre for harmonising the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends."

At the same Summit for Democ-

racy, the Secretary-General declared: "Democracy flows from the United Nations Charter. Its opening invocation of 'We the Peoples' reflects the fundamental source of legitimate authority: the consent of the governed." It's interesting to juxtapose this thesis with the track record of the Kiev regime that initiated a war against a significant portion of its own people – millions of people who did not agree to be governed by neo-Nazis and Russophobes who unlawfully grabbed power in the country and buried the UN Security Council-approved Minsk Agreements, thus undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity.

When discussing the UN Charter principles, we must also consider the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly. The "Western collective" has aggressively promoted the issue of "abusing the veto power" for a long time and has successfully pressured UN member states into discussing in the General Assembly issues related to each and every veto, which the West increasingly seeks to provoke. This is not a problem for us because Russia's approaches to all agenda items are transparent, and we have nothing to hide. We can lay out our position one more time, if need be. Additionally, the veto is an entirely legitimate tool enshrined in the Charter to prevent decisions that could lead to the Organisation's division.

However, since the procedure for discussing vetos in the General Assembly has been approved, why not also consider the Security Council resolutions that were adopted without veto many years ago, but have still not been implemented? Why not have the General Assembly explore the reasons for this state of affairs, such as hearing from those who have thwarted the implementation of Security Council resolutions on Palestine, the entire range of issues in the Middle East and North Africa, the Iran nuclear deal, as well as Resolution 2202 that endorsed the Minsk Agreements for Ukraine?

Sanctions regimes need to be addressed as well. It has become customary for the Security Council, following lengthy negotiations in strict accordance with the Charter, to approve sanctions on a particular country. After that, the United States and its allies often impose additional unilateral restrictions on the same country, which were not approved by the Security Council and were not part of the agreed-upon package included in the resolution. This practice extends to the decision made by Berlin, Washington, Paris, and London through their national legislative measures to renew sanctions on Iran, which were set to expire in October and are subject to legal termination in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2231. Put differently, the term of the Security Council resolution has expired, but Western nations couldn't care less since they follow their own rules.

The aggressive and self-serving approach adopted by the Western minority has sparked a major crisis in international relations, and the risks of a global conflict are running high. However, there is a way out of the current situation. First, everyone must recognise their responsibility for the future from a historical perspective rather than short-term political considerations related to national elections. Almost 80 years ago, when signing the UN Charter, world leaders agreed to respect the equality of all states, thereby acknowledging the necessity of an equal, polycentric order as a guarantee of sustainability and security for global development.

It is critical to endeavor to turn the spirit of multipolarity enshrined in the UN Charter into reality. An increasing number of countries from the global majority seek to strengthen their sovereignty and uphold their national interests, traditions, culture, and way of life. They are not willing to live under anyone's dictate and want to be friends and trade with each other and the rest of the world on equal terms to everyone's benefit within the framework of the objectively emerging multipolar architecture. This was the prevailing sentiment during the recent summits of BRICS and the G20, as well as the East Asian Summit.

Swiftly reforming global governance mechanisms is the number one objective. The United States and its allies should stop artificially holding back the redistribution of voting quotas at the IMF and the World Bank and recognise the actual economic and financial weight of Global South countries. The immediate unblocking of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body should be prioritised as well.

The expansion of the Security Council is very much sought after, but it should be achieved solely by addressing the underrepresentation of Asian, African, and Latin

American countries. Importantly, the new members of the Security Council, both permanent and non-permanent, should enjoy high standing in their respective regions and global organisations such as the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

It is time to take a close look at more equitable methods of forming the UN Secretariat. The criteria that have been in place for many years do not accurately reflect the real clout of the countries in global affairs and artificially ensure the excessive dominance of NATO and EU countries. These imbalances are further exacerbated by the system of permanent contracts that tether their holders to the positions of host countries of international organisations, most of which are located in the capitals that follow Western policies.

All efforts towards reforming the UN should be aimed at affirming the supremacy of international law and reviving the organisation as the central coordinating body of global politics for holding discussions on how to address issues collectively based on a fair balance of interests.

At the same time, the full potential of new types of alliances reflecting the interests of the Global South should be harnessed. This primarily includes BRICS, which has seen its authority significantly increase following the Johannesburg Summit and has gained truly global importance. At the regional level, we are witnessing a renaissance of organisations such as the African Union, CELAC, LAS, GCC and others. In Eurasia, the harmonisation of integration processes within the SCO, ASEAN, the CSTO, the EAEU, and the CIS, as well as China's Belt and Road project is picking up pace. This is organically leading to the formation of a Greater Eurasian partnership open to all associations and countries on our shared continent.

The increasingly aggressive attempts by the West to maintain dominance in global politics, economics, and finance are at odds with these positive trends. Avoiding the fragmentation of the world into isolated trade blocs and macroregions is in our common interest. However, if the United States and its allies are not willing to negotiate a fair and equitable shape to globalisation processes, other countries will need to make up their minds and think about steps that will not subject their prospects for socioeconomic and technological development, as well as their security, to the neocolonial instincts of former colonial powers.

Speaking at the Valdai Forum on October 5, President Putin made a clear case for strengthening international law based on the UN Charter and put forward six principles for establishing genuine multipolarity: openness and interconnectedness of the world without barriers to communication; respect for diversity as the foundation of shared development; maximum representation at global governance institutions, universal security balancing everyone's interests, fair access to the benefits of economic development, and equality for all, as well as saying no to the dictates of the rich or powerful.

President Putin stated it clearly: "Essentially, we face the task of building a new world." This does not mean starting from scratch and erasing everything created by our predecessors. The foundation for building a new world is in place, and it is strong. It is the UN Charter. Most importantly, we must do our best to prevent its destruction through the selective manipulation of its principles, and to ensure their full and interconnected implementation by all countries.

If global community members muster the determination to get back to basics and put their UN Charter commitments into practice, humanity will have a chance to overcome the destructive legacy of the unipolar era.

The extent to which everyone is willing to take ownership of their individual and collective responsibility for the future of the world will be on display during preparations for next year's Summit of the Future spearheaded by the UN Secretary-General.

As Antonio Guterres said during a news conference on the eve of the 78th session of the General Assembly, "If we want a future of peace and prosperity based on equity and solidarity, leaders have a special responsibility to achieve compromise in designing our common future for our common good." These are golden words. The mission of the United Nations lies precisely in seeking consensus, rather than dividing the world into "democracies" and "autocracies." Russia, along with its like-minded partners, is fully prepared to contribute to this mission.

(The Writer is Russian Foreign Minister)

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
48,771.71	48,474.54
Day's High	Day's Low
48,830.26	48,359.37
Index Value	Change
8,882,617,018	+297.17
Percentage	Time
+0.61%	12 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,644.78	+24.75
Percentage	Time
+0.32%	12 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,513.10	-291.77
Percentage	Time
-0.86%	12 Oct, 1:58 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,494.66	+558.15
Percentage	Time
+1.75%	12 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	175.25	177
Bahrain Dinar	742.31	750.31
Canadian Dollar	201	203
China Yuan	38.29	38.69
Danish Krone	39.9	40.3
Euro	292.1	295
Hong Kong Dollar	35.69	36.04
Indian Rupee	3.37	3.48
Japanese Yen	1.4	1.47
Kuwaiti Dinar	902.88	911.88
Malaysian Ringgit	59.23	59.83
New Zealand \$	168.08	170.08
Norwegians Krone	25.95	26.25
Omani Riyal	727.78	735.78
Qatari Riyal	76.98	77.68
Saudi Riyal	73	73.7
Singapore Dollar	199	201
Swedish Korona	25.8	26.1
Swiss Franc	309.24	311.74
Thai Bhat	7.66	7.81
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	76
UK Pound Sterling	345	348.5
US Dollar	276	278.75

Pakistan is a lucrative destination for future investments: Naguib Sawiris

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Naguib Sawiris, Chairman & CEO of Ora Developers, expressed his enthusiasm for the progress of the prestigious Eighteen housing project in Islamabad during a press conference held in Islamabad.

The project, which aims to redefine the standards of luxury living in Pakistan and create a world-class community, blending modernity with natural beauty, has achieved significant milestones in infrastructure development. This includes the visit of the Regional Dispatch Centre of China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC). The China Gezhouba Group Company is also playing a vital role in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by doing some key projects in Pakistan. Followed by the inauguration of The Market as well as a state-of-the-art, 9-hole professional Golf Academy, various recreational facilities like sports clubs, fitness centers, and sports



complexes.

Furthermore, a vibrant handover ceremony of an 8 Kanal Villa in the Dandelion Cluster at Eighteen, and the Penthouse of the Heights, was held in the presence of Naguib Sawiris. The Chairman presented the clients with

symbolic keys to commemorate the occasion while highlighting Ora Developers' commitment to delivering high-quality properties and amenities for residents. Looking ahead, Sawiris expressed his views that Pakistan is a lucrative destination, with significant potential for

future investments.

The launch of The Club at Eighteen, a modern masterpiece in the heart of the development, accompanied by the initiation of the exclusive clubhouse Membership Program, marks a significant milestone in the development. The clubhouse is the pinnacle of premium living, offering world-class facilities, set amidst the natural beauty of a state-of-the-art, 18-hole championship golf course, offering panoramic views and a life of unparalleled luxury.

CEO of Eighteen, Tarek Hamdy, attributed the project's success to the Eighteen management's deep understanding of Pakistan's real estate market. Hamdy also noted a shift in customer preferences towards eco-conscious homes, indicating a growing demand for green properties with excellent amenities. "With a track record of delivering world-class projects, we are dedicated to setting new standards in luxury and innovation within the real estate industry," Tarek added.

SECP registers 2,477 new companies in September

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,477 new companies in September 2023, bringing the total number of companies in Pakistan to 202,892. The total capitalization (paid up capital) of newly incorporated companies stood at Rs. 1.59 billion.

Private limited companies accounted for 58 percent of new incorporations, followed by single-member companies at 39 percent and 3 percent were registered as public unlisted companies, not-for-profit associations, trade organizations and limited liability partnerships (LLP). One foreign company has also established a place of business in Pakistan, while 92 applicants incorporated companies from overseas using eService. Almost 99.7 percent of companies were registered online. In addition, as a result of integration of SECP with FBR and



various provincial departments, 2,389 companies were registered with FBR for registration of NTN, 62 companies with EOBI, 34 companies with PESSI/SESSI and 40 companies with excise and taxation department.

Information technology sector took the lead with incorporation with 347 companies, trading with 308, services with 282, real estate development & construction with 278, tourism with 123, education with 106, food & beverages with 100, e-commerce with 75, mining & quarrying with 70, textile with 60, corporate agricultural farming with 59,

marketing & advertisement, and pharmaceutical with 49 each, engineering, and transport with 48 each, power generation with 47, healthcare, and cosmetics & toiletries with 37 each, chemical with 35, auto & allied 27, lodging with 24, broadcasting & telecasting, and communications with 22 each, cables & electrical goods with 21, paper & board with 17, and 186 companies were registered in other sectors.

Foreign investment has been reported in 82 new companies, having investors from Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, UAE, UK, USA and Vietnam. Major chunk of investment was received from China with 47 companies, UK with 06, USA with 05, Korea South with 03, Japan, Nigeria and Portugal with 02 each and in 15 companies from other countries.

ICCI calls for focusing on trade fairs and exhibitions to revive the economy

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the exhibitions are a permanent feature of business promotion in developed countries and stressed that Pakistan should focus on trade fairs and exhibitions to promote trade, exports and investment that would help revive the economy. He said that Pakistan is a huge market of 240 million consumers and fifth largest country in the world in terms of population, therefore, it needs to organize at least 500 exhibitions every year to uplift the businesses and the overall economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Khurshid Barlas, Chairman Federal, Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry said that the private sector is very dynamic in Pakistan, but it needs the support of the government to promote the economic activities through exhibitions. He emphasized that all the relevant ministries and departments of the government dealing with commerce,



trade, industries, planning and financing should extend all possible support and cooperation to the exhibitors and trade fair organizers as well as participants to make Pakistan a hub of business and economic activities.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the current state of the economy necessitates fast boost in exports and regular exhibitions in domestic and

major international markets are the best tool to introduce our exportable products and increase their exports.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Baser Daud, Maqsood Tabish, Ameer Hamza, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Hama-yun Kabir, Muhammad Shabbir, Khalid Chaudhry, Faizan Shehzad and others were also present on the occasion.

LONGi embracing BC Solar Cell Technology

News Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan should adopt the fast-track mode for the introduction of modern technologies for harnessing its full potential of solar energy. The power consumers in the industrial, commercial, and domestic sectors should get easy access to the latest equipment for maximum utilization of solar energy abundantly available in the country. No doubt, the geographical, weather, and climatic conditions are most suitable in most parts of our country around the year for the availability of solar power in abundance. Just the right combination of government support, long-term policies, investment, availability of trained manpower and the latest technology is required to fully utilize this massive clean energy resource. The recent countrywide agitation against excess electricity bills also shows that the government has to act fast to promote



the usage of renewable sources of energy as an alternative to the expensive imported fossil fuels for power generation. The latest estimates show that Pakistan has the potential to produce up to 2900 GW of clean energy alone on the basis of solar power. Despite such a huge potential for renewable energy generation, the country hasn't been producing more than 3 GW based on both solar and wind power. At

present, solar power accounts for only two percent of Pakistan's national energy mix, it has to be increased to up to 19 percent in less than a decade as per the plan of the government to promote renewable sources of energy in the country.

LONGi views the space of efficiency improvement as its top priority in selecting a technology roadmap. Regarding the BC solar cell technology, the company firmly believes

that it offers greater room for successive efficiency enhancement than other technologies available in the market. Additionally, thanks to the improvement in aesthetics, the BC products can be integrated into different application scenarios, particularly into the thriving distributed photovoltaic market for domestic, industrial, and commercial consumers. To meet various demands from diverse distributed photovoltaic applications, the BC modules can be fabricated in different colors.

LONGi has been heavily investing in R&D with consistency. From 2012 to 2023 H1, the company has a cumulative R&D investment exceeding CNY 20 billion, the highest in the industry. In 2023 H1 alone, LONGi has invested CNY 3.42 billion in R&D, accounting for 5.29% of its overall operating income. Until June 30th 2023, the company has obtained 2,525 approved patents of different types.

PTCL decides to monetize its 12 Non-core assets for enhancing financial agility

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited has decided to sell its twelve surplus immovable assets in nine cities to strengthen its financial health and service capacity. This is in consideration of the company's aggressive network and ICT infrastructure expansion plans.

Required approvals have been accorded for the planned sale of company's properties, situated in Attock, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Kasur, Multan, Okara, Sadiqabad and Sialkot.

As a responsible corporate entity, PTCL ensures strict compliance with the relevant company policies and legal frameworks in all business operations. The planned transactions will be carried out through a transparent auction process in accordance with the rules and regulations to provide an equal opportunity to all



individuals/firms interested in buying the properties.

The funds generated from these properties will be allocated to the expansion of PTCL's network and IT infrastructure. The liquid resources will play a pivotal role in financing upcoming projects aimed at delivering enhanced connectivity and integrated ICT services to an even larger consumer and enterprise user base across the nation. PTCL remains committed to its mission to provide seamless connectivity solutions to meet the evolving needs of Pakistan's digital landscape. Ends

BankIslami earns runner-up honors in Best Islamic Bank Category

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: BankIslami, Pakistan's premier Islamic financial institution, has been awarded the prestigious runner-up position in the Best Islamic Bank category at the 20th Annual Excellence Awards, organized by the CFA Society Pakistan. The awards ceremony, held on Friday, October 06, 2023, celebrated outstanding performers in the financial industry to recognize their

valuable contributions to the financial sector of Pakistan.

BankIslami's recognition as the runner-up in the Best Islamic Bank category is a testament to its unwavering commitment to saving humanity from Riba and its dedication to delivering innovative and customer-centric financial solutions. The bank consistently strives to provide its customers with Shariah-compliant banking services that meet their evolving financial needs.

CEO Zong 4G visits PTA Chairman to discuss the future of digitalization in Pakistan



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The CEO and Chairman of Zong 4G (CMPak), Mr. Huo Junli, met with the Chairman of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Major General (Retd.) Hafeez ur Rehman on Monday, 9th October, to discuss matters related to the growth of Pakistan's telecom industry.

The leaders of Zong 4G and PTA discussed the future

of digitalization in the country and the mutual efforts that can go into furthering innovation and growth.

The discussion was centered around creating an environment of social and digital inclusion, striving to develop an extensive network that covers the length and breadth of the country, giving life to a new era of connectivity through the widespread adoption of technology.

Chairman APPTMA strongly condemned the Israeli bombardment on Palestinian people



Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Chairman All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APPTMA) Hafiz Sheikh Muhammad Asghar Qadri strongly condemned the Israeli bombardment on the Palestinian people and said that terrorism under the auspices of international organizations for a long time has been associated with the genocide of the Palestinians by Israel. Saat occupies the first Qibla of Muslims. The international community and the media of the world were silent, now that the Palestinian is retaliating for its freedom and defense, the international media has woken up, which shows that the world of infidelity is one against the Muslims. The leadership will have to come to their senses and stand by their side for the freedom of the first Qibla as well as the freedom of the innocent Palestinians and fight the Israeli brutality. He said that Muslims all over the world will not accept the impure occupation of the holy land of Palestine by the Zionists. Palestinians have been fighting the war of freedom for generations with courage and perseverance. Millions of Palestinian men, women and children have been martyred. He said that Israel is an impure and illegitimate state which is not only occupying the holy land, but in this period it has unleashed all kinds of persecution on the oppressed people of Palestine, women and innocent children. Along with the physical massacre of the Palestinians, the Zionist state also carried out their economic massacre. The Palestinian people are right in their struggle for freedom.

Pakistan Women's Cricket Team Squad Announced for Bangladesh Tour PCB Say

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Nida Dar will continue to lead Pakistan women's team as the national selection committee headed by Saleem Jaffar announced a 15-member squad for the Bangladesh tour scheduled to take place later this month.

Pakistan will depart for Bangladesh on 20 October to feature in a six-match white-ball series which also includes three ODIs, part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25. The series itinerary will be announced in due course by the home board.

The experienced Iram Javed stages a comeback to the national side after a gap of one year. The right-handed batter last played for Pakistan in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in 2022. Iram also featured for Super Women against Amazons in the three women's exhibition T20 matches earlier this year in Rawalpindi.

Shawaal Zulfiqar and Syeda Aroob Shah have been excluded from the squad that played against South Africa last month in the white-ball series in Karachi, while Fatima Sana, who got injured in the second ODI against South Africa, is still in the process of recovering. Both Shawaal and Aroob are



part of the 28 probables of the Pakistan women's emerging team taking part in the training camp in Muridke. The emerging team will play a bilateral series and a triangular tournament involving West Indies and Thailand's emerging cricket teams later this month.

Pakistan squad:

Nida Dar (captain), Aliya Riaz, Bismah Maroof, Diana Baig, Ghulam Fatima, Iram Javed, Muneeba Ali (wk), Najia Alvi (wk), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar

Non-travelling reserves - Amber Kainat, Omaira Sohail and Sidra Nawaz (wk)

Player support personnel: Nahida Khan (manager), Mauhtashim Rashid (interim head coach), Saleem Jaffar (bowling coach), Taufiq Umar (batting coach), Abdur Rehman (spin bowling coach for camp only) Muhammad Asfand Yar (strength and conditioning coach), Syed Nazir Ahmed (media manager), Rifat Asghar Gill (physiotherapist) and Zubair Ahmed (analyst)

Chief Selector Saleem Jaffar: "Our selection committee has carefully delib-

erated over the squad for the Bangladesh tour, aiming to strike the right balance between bat and ball, as we believe this squad is well-equipped to face the challenges in Bangladesh.

Young Shawaal Zulfiqar has been omitted from the squad as she requires more grooming before representing again at the international level. The members of the selection committee have recalled experienced Iram Javed in the squad. Iram's presence will undoubtedly strengthen our batting order in Bangladesh conditions.

Fatima Sana is on the road to recovery, and we are committed to giving her the time she needs to be fully prepared for the upcoming away series against New Zealand where the selection committee feels the right-arm fast bowler will be more productive.

Meanwhile, Pakistan women's team will undergo a six-day camp at Ghani Institute for Cricket in DHA, Lahore from Saturday, 14 October before departing for Bangladesh via Dubai from Lahore in the wee hours of 20 October.

The players besides taking part in practice sessions will feature in different match scenarios and will also play a 50-over practice match in the camp.

West Indies Women A and Thailand women's emerging team to tour Pakistan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan will host West Indies Women A and Thailand women's emerging team from 18 October to 12 November at two venues in Lahore - Gaddafi Stadium and Ghani Institute for Cricket. The tour includes bilateral fixtures and a tri-series involving the Pakistan women's A team.

West Indies will arrive in Pakistan on 18 October and will take part in practice sessions before taking on the Pakistan emerging side in three one-day matches on 24, 26 and 29 October. Ghani Institute for Cricket in DHA will host the one-day fixtures scheduled on 24 and 26 October, while the third one-day match will be staged at Gaddafi Stadium on 29 October. Meanwhile, Thailand women's emerging side will reach Pakistan on 28 October and will take part in practice sessions until 2 November.

The three sides will feature in a T20 tri-series from 3 to 8 November with all the participating teams playing two matches each. The top two teams will

play the final of the tournament on 8 November. All matches of the tri-series will be played at the historic Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

After the departure of the West Indies Women A on 9 November, Pakistan Women A and Thailand women's emerging team will lock horns in a two-match T20 series taking place on 10 and 11 November at the Gaddafi Stadium.

This will be a first of its kind tour of Pakistan involving women's emerging and A side. On the other hand, Pakistan women's U19 team will tour Bangladesh in January 2024 to feature in a T20 tri-series where Sri Lanka women's U19 will be the third side.

In a bumper women's international season 2023-24, Pakistan's senior team is taking part in five ICC Women's Championship series and 17 T20Is. They also recently took part in the 19th Asian Games in China.

Tania Mallick, Head of Women's Cricket: "Women's cricket is on the rise globally, and Pakistan women's cricket is actively taking it forward. We have

recently hosted South Africa in Karachi and now hosting West Indies Women A and Thailand emerging team underscores the fact that a lot of activity is taking place in women's cricket. The emerging series will not only enhance our players' skills but also encourage more investment in women's cricket infrastructure.

"We extend our gratitude to West Indies and Thailand for making this tour possible. We hope this series serves as a turning point for women's cricket in Pakistan, where we see more girls pursuing their cricketing dreams."

The squad of Pakistan emerging women's team will be announced in due course.

Schedule:

18 October - West Indies Women A arrival

24 October - First One-Day (Pakistan Women A v West Indies Women A); Ghani Institute for Cricket

26 October - Second One-Day (Pakistan Women A v West Indies Women A); Ghani Institute for Cricket

28 October - Thailand emerging team arrival

29 October - Third One-Day (Pakistan Women A v West Indies Women A); Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

3 November - Tri-series first T20 match (Pakistan Women A v West Indies Women A); Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

4 November - Tri-series second T20 match (West Indies Women A v Thailand emerging); Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

5 November - Tri-series third T20 match (Pakistan Women A v Thailand emerging); Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

8 November - Tri-series final; Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

9 November - West Indies Women A departs

10 November - First T20 (Pakistan Women A v Thailand emerging); Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

11 November - Second T20 (Pakistan Women A v Thailand emerging); Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

12 November - Thailand emerging team departs

Quinton de Kock, bowlers propel South Africa to humble Australia

LUCKNOW: Quinton de Kock scored his second consecutive century before a combined bowling effort led South Africa to thrash Australia by 134 runs in the 10th match of the ICC World Cup 2023.

Chasing a massive 312-run total, Australia succumbed to their second consecutive defeat in the ongoing mega event after they were bundled out on a paltry 177 in the 41st over.

The five-time champions had a poor start to the pursuit as they lost both their openers Mitchell Marsh (7) and David Warner (13) with just 27 runs on the board.

Marnus Labuschagne joined experienced Steve Smith in the middle and looked to anchor the



run chase with a cautious partnership.

The duo, however, could add just 23 runs to the total before Smith perished after being trapped lbw by Kagiso Rabada,

a decision which caused a debate among cricket fans.

Smith could score 19 off 16 deliveries before walking back to the pavilion in disbelief.

Australia then lost three more

wickets in quick succession to further slip to 70/6 in the 17th over.

Following the slump, Labuschagne put on a fighting seventh-wicket partnership with Mitchell Starc and added 74 runs to the total.

The duo frustrated the ruthless South African bowling attack before Marco Jansen drew a much-needed breakthrough by dismissing Starc, who scored a gutsy 51-ball 27.

Marnus Labuschagne soon followed Starc back into the dugout in the next over.

He remained the top-scorer for Australia with 46 in 74 deliveries, hitting three boundaries.

Australian captain Pat

Cummins scored a 21-ball 22 at the backend but could not save his side from succumbing to a massive defeat.

Kagiso Rabada led the bowling attack for South Africa with 3/33, followed by Marco Jansen, Lungi Ngidi and Tabraiz Shamsi, who picked two each.

De Kock carried the momentum from South Africa's crushing 102-run victory over Sri Lanka in their ICC World Cup 2023 opener, where he scored an 84-ball century.

After being put into bat by Australia, De Kock raised his half-century in 51 balls, while his opening partner Temba Bavuma (35) played an anchoring innings on the other end.

Sri Lanka U19 team lands in Pakistan for multi-format tour



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Sri Lanka U19 squad on Thursday, landed here to feature in one four-day and five one-day matches against Pakistan U19.

The touring side received a warm welcome upon their arrival here and was presented with traditional souvenirs before being taken to a local hotel under tight security.

All six matches will be played in Karachi's National Bank Stadium from 15 to 31 October.

The tour will begin with the four-day game from 15 October which will start at 1000 PKT. The five one-day matches will be played between 22 to 31 October, where the first ball will be bowled at 0930 PKT.

As per the ICC's eligibility criteria for the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2024, players born on or after 1 September 2004 will be eligible to get selected.

This will be the Pakistan U19 team's second bilateral series this year. In April, Pakistan U19 toured Bangladesh and featured in a series consisting of one four-day, five one-dayers and one T20.

Pakistan U19 won all the three-format series, which included winning the five-match one-day series by 4-1.

Last year in November, Bangladesh U19 toured Pakistan and played one four-day, three one-dayers and two T20 match series in Multan.

Usman Wahla, PCB Director - International Cricket: "We are delighted to welcome the Sri Lanka U19 team to Pakistan for this exciting bilateral series. The series will provide an excellent platform for young talent to showcase their skills and gain an invaluable experience ahead of next year's ICC U19 World Cup.

"Our U19 team has played some exceptional game of cricket recently and the series at home showcases the board's vision of nurturing young talent and providing opportunities to future stars of Pakistan cricket.

"I wish luck to both young teams, and may the matches be played in a spirit of camaraderie."

The squad and training schedule of Pakistan U19 team will be announced in due course.

Schedule:

12 October - Sri Lanka U19 team arrival

15-18 October - Four-day match

22 October - First One-Day

24 October - Second One-Day

27 October - Third One-Day

29 October - Fourth One-Day

31 October - Fifth One-Day

1 November - Sri Lanka U19 team departs

Messi doubtful for World Cup 2026 qualifier against Paraguay



Lionel Messi is doubtful for Argentina's South American World Cup qualifier against Paraguay on Thursday despite "looking good" in training, according to coach Lionel Scaloni.

Messi teamed up with the World Cup winners after returning from injury as a second-half substitute for Inter Miami in Major League Soccer on Saturday.

Messi had played just 37 minutes for his club since September 3, having returned with an injury from international duty last month.

"We still have one more training session and one more is important for him... I have to talk it over with him and make sure we are convinced he can start. He looked good. Based on that, we will see the rest of the team," said Scaloni.

The Argentina coach said he also had to take into account that his team would face Peru in Lima five days later.

"What leaves us calm is that, if he is not fit to play, whoever goes out will do just as well, that's the most important thing," he said.

Argentina have won both their qualifiers so far and are level on six points at the top of the table with Brazil.

One option for Scaloni, should Messi not be fit to play, would be to start with Manchester City striker Julian Alvarez and Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez as a pair.

"They've already played together as starters. I'm open to many things. It will depend on the match. It wouldn't be a problem. They're different, but they can play," he added.

Paraguay have one point from their opening games and sit in sixth place, the final spot for automatic qualification for the 2026 World Cup.

Brazil host Venezuela in Cuiba on Thursday - the 'Vinotinto' have three points after a 1-0 win over Paraguay and a narrow 1-0 loss to Colombia.

Midfielder Casemiro says the 'Selecao' won't underestimate an opponent looking for their first appearance in the finals.

ICC World Cup 2023: Four key India-Pakistan battles

Sports Desk

Arch-rivals India and Pakistan meet in a blockbuster PAK vs IND clash at the ongoing ICC World Cup 2023 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on 14 October.

AFP Sport takes a look at four key battles that could decide the eagerly-awaited contest at the world's biggest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad.

Rohit v Shaheen

India skipper Rohit Sharma has struggled against Shaheen Shah Afridi's left-arm pace in the few outings the two teams have had in recent times.

Shaheen rattled Rohit's off stump in their first Asia Cup match in Pallekele last month when the opener's lack of foot-

work saw him bowled for 11.

The duel began at the T20 World Cup in 2021 when Shaheen trapped Rohit lbw for a duck in the first over in Dubai with his pace and swing.

But Rohit came back prepared when the rivals next met in Colombo and remained cautious against the quick despite hitting a six off his first over.

Kohli v Rauf

The stakes were high when Virat Kohli came up against Harris Rauf in a challenging chase at the T20 World Cup in Melbourne last year.

India needed 31 off the last 18 balls while chasing 160 when Kohli held his nerve to smash Rauf for two sixes to bring the house down at a packed MCG.

The first was a length ball

which Kohli dispatched straight down the ground and he flicked the next to over fine-leg en route to victory.

Kohli later said the sixes were "instinctive", but it began a great battle with the Pakistan quick which awaits another showdown in Ahmedabad.

Azam v Bumrah

Jasprit Bumrah experienced the Pakistan captain's ability at the 2021 T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates.

Azam took on the Indian attack including Bumrah, a yorker king, with ease as he and Mohammad Rizwan steered the team to a 10-wicket victory in Dubai.

But two years later Bumrah and company seemed to have learnt their lessons when they

bowled out Pakistan for 128 in a crushing 228-run win in an Asia Cup Super Four clash.

Bumrah beat the bat of Azam on a few occasions in Colombo before Hardik Pandya got the prized wicket.

Iftikhar v Kuldeep

Iftikhar Ahmed is a middle-order batsman who can play anchor or go after the bowling with equal ease but at the Asia Cup last month, India spinner Kuldeep Yadav cut short the batsman's knock, taking a smart catch off his own bowling.

Kuldeep, a left-arm wrist spinner, claimed 5-25 in that game as India claimed a 228-run win.

Iftikhar's task on Saturday will be to tackle the spinners in the middle overs and also accelerate the scoring.

