



Shaheen Afridi makes strong claim ahead of Pakistan-India World Cup 2023 clash

Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi, who makes up one of the most potent pace attacks with Haris Rauf and Hasan Ali, had strong words to say to Indian fans ahead of his side's highly anticipated ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixture against arch-rivals India at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium. (Details on Page 7)

DAYS REMAINING
17

Only 17 days left for illegal immigrants to leave Pakistan
Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 17 days to leave the country or face deportation. Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. In the recent meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Solidarity

FAISALABAD: Grateful people of the city and representative of the different religious groups and parties are shouting slogans during a protest to show solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of the Palestine, in City.



Photo: Online

Pro-Palestine rallies held across Pakistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is to observe a nationwide protest today against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine.
After Namaz-e-Jumma prayers, the rallies will take place in different localities across Pakistan to express solidarity with the Palestinians.
The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Fazlur Rehman announced to observe "Youm-e-Toofan Al Aqsa" today to support the rights of the innocent Palestinian brothers and sisters.
Maulana Fazl said that the Mufti Mahmood Conference - which is going to be held today [Oct 13] - will be turned into a major public rally to support the Palestinian cause and express solidarity with Palestinian brothers and sisters.
He criticized Israel's inhumane act on Palestine civilians and asserted that the United States and Europe are mere spectators to the distressing sight of human rights violence in the region.
He added that these Western powers are supporting the one who is currently violating basic human rights.
Earlier to this, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Islamabad Chapter Spokesperson Mufti Shafi-ur-Rehman said that the workers and supporters would assemble at the Aabpara Chowk after Juma prayer.
He informed that the district, provincial, and central leaders would address the participants highlighting the historical perspective of emotional attachment between the two brotherly nations.
In this regard, Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan would take a rally from Asna Ashri Masjid and Imam Bargah after Juma prayer and it would culminate at China Chowk.
Amir of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Sami) Maulana Hamid-ul-Haq Haqqani has urged all political and religious parties, as well as the general public, to observe this Friday as 'Unity Day for Palestine' and 'Freedom for Al-Quds Day'.
He emphasized that the day should not only be a show of solidarity but also an opportunity to raise prayers for the oppressed Palestinian people.

PM reiterates sternness against smuggling, corruption as efforts coming to fruition

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday reiterated that the government would in no way tolerate smuggling and corruption in the country and its ongoing efforts against the menaces were coming to the fruition.
The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters pertaining to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said the dollar's value had depreciated in the market consequent to the timely action by the government.
The prime minister, who also interacted with the media during the visit, told that the dollar depreciation had led to reduction of country's loans by Rs4,000 billion besides impacting the prices of petroleum products and eatables.
Addressing the participants



of the meeting, the prime minister said that support extended by the Pakistan Army in the efforts to curb smuggling and hoarding was laudable.
The prime minister who was on his first visit to Peshawar after assuming the office, was briefed on the law and order situation

authorities to utilise all-out resources to improve the security and law and order situation and also emphasised the strengthening of KP Police and Counter Terrorism Department.
Appreciating the KP Police and administration's efforts against incidents of terrorism, Prime Minister Kakar said no outfit or group would be allowed to pick up weapons and challenge the state's writ.
He instructed to equip the KP Police with modern equipment to build its capacity against the challenge of terrorism, and assured the federal government's maximum support to the provincial government.
He said the armed forces and the police had rendered immense sacrifices against terrorism and the whole nation stood by them.
Moreover, he said the federal and provincial governments were

striving for the true implementation of the National Action Plan.
Besides assuring to resolve KP's financial issues, he told the meeting that a strategy would be formulated for the resolution of the problems faced by the province and merged districts.
KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan, Caretaker provincial ministers Syed Masood Shah, Barrister Feroz Jamal, Justice (Retd) Irshad Qaiser, Ahmed Rasool Bangash, Asif Rafiq, Dr Najibullah, Dr Muhammad Qasim Jan, Justice (Retd) Arshad Hussain Shah, Syed Amir Abdullah, Engineer Amir Nadeem Durrani and Engineer Ahmed Jan, CM's advisors Dr Riaz Anwar and Dr Sarfaraz Ali Shah, Special Assistant to CM Zafarullah Khan, KP Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Election date after constituencies' delimitation: Solangi

City Desk

LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Friday that the final election date would be announced after completion of the constituencies' delimitation process.
He expressed these views while speaking on Radio Pakistan's news and current affairs program "Lahore Insight" on Friday. He anticipated that elections would be held by the end of January 2024, in accordance with the Election Act of 2017, providing a minimum of 54 days for campaigning. Minister Solangi expressed his commitment to revive Radio Pakistan and emphasised the importance of adapting it to modern demands.
He clarified that major policy decisions rest with the elected governments, and Radio



Pakistan's transition to digital broadcasting would help conserve electricity. Minister Solangi also addressed financial issues faced by Radio Pakistan, particularly the review of past government decisions on radio licensing fees.
Furthermore, he highlighted his efforts in expanding Radio Pakistan's online presence and the significant progress in connecting all Radio Pakistan centers via satellite during his tenure. He expressed hope that the incoming elected government would continue revitalization of Radio Pakistan and other national broadcasting institutions.

Maryam Nawaz's son Junaid Safdar confirms divorce



Arif Choudhary
LONDON: Muhammad Junaid Safdar, son of PML-N Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif and grandson of supreme Nawaz Sharif, has announced divorce from Ayesha Saif, more than two years after they tied the knot.
Talking to Instagram, Junaid confirmed the news of parting ways with from Ayesha Saif.
"News about my divorce is true," Safdar said in an Instagram story. "This is an entirely private matter and I request the media to respect our privacy."
I hope with this decision we find our peace. I wish her well," he wrote.
The couple had tied the knot in August 2021.

Israel tells over 1m Palestinians to leave Gaza City within 24 hours

Agencies

GAZA: Israel has called for the immediate relocation of 1.1 million people in Gaza amid its massive bombardment in retaliation for Hamas's attacks, with the United Nations warning of "devastating" consequences.
The UN said the mass relocation of the entire population in northern Gaza to the south of the enclave was "impossible" and urgently appealed for the order to be rescinded.
The UN said it had been informed of the order shortly before midnight Thursday, six days after Hamas killed more than 1,200 people in Israel and took about 150 hostages in the deadliest attack since the country's creation in 1948.
Israel has retaliated by raining air and artillery strikes in Gaza for six days, claiming more than 1,400 lives and displacing over 400,000 people in the crowded enclave.
It is preparing for a possible ground invasion of the Palestinian territory after what has been labelled Israel's 9/11.
Ongoing conflict between Israel

and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas in Gaza
The Israeli army confirmed Friday it had called on Gaza City residents to evacuate to the south.
UN officials working in Gaza said earlier they were informed by the Israeli military "that the entire population of Gaza north of Wadi Gaza should relocate to southern Gaza within the next 24 hours".
Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general told AFP, that amounted to around 1.1 million people, adding that the order also applied to all UN staff and those sheltered in UN facilities -- including schools, health centres and clinics.
An Israeli tank fires near Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, in southern Israel
"The United Nations strongly appeals for any such order, if confirmed, to be rescinded avoiding what could transform what is already a tragedy into a calamitous situation," Dujarric said, before Israel's confirmation.
The Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, reacted angrily to the UN saying its response to

the warning to Gaza residents as "shameful!"
"For many years, the UN has turned a blind eye to the arming of Hamas and its use of the civilian population and civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip as a hiding place for its weapons and murder," Erdan said in a note from his office to AFP.
There are 2.4 million people living in Gaza who are now enduring the fifth war in 15 years in the coastal enclave.
Israeli fighter jets and drones have flown above Gaza in a relentless bombardment that has levelled entire blocks and destroyed thousands of buildings.
More than 423,000 people have already fled their homes in Gaza, according to the UN.
Cairo faced calls to allow safe passage for fleeing civilians, but Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Thursday urged Gazans to "stay steadfast and remain on their land".
Israel has cut off water, food and power supplies to Gaza in a siege it has vowed will not end until all hostages are freed.

Passport issuance 'likely' to start from next week

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Issuance of Pakistan passports is likely to resume from next week after the arrival of lamination paper in the country, said the director general (DG) passport on Friday.
This assurance was given by the DG passport to Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti, who contacted the latter on the issue of passport printing. Bugti asked the DG passport to immediately resolve the issue.
The DG passport assured that emergency measures are being taken for the lamination papers. The print of passports is likely to start next week after approval of the papers, he added.
The issuance of Pakistan passports has been suspended across the country from October 11 due to the shortage of lamination papers.

SC verdict in NAB amendments case challenged

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's (SC) verdict in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments case was challenged on Thursday.
On September 15, the Supreme Court of Pakistan struck down amendments made to National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws as it announced its reserved verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's plea.
The review plea has been moved in SC by one of the applicants named Abdul Jabbar through his lawyer Farooq H. Naek.
The Apex court gave a verdict without listening to us, the applicant claimed in his plea and added the verdict against the NAB amendments does not clarify the violation of basic human rights.
The applicant has urged the



apex court to review its decision of September 15 in the NAB amendments case.
In a majority 2-1 verdict, the top court approved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's petition challenging amendments made to the country's accountability laws during the tenure of the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government.
The top court also restored graft cases against public office holders that were closed down following the amendments to NAB laws.
Following the verdict, the references against some of the country's political bigwigs were once again opened in the accountability courts.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association and British Plastic Surgery Team, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Friday.



Photo: PID

President emphasizes need to raise awareness about children born with cleft lips and palates

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday emphasizing the need to raise awareness about children born with cleft lips and palates, said that treatment for cleft lips and palates could significant-

ly improve the quality of life for children. He was talking to a delegation of the Pakistan Cleft Lip Association and the British Plastic Surgery Team which called on him here.

The delegation was led by Chairman of the Association Dr. Ejaz Bashir while officials

from the Federal Ministry of Health were also present in the meeting. During the meeting, the president said addressing current health issues and adopting latest technology to meet future needs would be crucial. The delegation briefed the president on the work and

activities of the Pakistan Cleft Lips and Palate Association.

President Alvi was informed that the Association was providing free and international level treatment facilities to the deserving communities in Gujarat. The meeting was informed that besides issues

of eating and speaking, the affected children might also face discriminative attitude in the society.

The president highly praised the efforts of the Association in the treatment and surgery of children with cleft lips and palates.

ML-1 civil work likely to begin in next financial year: source

Monitoring Desk

LAHORE: The civil work on Main Line-1 (ML-1) project is likely to begin in next financial year as Pakistan is all set to sign a revised agreement on the project with China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

Sources told ARY News that the construction of Main Line-1 (ML-1) project - which will be carried out in three phases - would cost \$6.7 billion under the revised plan.

Sources claimed that the construction in phase one will cost \$2.7 billion, \$2.6 billion

in phase two and \$1.4 billion in phase three.

ML-1 project, Pakistan's first-ever state-of-the-art railway project, aims upgrading and doubling of the 1733-kilometre railway track from Karachi to Peshawar besides the installation of modern signaling and telecom systems.

The project also included complete grade separation and fencing, making travel durations of 10 hours between Lahore and Karachi, 2.45 hours between Lahore and Rawalpindi, and 14.30 hours between Karachi and

Peshawar.

The project features construction of railway tracks between Nawabshah to Rohri, Multan to Lahore, Lahore to Lalamusa, Kemari to Hyderabad, Hyderabad to Multan, Lalamusa to Rawalpindi, Rawalpindi to Peshawar and Havelian Dry Port.

The upgradation of the railway tracks will enable the trains to run at 140 kilometres per hour. The project also features the construction of 2,096 bridges/culverts, 1,300km of fencing, and 165/631-grade separation.

Pakistan and China had

signed the Main Line-1 (ML-1) framework in May 2017 and the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved the project in August 2020.

Earlier in October, it was reported that the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway project is likely to be completed with \$6.6 billion cost, reduced from \$9 billion.

Chinese officials will share the revised plan of the project with Pakistan's Planning Commission after 'one belt one road' conference.

The ML-1 project's cost will be reduced by \$2.4 billion in

the revised plan, sources said. "The sides were agreed over revised plan of the project in the joint working group session held in China," sources said.

"The planning ministry and Chinese officials have discussed the revised plan," sources said.

"Secretary Railways and Secretary Communications had also attended the joint working group meeting," according to sources. The cost of the Main Line-1 project was reduced with mutual consultation under the revised plan, sources added.

Hostile intelligence agency' behind Sialkot murders: Punjab IGP



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Anwar on Friday held a "rogue nation's hostile intelligence agency" responsible for the Sialkot mosque shooting that took place earlier this week.

The IGP's press conference comes two days after three people were killed in what is believed to be a targeted attack on a Daska mosque during Fajr prayers.

"A terrorist attack took place in Pakistan, which was planned in another country," Dr Anwar said, speaking during a presser in Lahore.

"The attackers behind a terror attack in the country have been arrested,"

he said, adding that the attack was carried out by a "rogue nation and planned outside Pakistan".

He, however, didn't mention the country.

The Punjab IGP further said that the culprits behind the terror activity were traced within 24 hours. "The evidence against the accused will be presented in court," Dr Usman said.

Dr Anwar resolved to expose the enemy country in his next press conference along with the identities of the three shooters and their facilitators.

Sialkot shooting According to reports, the assailants on October 11 had entered Masjid Al Noor at Mundayke during Fajr prayers and opened fire at people praying.

FUI (S) chairman calls for global unity, support for Palestine

City Desk



AKORA KHATTAK: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Sami) Chairman Maulana Hamid-ul-Haq Haqqani, criticizing the silence of so-called rulers of international community on the ongoing barbaric persecution of Palestinian Muslims on Friday, said that it was a shameful and cowardly act.

Addressing a massive rally, organized to express solidarity with the innocent people of Palestine, he said international organizations should promote fair behavior on the Palestine issue, stating that it was the time to leave the support of illegal occupiers and oppressors and listen to the voice of real freedom fighters. Haqqani, who is also the chairman of Difa-e-Pakistan Council, appealed to the Islamic world to provide comprehensive political, moral, financial and humanitarian support to the oppressed Palestinians at this difficult time. Central General-Secretary Maulana Sayed Yousuf Shah emphasized that the Muslim Ummah must unite and stand against evil and tyrannical forces. He declared that with true unity, the Muslim world could overcome any challenge and that it was the primary objective of the Muslim Ummah to protect and ensure the freedom of Al-Quds, as well as the oppressed Palestinians, Kashmiris, Rohingya, Syrians and Indian Muslims.

Mushaal inaugurates Pakistani, Afghani art, craft exhibition



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Malik Special advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment inaugurated Pakistani and Afghani Art and Craft Exhibition.

Indus Heritage Trust (IHT), a Not-for-Profit Organization, organized the two days exhibition titled Story of threads "Celebrating Heritage Stitches of Pakistan and Afghanistan".

Speaking on the occasion, as a chief guest, Mushaal appreciated the efforts of IHT and showed keen interest in the revival of culture and heritage of Pakistan.

She lauded the women artisans of Pakistan and Afghan Refugees for their beautiful handcrafted products.

The SAPM said that such exhibitions could help bring the two brotherly countries further closer, adding that the people could get good opportunity to know about the communalities between both the countries through arts and crafts exhibitions.

The Chairperson IHT Siddiq Saeed Malik in her welcome address said, "Without women's empowerment and gender equality, societies will not be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and their full development potential."

The Program Manager Mehreen Aslam thanked the honorable Chief Guest and the all the members for their participation and encouragement to promote culture, heritage and women empowerment.

Dr Shamshad meets Deutsche Bank's top leadership

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr: Shamshad Akhtar convened a meeting with the top leadership of Deutsche Bank, on the sidelines of annual meetings of WB/IMF in Marrakesh, Morocco. The discussions were marked by a constructive exchange of ideas and insights, focusing on fostering economic cooperation and financial stability, the Finance Ministry said this on a social media platform



X on Friday. Both parties expressed their commitment to strengthening ties and highlighted the potential for mutually beneficial initiatives in the financial sector.

Information minister visits Radio Pakistan Lahore building

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi brought a touch of nostalgia and innovation to Radio Pakistan Lahore during his visit on Friday.

Welcomed by the station director, Javed Akhtar, and esteemed TV actor Khalid Abbas Dar, Minister Solangi was presented with a bouquet, symbolising the harmony between traditional and modern broadcasting.

During his visit, Minister Solangi delved into the rich history of Radio Pakistan by exploring its oldest artifacts and even graced the office with a melodious surprise, playing an antique piano, which left everyone in awe.

The federal minister's curiosity led him through various sections of the radio office, taking in the vibrant atmosphere of the music library, the creative hub of the podcast studio, and the bustling News and Current Affairs Channel (NCAC). In a candid

moment, Minister Solangi shared his thoughts in a program "In-Sight" of News and Current Affairs department.

The minister was keen on listening to the concerns and grievances of the dedicated radio staff. In response, he instructed detailed briefings on long-standing issues, vowing to address these concerns promptly, a gesture that was met with gratitude from the Radio Pakistan team.

In a conversation with station director Javed Akhtar, Minister Solangi was given a glimpse into the incredible work accomplished by Radio Pakistan. Akhtar highlighted the historical importance of the radio station by mentioning that the Radio Pakistan Lahore lobby proudly displays images of legendary singers and artists, paying homage to the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Minister Murtaza Solangi's visit not only celebrated the past of Radio Pakistan Lahore but also kindled hope for a future where the art of radio broadcasting continues to thrive alongside the demands of the modern era.

Dr Shamshad meets CEO Islamic Trade Finance Cooperation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr Shamshad Akhtar and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Islamic Trade Finance Cooperation, Hani Salem Sonbol, on Friday convened a high-level meeting in Marrakesh. The exchange focused on strengthening economic cooperation, fostering trade and advancing financial strategies, the finance



ministry said on social media platform X. Both sides expressed their commitment to promote mutual growth and prosperity in the global financial landscape.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Friday.

Chinese envoy talks with Saudi diplomat over Israel-Palestine conflict

Spokesman Report

BELJING: China's Special Envoy on the Middle East issue talked with a senior diplomat of Saudi Arabia on the ongoing conflict between the Palestinians and Israel over phone.

Zhai Jun's latest phone conversation with Saud Al-Sati, deputy minister for political affairs of Saudi Arabia, came following his recent talks with diplomats of Egypt, Palestine and Israel since the conflict broke out on October 7, CGTN reported on Friday.

During Thursday's talks with Sati, the Chinese envoy reiterated that China opposes and condemns acts that harm civilians.



The fundamental way out of the conflict between Palestine and Israel is to implement the two-state solution, said Zhai.

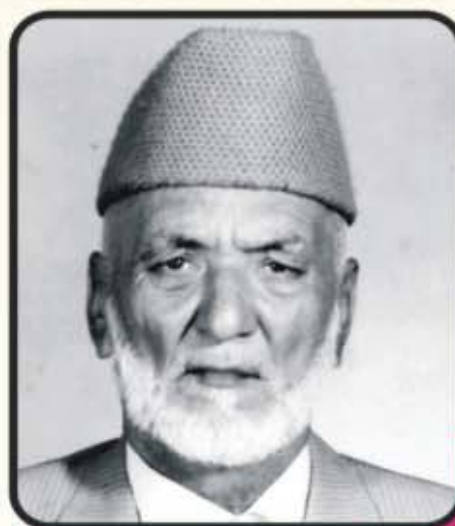
China is ready to maintain communication and coordination with Saudi Arabia to promote both parties to the conflict to maintain calmness and restraint, and avoid escalation or more civilian casualties, he said.

تاج حقوق کیلئے عمر بھر بے لوث جدوجہد کردہ توالی عظیم شخصیت... الحاج نواز دہرہ

پاکستان کا انجمن صحت کے سربراہ ہیں اور دنیا بھر میں اپنی بے شکست کارکردگی اور فاضل آبادی کو اپنی طرف متوجہ کرنے والے شہر ہے۔

کاروباری صلاحیتوں کے حوالے سے چنیوٹ کی مٹی کی خوشبو،..... پھیلی ہے ہر سو

تاج حقوق کی جنگ نے توالی حاج محمد نواز دہرہ کی آج چوٹھی سی عقیدہ و احترام کیسا منانی جا رہی ہے ہر ذرا تاجروں و صنعت ایدرز ان...



شیخ محمد یوسف سالار دہرہ (مرحوم) | شیخ شہزادہ محمد احمد دہرہ (مرحوم)

نواز دہرہ نے اپنے مرحوم والد سالار شیخ محمد یوسف دہرہ کے نقش قدر پر چلتے ہوئے ہمیشہ جابر سلطان کے سامنے کلمہ حق بلند کیا

کر وانا انکا غاصر قادیان تمام تر اخراجات خود برداشت کرتے اور کبھی کسی سے دھڑکی نہ لی یا کسی کو داری گی۔

مرحوم الحاج نواز دہرہ کی روح کے ایصال ثواب کیلئے آج صبح 7 بجے ان کے آبائی قبرستان چنیوٹ کی جامع مسجد میں خزانہ خواتین اور فاتحہ خوانی کی گئی

شیخ محمد یوسف سالار دہرہ مرحوم کو خیر و بھلائی کے ساتھ ساتھ اپنے خاندان پر خیر و بھلائی کے لئے پانچ روپیہ کا نصاب طبع و نشر کر کے مرحوم والد کے لئے خزانہ خواتین



یاد رفتگان

آہ! الحاج محمد نواز دہرہ مرحوم و مغفور ہمارا چاند کہاں چھپ گیا کہاں ڈھونڈیں



تعمیراتی کاموں کے لئے مرحوم نے اپنے اپنے فن کیلئے ہر دن کے بجائے ہفتے کے دنوں کو وقف کر دیا۔

الحاج شیخ نصیر احمد دہرہ (مرحوم) کی یاد میں... ان کی خدمت میں جہاں تک ممکن ہوئے

شیخ شکیل احمد دہرہ (مرحوم) کی یاد میں... ان کی خدمت میں جہاں تک ممکن ہوئے

الحاج شیخ ذوالفقار احمد دہرہ (مرحوم) کی یاد میں... ان کی خدمت میں جہاں تک ممکن ہوئے

مرحوم کا کیریئر جنت تھا کہ انہوں نے ہمیشہ تاجروں کی تحریک کنوشن سمیت تمام تقریبات کے اخراجات خود برداشت کئے کہ کبھی کسی ایک میٹری بھی چندہ نہیں لیا

کی زندگی نواح انسان کی کل خدمت کی اپنے والد کے نقش قدم پر چلتے ہوئے حاجی نواز دہرہ نے کبھی بڑے بیٹے ہونے کی حیثیت سے اپنے والد معروم کی انسان دوستی کا شوق جاری رکھا۔

ان کا یہ عقیدہ تھا کہ انسان کو باطنی طور پر بہتر بنانے کے لئے اس کی تعلیم اور علم کے حصول سے ہی ممکن ہے۔

ان کی ساری عمر اور تمام عرصہ ان کی خدمت میں ہی گزری۔ ان کی وفات پر ان کے پیارے لوگوں نے ان کی تدفین کے لئے اپنی اپنی ذمہ داریاں سنبھالیں۔



- سید شکیل دہرہ, عثمان جہانگیر دہرہ, محمد عرفان ذوالفقار دہرہ, اویس نصیر دہرہ

الحاج محمد نواز دہرہ مرحوم کی تاج خدمات کو سلام

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:48 am
Zohr	11:54 am
Asr	3:57 pm
Maghrib	5:37 pm
Isha	7:00 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

PACRA Assigns AM2 Rating with Stable Outlook to Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA) has assigned an Asset Manager rating of AM2' (AM-Two) with a stable outlook to Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited (PQAMC). This denotes a high quality, which mean the Asset manager meets high investment management industry standards and benchmarks with noted strengths in several of the rating factors. This milestone underscores PQAMC's unwavering commitment to excellence in the field of Islamic fund management.

PQAMC is part of Pak Qatar Group (Pakistan's premier and pioneer Islamic financial services group), offering a comprehensive range of savings and protection solutions that adhere to the principles of Sharia-compliant finance. The trust bestowed upon us by our valued partners stands as a testament to our unwavering dedication to excellence. Within one-year of operations, we attained various remarkable milestones, including achieving Assets Under Management (AUMs) size of exceeding Rs. 15.5 billion and the Governance Rating of AM2, which signifies high quality investment management industry standards.

Beaconhouse and BNU partner for educational excellence

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a move set to reshape the educational landscape, Beaconhouse and Beaconhouse National University (BNU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that aims to foster the exchange of knowledge and best practices, while promoting seamless mobility of faculty, staff, and students between the two institutions. This partnership offers students of both organisations increased and even more diverse educational and professional opportunities. The MoU was signed by Vice Chancellor of BNU, Dr Moeed Yusuf, and Chief Operating Officer Beaconhouse, Mr Ali Ahmad Khan. Under the partnership, Beaconhouse school counsellors will benefit from bespoke training sessions on psychometric testing. BNU will also coordinate other tailored training programmes, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and various well-being initiatives for these counsellors, while BNU's School of Education will provide assessment and other teacher education.

Spark Tank by Beaconhouse, Pakistan's first business incubator for 10-19-year olds,



will benefit from BNU's support in organising entrepreneurial boot camps, providing mentoring for incubation, and supporting E-Tech Labs in relevant disciplines. Beaconhouse, in turn, will enable access to its campuses for BNU's admissions and outreach activities.

Both parties have agreed to collaborate on joint research and development (R&D) initiatives, exploring opportunities to submit grant proposals. Both institutions will also open doors for internship placements, welcoming students from the other's campus, and will jointly promote co-curricular and sporting events while encouraging student participation in these events.

Beaconhouse has always prioritised cultivating a positive environment for its students and faculty that supports their development beyond the classroom. This new collaboration underscores that commitment, and is a significant leap forward in enriching the educational experience in alignment with Beaconhouse's core objectives. The partnership promises to usher in transformative changes in education, opportunity and professional excellence across both institutions.

Zindigi and Beaconhouse National University collaborate to create Pakistan's First Cashless University

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zindigi, powered by JS Bank, a leading name in the digital banking sector, has entered a ground-breaking partnership with Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Pakistan's pioneering non-profit liberal arts institution, to develop the country's first cashless university campus. Through this initiative, Zindigi and BNU are committed to digitize the entire campus experience.

This strategic collaboration aims to fully digitize the campus experience, with a special emphasis on enhancing the student experience through financial inclusion and digital empowerment. The initiative offers a comprehensive range of digital services, including provision of digital bank account opening, streamlined fee payments, diversified campus payment options, and a hub for financial innovation known as the Zindigi Innovation Center. Zindigi will provide



a tailored digital product suite exclusively for BNU students, catering to their everyday financial needs. Basir Shamsie, President and CEO of JS Bank, expressed his commitment to transforming Pakistan's digital payments

landscape, stating, "We are particularly focused on revolutionizing financial accessibility for our youth, fostering sustainability, and equipping them for a prosperous future." Dr Moeed Yusuf, vice chancellor of Beaconhouse National university, Commented, "We are thrilled to collaborate with Zindigi in the creation of Pakistan's first cashless university campus, bringing forth a transformative digital payment experience for both students and faculty. This perfectly aligns with our mission to foster sustainable communities"

As this partnership takes shape, both Zindigi and Beaconhouse National University look forward to setting new benchmarks in digital innovation and financial inclusion.

Mehfil-e-Milad for Ladies held at PAC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A celebration of Milad-e-Mustafa (S. A. W) for women was organized at the Punjab Arts Council. Naheed Manzoor was the chief guest of Mehfil Milad, while Syeda Bushra performed the duties of host in Mehfil-e-Milad. Naheed Manzoor, in his address to the participants of Mahfil Milad, said that the life of the Messenger of Allah (S. A. W) is a perfect example for Muslims. Every corner of social life has to be subject to the Prophet's life. Celebrating the birthday of Mustafa (S. A. W) is also a blessing for those who are lucky. She further said that, in today's gathering, the lovers of Rasool Allah (S. A. W) proved that our life is incomplete without love for Hazrat Muhammad (S. A. W). Muslims are at a loss without the love of the Prophet (S.



A. W). The only way to succeed in this world and the hereafter is the Sunnah of the Prophet (S. A. W), she added. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that there is no counting the blessings of Zikr-e-Mustafa. The blessings of Allah are incalculable in the place where the name of the

Prophet (S.A. W) is mentioned. We should thank Allah, that He created us in the Ummah of His Beloved Prophet (S. A. W). The honor of reciting the Holy Quran in the Milad celebration was given to Rubina Bibi while Hamad Bari was recited by Sadaf Bibi. Babra Batul,

Rekhana Bibi, Mashal Tayyab, Isha Humayun, Bashara, Iman, Faryal Bibi and others offered naats. A large number of women participated in the celebration. At the end of Milad, Naheed Manzoor also offered a special prayer for the protection and prosperity of Pakistan

CDC, along with AMCs and Capital Market entities, organizes World Investor Weekend 2023

News Desk

KARACHI: Central Depository Company (CDC) in partnership with SECP and leading AMCs and brokerage houses of Pakistan have organized a 3-day long event in Karachi to create awareness amongst the potential investors and masses about financial products and services.

The event was inaugurated by Ms. Khalida Habib Executive Director SECP in the presence of CEO CDC Mr. Badiuddin Akber, Chairman CDC Mr. Moin Fudda and heads of other financial institutions.

Masses will be educated about different safe and secured financial products available to them for short and long-term



investment in Pakistani capital market.

This event is being organized to amplify the message of investor empowerment, financial literacy, and the safeguarding

of investor rights. The event will be live over the weekend (13th Oct to 15th Oct 2023) and has been designed to help demystify financial concepts.

The entire ground floor arena of Dolmen Mall Clifton will showcase Capital market participation led by Central Depository Company of Pakistan (CDC) and SECP. Jamajuni along with leading Asset

Management Companies and Brokerage Houses, all of whom will share their expert insights and experiences with the public to assist them in making safe and informed investment decisions, thus promoting the investment culture in Pakistan.

The participating institutions include Al-Meezan Investments, Atlas Asset Management, Al-Habib AMC, Arif Habib Limited, JS Investments, Hilal Investment, UBL Funds, AllFalah CLSA, MCB Funds and ABL Funds.

CDC has invited masses to attend this 3-day event and ask questions, seek information, and actively participate to know more about the world of making smart investments.

Revolutionary Thriller 'In Flames' by Zarrar Kahn Sparks a Cinematic Revolution in Pakistan

News Desk

KARACHI: Renowned filmmaker Zarrar Kahn is poised to unveil a tantalizing glimpse of his globally recognized psychological thriller masterpiece, "In Flames," with the release of its teaser today. This highly anticipated film is set to captivate audiences in Pakistan with an exclusive 10-day screening at the Atrium Mall, Karachi, from the 20th of October to the 31st of October, 2023.

Anam Abbas, the film's producer, whose earlier film Dagh Dagh Ujala is about Pakistan's contemporary activists, believes that the Karachi-set 'In Flames' advocates for a compelling, revolutionary narrative in the Pakistan film industry. This is a truly trailblazing film, carving out a new space in Pakistan.

Executive Producer Shant Joshi, is an award-winning producer and president of Fae Pictures, based in Los Angeles and Toronto, who has garnered acclaim for his outstanding projects internationally.

Directed and written by the talented Pakistani filmmaker, Zarrar Kahn, 'In Flames' aims to explore the consequences of living in the confines of a fiercely patriarchal society. It seeks to illuminate the psychological impact of oppression and the complexities of young love in Pakistan. 'In Flames' intends to immerse you in the dusty beauty of Karachi, allowing you to witness the difficult choices that must be made to survive another day. It tells a captivating story centered around the struggles faced by a mother and daughter in the wake of the patriarch's untimely demise.

The emotionally charged narrative resonates deeply with audiences, capturing their hearts with its raw authenticity. It has garnered global appreciation and recognition at prestigious international film festivals such as the 76th Cannes Film Festival, the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival and Busan International Film Festival. This is a truly revolutionary film, opening up new horizons in Pakistan.

Naat competition held at AIOU



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) organized a naat competition between students of colleges and universities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, in which 38 students from 17 universities and 13 colleges participated and recited naats. Daniyal Hashmi won the first position, Mohammad Azam bagged the second, Noor Aisha and Silghatullah stood in the third and fourth position respectively. Dr. Qasim Yaqub, Dr. Ahmed Raza, Dr. Hafiz Rao Farhan and Dr. Syed Mujibur Rahman were the competition's judges. Naat Khawani competition was organized by the Directorate of Students Advisory and Counseling Services in collaboration with Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies.

Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Mohyuddin Hashmi said that such events train students and enlighten them by the teachings of Quran and Sunnah. He further said that it is a blessing for everyone to participate in such events. Director Student Affairs, Syed Ghulam Kazim Ali said that Naat competition was a part of activities being organized by AIOU to attract students towards positive activities and promote Islamic education. Chairman, Department of Interfaith Studies, Dr. Ghulam Shamsur Rahman also along with other speakers congratulated the children who participated in the competition. Certificates were distributed among the children who got positions.

NBP to continue pursuing technology path, Pilot launch of Digital Account Opening



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) is pleased to announce the Pilot launch of its Digital Account. The new service, once launched will enable account opening digitally for all customers. People from across the country will be able to open an account with NBP, anytime, from anywhere, just by downloading the NBP Digital App and tapping on the "Open Account" to start the customer account opening journey conveniently. This innovative platform is set to transform the banking experience for individual Pakistani customers.

NBP's Digital Account Opening Services align with the Customers' Digital Onboarding Framework (CDOF), and will offer a wide range of benefits to customers. As part of our commitment to enhancing customer convenience, NBP plans to continually expand the range of services available through this digital platform.

At the occasion of the ceremony, NBP President & CEO, Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnani opened his Digital Account and commenting on this significant milestone, he stated, "At NBP, we are committed to providing innovative banking solutions that cater to the evolving needs of our customers. The launch of the Digital Account service represents a major step in this direction, enabling customers to bank with ease, security, and convenience. We remain dedicated to delivering excellence in digital banking services, and this is just the beginning of our journey towards a more digitally inclusive future."

Protest against Israeli atrocities, Shia Ulema demand Islamic action

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: a protest demonstration was held at the Shia Ulema Council Multan at the Allama Nawab Shahr Chowk in which Allama Syed Ali Raza Naqvi, Sajjad Naqvi, Allama Tanveer Hussain Siddiqui, Basharat Qureshi, Muhammad Abbas Naqvi, Mujahid Hussain, Iqbal Qureshi, Allama Hussain Bakhsh Sarwari, Idris Siddiqui, Maulana Afzal Jafri, Altaf Hussain and Ejaz Hussain participated and Ali Raza Naqvi said that Palestine. The people continued to grind in the mill of oppression in this rally, atrocities continued to increase, but the OIC, including Islamic Countries remained silent and no voice was raised in favor of the truth.

In the end, on the basis of the War of Relief, the Palestinians became desperate to defend themselves against Israeli atrocities. At this time, Israeli atrocities are increasing in Palestine, but the governments of Islamic countries did not realize their responsibility, nor did they. Want to do something? It is the responsibility of the Islamic countries to take practical measures to show solidarity with the people of Palestine so that the atrocities that have been increasing in Palestine for years can be ended and they can live their lives in peace. He said that following Iran, all Islamic countries should stand against the infidels.

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The Role of ISPR, ISI, and MI in Addressing Internal and External Threats - III

Recently, secret conversations of a fugitive PTI YouTuber with Rohit Sharma, connected to India's infamous secret agency "RAW," have come to light. In these conversations, Rohit Sharma can be heard instructing the YouTuber to defame Pakistan's Intelligence Agency, revealing a disturbing link between the YouTuber and Indian "RAW." The viral audio circulating on social media highlights the YouTuber's engagement in resolving his affairs in the UK with individuals associated with Indian "RAW." Rohit Sharma instructs the YouTuber to tarnish the reputation of Pakistan's secret agency by collaborating with a "paid liar" affiliated with "RAW."

ISI and MI operate with the utmost professionalism and dedication, akin to a formidable force, to counteract the subversive activities and ulterior motives of hostile agencies and elements, both within Pakistan and globally. This resolute approach has compelled rival nations to abandon their malicious designs against Pakistan. ISI and MI spare no effort in safeguarding Pakistan from global espionage networks and the machinations of rival forces, with an unwavering commitment to preserving national security interests. Their primary mission is the protection of Pakistan's vital interests.

Following the World Trade Center attacks, Pakistan became a crucial partner in the global fight against terrorism. During this period, our Intelligence agencies successfully exposed and dismantled

various terrorist networks that Pakistan's adversaries had established to destabilize and weaken the nation, its institutions, and its society. These networks received support and funding from neighboring countries such as India and Afghanistan. Dealing with international and regional espionage networks would have been an insurmountable challenge without the invaluable assistance of ISI and MI.

A notable instance is the arrest of Kulbhushan Yadav, a retired Indian Navy officer who engaged in perilous activities in Pakistan's Balochistan province while spying for India's intelligence agency RAW. Pakistan Security Forces apprehended him on March 3, 2016, on charges of espionage and involvement in terrorist activities in Balochistan. His capture resulted from critical information provided by our Intelligence agencies. RAW had been operating from neighboring states' territories long before the World Trade Center incident, striving to destabilize and weaken Pakistan. Pakistan bore a significant toll as an ally in the war on terror.

India has persistently plotted to foment ethnic divisions in Pakistan and has utilized Afghanistan's territory as a launchpad for its hostile actions against Pakistan. India has been the mastermind behind anti-state activities throughout Pakistan, including Balochistan and KPK, regions marked by recurring unrest

and conflict. India has played a direct role in sponsoring and supporting terrorism within Pakistan. A stark example is the bomb blast in Johar Town, Lahore, which claimed the lives of 22 people last year. During a press briefing alongside CTD officials, Pakistan's then Home Minister revealed, "We have concrete evidence that India was behind the blast." Additionally, the CTD official stated, "During the investigation, it has been found that the main suspect in the incident was an agent of the Indian spy agency (RAW) since 2012."

Pakistan is among the nine nations globally that possess nuclear capabilities, underscoring the crucial importance of safeguarding these assets from falling into the wrong hands. As Pakistan continues its battle against terrorism domestically, it becomes evident that numerous terrorist organizations and adversarial nations may harbor intentions of targeting our nuclear facilities. In this context, ISI and MI are at the forefront, tasked with obtaining advanced information regarding potential threats and thwarting any such nefarious endeavors. Thus far, none of our nuclear facilities have suffered damage at the hands of terrorist organizations or hostile countries, thanks to the pivotal role played by our intelligence agencies in ensuring their security.

The protection of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has also been

a significant responsibility shouldered by the Pakistan Army, ISI, and MI. India has launched an extensive fifth-generation warfare campaign to obstruct Pakistan's progress, particularly by targeting the CPEC, with the aim of inflicting irreversible harm. In the larger interest of Pakistan, our armed forces and intelligence agencies are actively countering these sinister designs.

Presently, we find ourselves in a comparatively improved and peaceful environment. Our freedom to reside and move about remains unimpeded, and sports activities have not only resumed but are experiencing a resurgence. These positive developments can be attributed to the invaluable support provided by ISI and MI, along with the peaceful atmosphere established by the Pakistan Army.

Turning our focus inward, the constructive role played by ISI and MI in monitoring and addressing anti-state and corrupt elements within political parties and the bureaucracy cannot be underestimated. It is a crucial national duty and a necessity of the times. In pursuit of this objective, the government entrusted the Directorate General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) last year with the responsibility of thoroughly scrutinizing the induction, assignment, appointment, and promotion of bureaucrats. This progressive step is aimed at eliminating any potential presence of terrorism or corruption within our bureaucracy.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Serious humanitarian disaster in Palestine-Israel conflict

China opposes moves that harm civilians and violate international law and calls on the international community to work together to avoid further expansion of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and serious humanitarian disaster, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Wang Wenbin said on Friday.

"We noted the remarks of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

We're deeply saddened by the heavy civilian casualties inflicted by the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and is deeply concerned over the possible expansion of the conflict," he said during a regular press briefing in response to a question regarding Israel's warning asking 1.1 million residents in northern Gaza to evacuate to southern part in 24 hours.

He said that the Chinese side opposes moves that harm civilians and violate international law, adding, China supports the UN in playing an important role in avoiding further escalation and spread of the situation and upholding international humanitarian law.

"We call on the international community to work together to avoid further expansion of the conflict and serious humanitarian disaster.

China will make its utmost effort for this," he added.

To a question about Israeli defense minister's remarks about their operations in Gaza, he said, "I just shared China's position on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

China opposes acts that harm civilians and condemns violations of international law." The spokesperson said that China called on all parties to exercise restraint, de-escalate the situation on the ground as soon as possible and prevent further spread of the conflict and added, "The top priority is to ensure the safety of civilians, open corridors for aid and avoid a severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza." Noting the reports about the use of white phosphorus bombs by Israel in military operations in Gaza and Lebanon, he said the Chinese side opposed acts that violate international law and harm civilians.

He called on relevant parties to exercise restraint, de-escalate the situation on the ground as soon as possible, and prevent the fighting from further spreading.



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

Utility stores sold or leased, IMF desire!

Utility Stores Corporation was established in July 1971, by taking over 20 retail outlets from the Staff Welfare Organization. Passing through various stages of expansion and reorganization, the Corporation at present is operating 4000+ stores throughout the Country. In the middle of February this year (2023), a private TV news report revealed that there is a possibility of thousands of utility stores in the country closing down. Utility Stores Corporation faced financial crisis due to an undisclosed purchase of more than 10 billion rupees, which raised concerns about the discontinuation of the relief package by the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister doesn't provide funds to the Utility Stores, prices may rise here as well, and the closure of utility stores may begin. According to private TV reports, Utility Stores Corporation is facing a financial crisis, and there are obstacles in providing funds to the organization. Nodoubt it is matter of fact that Utility Stores Corporation is one of the most corrupt departments in Pakistan. Government of Pakistan allocates billions of PKR fund to give subsidy to the poor but only a small part of that reached to the people who should be main beneficiaries of this subsidy. Stories of corruption in USC have continuously been publishing and airing on press and media.

In 2021 An audit of the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) for the year 2019-2020 has revealed that 9,756 employees are working in the organisation's 42 regions against the sanctioned or authorised strength of 7,662 in this way 2094 ghost employees are working in USC. The report also highlighted illegal appointments in the USC during the period of ban on recruitments, adding that the management made 11 appointments in BS14 and 16 on consolidated pay ranging between Rs20,000 and Rs40,000 per month in April 2011 on the pick and choose basis and neither the posts were advertised in newspapers nor relaxation on ban from the Establishment Division was obtained as was required under the criteria.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has called for the lease or sale of state-owned

enterprises, including utility stores, in an effort to boost the country's economic prospects, top officials sources told ProPakistani.

The IMF has proposed that utility stores, a key component of the government's public welfare initiatives, should be transferred to the private sector. Additionally, the IMF has suggested an increase in the budget allocated to the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). The IMF's recommendations are based on the notion that the continued state ownership of enterprises is detrimental to the current economic situation. For now, the Ministry of Industries and Production is undecided on whether utility stores should be abolished or handed over to the private sector.

The demand to lease or sell IMF's utility stores in Pakistan has gained momentum primarily due to concerns about financial losses and widespread corruption within the organization. These utility stores, initially established to provide essential goods to the public at subsidized prices, have struggled with mismanagement and inefficiencies over the years. Here, we delve into the reasons behind this demand:

Financial Losses: One of the central reasons for the call to lease or sell IMF's utility stores is their consistent financial losses. These losses stem from various factors, including inadequate financial planning, improper inventory management, and a lack of transparency in financial transactions. These losses have been a significant burden on Pakistan's economy, draining valuable resources.

Corruption and Mismanagement: Another critical issue that has fueled the demand for change is rampant corruption and mismanagement within the utility stores. Reports of embezzlement, kickbacks, and bribery have raised serious concerns about the integrity of the organization. Mismanagement has led to inefficiencies in the supply chain, resulting in both shortages and wastage of essential commodities.

Drain on Public Funds: The financial woes of IMF's utility stores have, in large part, been covered by taxpayers' money. This drain on public funds raises questions about the sustainability of this model. Critics argue that privatiza-

tion or leasing could help alleviate this burden, allowing the government to allocate resources more efficiently to other critical sectors, such as healthcare and education.

The PDM government coming into power with slogans of rescuing the public from inflation has, instead of increasing relief in the prices of consumer goods from the Utility Stores Corporation, burdened the consumers with additional taxes and the weight of mobile companies, which has further strained the public and forced them to suffer for hours at utility stores. The utility store is frequented by people who cannot afford to buy from the regular market. These individuals stand in long lines and wait for hours at train stations to purchase cheap sugar, lentils, rice, and ghee in order to save ten to twenty rupees. They are so impoverished that when the store temporarily runs out of affordable food items, they must wait for several days, visiting the store daily to inquire whether the sugar has arrived or not.

Selling a once-profitable institution under external pressure won't be a wise decision, as this institution is currently associated with approximately thirteen thousand households for employment. Unlike other corporations, significant corruption in the trading of commodities doesn't appear to be an issue. We have witnessed that in the past, during Pervez Musharraf's era, this institution was thriving. However, subsequent governments failed to manage it effectively, leading to its current financial difficulties.

After the issuance of an IMF directive, the employees of this organization are becoming increasingly restless. Talks of protests and sit-ins are ongoing. If this continues, the caretaker government will have to face difficulties. All the country's stores are empty, and the losses are increasing day by day. The national welfare organization can still be saved. The government should allocate the remaining positions in utility stores. The MD's appointment should be for a minimum of three years. Combine the Benazir Income Support Program with the Utility Stores Corporation. Instead of cash payments, provide rations under the support program. It remains to be seen whether the government, when the time comes, will rescue a welfare institution in front of the IMF in helplessness or sell the utility corporation in deference to the IMF's wishes.

Every human life is sacred

Haleema Saadia

The misery that is being caused by the ongoing war between Hamas and Israel is abhorrent. Both sides are committing war crimes and murdering civilians with no remorse. Each side claims to be righteous and says that they are paying back the offenders for their evil deeds. Yet the people who are suffering the most did no offence. Israel has indeed dehumanised Palestinians for decades. But Hamas is also using any means to achieve its goals. It gunned down teens at a musical festival in Israel and slaughtered children in a kibbutz community. The mode of thinking that is currently widespread in both areas is that only their own people's life is holy. This can be seen in the statement that Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant made. He said, 'We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly'. Deeming one's rival as subhuman is common in conflicts. Another official said that Gaza would be turned into a 'city of tents'. This all is reprehensible.

Many innocent persons are suffering in this war. One cause of the war was that nowadays most humans are very self-centred and selfish. They don't consider other people's interests and lives as significant as theirs. Similar things are happening all over the world. Rich people are spending too much money on vain things while poor people cannot even afford to put food on their table. The point is that there are plenty of resources and land for all the people in Palestine and Israel but they are not willing to share these.

All around the world, people are celebrating the deaths of humans on the side that they are opposing. This is despicable. Mass deaths should be deplored. Harry S. Truman was the 33rd American president who resorted to killing hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians, thinking this would shorten World War II. Allies were already winning the war in the Pacific but at a huge cost. Elizabeth Anscombe, one of the most distinguished philosophers of the twentieth century, condemned Truman's decision to bomb Japanese cities. To the argument that bombings saved more lives than they took, she retorted: 'Come now. If you had to choose between boiling a baby and letting frightful disaster befall a thousand people, or a million if a thousand is not enough,

what would you do?' The point is that some things should never be done no matter what. She was influenced by Immanuel Kant who proposed the principle of 'Categorical imperative' which is being used all over the world in devising the criminal system. It's that 'act only according to that maxim by which you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law'. Furthermore, persons should always be treated as an end and never as a means. Kant said that the value of humans is above any price. It's obvious that people don't want to be treated as means. And they want such rules as 'one should not murder an innocent human' or 'one should be honest in his dealings with other humans' to be universal laws. Without these laws, human society will not exist. Thus when doing something, a person should first ask himself or herself whether this should be morally universal law. If yes then that act is morally right.

The moral compass of those people is broken who think that only one kind of life is holy and who consider it right to kill innocents for their cause, however noble it is. What's more, 99 per cent of the time murdering innocents doesn't help one's cause. Truman wasn't sure of the outcome of his decision. He was betting millions of lives on the mere hope that good results might ensue. His action could have increased the anger in Japan and ground invasion of Japan might still be necessary. Truman should have negotiated an end to the war. Israeli hawks are now thinking that their security can be found in wholesale killings of Gazans. However, this can't be said with certainty. Such action will radicalize more people in Gaza and Palestine and this will make Israel more insecure. Also when one is not certain of the consequences of one's action, the best policy is to avoid the known evil. That is the essence of the principle that Kant proposed.

Currently United Nation is trying to stop the humanitarian crisis that's spiralling in Gaza and getting flak for it from Israel supporters. Both sides are miscalculating the cost of not valuing the human life. The only way to stop this senseless violence is to regard all human life as sacred. Peace and prosperity will prevail only when both sides stop killing and dehumanising others and follow the golden rule that 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you'. Countries such as America, who have clout should urge Israel and Palestine to end this irrational war which won't be of benefit to anyone.

Canadian High Commissioner and Representative UNDP inaugurated flood affected girl's school

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Leslie Scanlon, High Commissioner of Canada to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Mr. Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative, UNDP Pakistan, inaugurated a Government Girls' High School in the remote Brep village in Upper Chitral, affected by floods in 2022. The ceremony was attended by officials of the High Commission of Canada, Education Department, local administration, UNDP, students, teachers, and parents.

Following the 2022 torrential rains and flash floods, the Brep school building sustained extensive damage, making it unusable and posing serious safety concerns for students and teachers. This natural disaster

disrupted the education of girl students, who were temporarily relocated to a nearby rented facility. In September 2022, the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development for Canada, visited the affected area and committed to rehabilitating the school, by providing \$80,000 in funding through Global Affairs Canada. In collaboration with UNDP and the Education Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the rehabilitation and restoration work has now been completed. More broadly, Canada has committed a total of \$58M for flood response and resilience building in Pakistan, following the 2022 floods. Of this, \$33M was provided for disaster response, and another \$25M will be utilized for longer-term resilience building and

rehabilitation.

While addressing the inauguration ceremony, H. E. Leslie Scanlon, High Commissioner of Canada to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan said, "Canada will continue to look for opportunities to increase access to and improve the delivery of basic education in Pakistan, including for refugees, forcibly-displaced children/youth, and host communities, with a focus on reducing barriers for girls."

Canada has been at the forefront of empowering women and girls in KP province for decades, focusing on remote, marginalised communities in areas with some of the lowest gender indicators. The rehabilitation of the Brep School is part of the \$7 million Improved Access to Quality Education in the Merged

Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa project, funded by Global Affairs Canada and jointly implemented by the UNDP, UNICEF and the Elementary & Secondary Education Department of KP.

Mr. Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative UNDP Pakistan shared his remarks "The rehabilitation of this school is not just about repairing a building, it is about restoring hope and opportunity for young girls who deserve the chance to learn, grow and thrive in a safe and supportive environment"

Canada, UNDP and the Education Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will continue to work together to ensure education remains a priority area KP and to empower children, especially girls and young women to achieve their full potential.



UNDP and Ministry of Climate Change Commemorate International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: UNDP commemorated International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2023 in Gilgit Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to honour the resilience of the communities in the face of climate-induced disasters such as Glacial Lake outburst Floods (GLOFs). IDDRR highlights the significance of disaster preparedness and showcases the strength of communities in mitigating disaster risks and losses.

The event garnered an active participation from a diverse background of professionals including government officials, implementing partners, representatives from NGOs/INGOs, members of the civil society, academia, and the media.

In an effort to enhance disaster risk reduction and the significance of preparedness, a series of awareness sessions and mock drills were conducted in Ghizer, Ghundus, Ghulkin, Barah,



and Parashang valleys of Gilgit Baltistan. These sessions entailed briefing the community members on safeguarding procedures and mechanisms, followed by a practical demonstration of these methods through mock drills. The primary objective was to increase community cohesion in reducing disaster risks and stress the importance of being prepared ahead of any potential calamity.

Panel discussions in Gilgit and Skardu delved into disaster risk mitigation strategies and community-driven measures for climate adaptation. The discussions highlighted the critical link between disasters and their

adverse effects on poverty, inequalities, and discrimination. By understanding how these factors increase community vulnerability to climate-induced disasters, the panels aimed to reinforce the importance of proactive action to build resilience and protect vulnerable populations.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Najeeb Alam, Commissioner of Baltistan Division, highlighted the susceptibility of the region to various disasters, primarily attributing this to the escalating impacts of climate change.

"A disaster may strike at any time, especially owing to the melting of the glaciers; disrupting lives and causing massive destruction. With the GLOF-II Project's climate-adaptation mechanisms, such as the installation of the Early Warning Systems, we will be more prepared to safeguard our lives and habitations than we have been before. This is what this day stands for - to be better prepared to reduce disaster risks," the

Commissioner said.

"A disaster changes everything - from the way we live our lives, to our surroundings. Nothing remains to be the same. This is what I learnt through the declaration. I want our voices to be stronger, so that our resilience can be strengthened, and so that we remain prepared," said a student, following the end of the speech competition.

UNDP's GLOF-II project works in 16 valleys of Gilgit Baltistan and 8 valleys in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It empowers communities to identify and manage risks associated with GLOFs and related impacts of Climate Change, strengthen public services to lower the risk of disasters related to GLOF, and improve community preparedness and disaster response. The project also supports development of sustainable options for livelihoods in project areas, with a particular focus on the participation of women in ensuring food security and livelihoods.

Remitlink23 Conference held for Pakistani expatriates in Dubai



News Desk

KARACHI/ DUBAI: The flow of remittances from the Pakistani community in Dubai could increase manifolds through banking channels with the support of financial institutions, the dedicated government scheme, and community developers. Innovative service, incentives, and community building could encourage Pakistani workers in the UAE and Gulf region to utilize banking channels to support their country's economy in challenging times.

These were the views of speakers at the daylong conference "Remitlink23: Resilient Remittances" organized by Dellsons Associate in collaboration with the Embassy of Pakistan in UAE and Foreign Exchange and Remittance Group (FERG). The event was sponsored by Dubai Islamic Bank, JazzCash, and Instant Cash.

Speaking as the chief guest, Faisal Niaz Tirmzi, Ambassador to Pakistan for UAE, said the UAE is the second largest host country in the world with over 1.6 million Pakistani nationals, and the number of Pakistani professionals coming to different states of this country is on the rise in recent months.

Pakistani professionals and workers in different states of the United Arab Emirates are resourceful, hardworking, and patriotic, having a deep sense of responsibility to serve their homeland through their valuable contribution, including sending remittances through banking channels, he said and added. The government recently took various initiatives to enhance flow of remittances which are expected to increase the use of banking channels among overseas Pakistanis.

Salman Hasan Khan, Head of Priority Banking & PRI Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan, said the financial institutions played a crucial role in connecting overseas Pakistanis with their relatives in their homeland, but these institutions are working continuously to facilitate the Pakistani diaspora in different states of the UAE.

He pointed out that Pakistanis in different countries prefer Islamic banking mode over the interest-based system, hence, there is a need to promote Sharia-based financial options with innovative technological solutions.

Ibrahim Amin, Chairman Dellsons Associates, said this conference aims to bridge the gap between stakeholders, including Government functionaries, regulators, and service providers such as banks, exchange companies, and fintechs.

Experts from the banking and financial sectors of Pakistan and the UAE also spoke at the conference including Tufail Ahmed Khan, CEO Dellsons Associates, UAE, Osama Al Rahma, Advisor to the board, FERG UAE, Usman bin Raees COO, Instant Cash; Suleman Hasan, Chief Compliance and Risk Officer, ILink, Zameer Punjabi, Vice Presidents- Payments and Remittances Mashreq Bank, Omer Farooq, Head of Operations, Cash Express, Shabnam Faqeer, Independent Director, DIB Pakistan and Nominee Director, IFC, World Bank Group and others.

Today's Cryptocurrency analysis on behalf of Rania Gule Market Analyst at XS.com

News Desk

DUBAI: Coinbase Officially Objects to Proposed IRS Tax Regulations for Crypto Transactions. Coinbase, a prominent cryptocurrency exchange, has formally raised objections to the proposed tax regulations put forth by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for crypto transactions. The company argues that these rules could potentially infringe on the privacy rights of Americans and lead to onerous reporting requirements.

Coinbase has emphasized that these regulations could result in close government scrutiny of the daily activities of Americans, raising concerns about potential impacts on privacy. This move comes in response to the rules proposed

by the U. S. tax authority, which aim to enhance transparency in the cryptocurrency space and bolster tax revenue sources.

In response to these U. S. regulations, Coinbase has implemented several measures. One of these measures involves collaboration with relevant regulatory bodies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the U. S. Department of the Treasury. These regulatory bodies oversee and regulate the cryptocurrency market in the United States. Coinbase has also enforced stringent anti-money laundering measures, counter-terrorism financing measures, and user identity verification. The platform is committed to complying with financial and tax laws in the



United States.

It's important to note that regulations related to crypto-cryptocurrencies may vary from one country to another. Therefore, the company must comply with the regulations of the countries in which it operates. Coinbase appears to be addressing regulatory chal-

lenges in the United States through cooperation with regulatory bodies and strict adherence to financial and tax laws. The company must continue monitoring regulatory and technological developments and adapt its operations accordingly.

On the other hand, Demo-

cratic members of the Senate are calling for the swift implementation of these regulations. Their stance is motivated by the potential for significantly enhancing transparency in the rapidly growing cryptocurrency market and increasing tax revenue from crypto transactions. The current tension between privacy concerns and the need for regulatory oversight in the ever-evolving cryptocurrency market represents the core of the issue.

As crypto transactions continue to gain popularity, striking a balance between these competing interests will be a major challenge for regulators and market participants alike. This may continue to exert negative pressure on the prices of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

Islamic Banking & Finance Assets have grown to USD 4 Trillion, says Zubair Mughal

Spokesman Report

DUBAI, UAE: In an era where ethical and sustainable finance is gaining prominence on the global stage, the Islamic banking and finance industry has emerged as an icon of responsible financial practices. It has emerged as an effective tool for financing development worldwide, including in non-Muslim countries. Major financial markets are increasingly recognizing the potential of Islamic finance to help address the challenges of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

The global Islamic banking industry is growing rapidly. In 2023, the industry assets reached 4 trillion USD, and is

poised to register a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10% during the forecast period. In 2021, Islamic finance assets amounted to USD 3.6 trillion, the highest recorded growth for the industry. The prospects look positive: by 2025, this is set to rise to almost USD 5 trillion. This growth is being driven by a number of factors, including the increasing demand for Sharia-compliant financial products and services, the growing population of Muslims, and the increasing awareness of the benefits of Islamic finance. The growth of Islamic banking setup in non-Muslims countries reflects the power and potential of Islamic banking as a global financial force.

Islamic finance development is mainly driven by its two biggest segments, Islamic banks and Sukuk. By 2022, GCC accounts 44% of total Islamic finance assets, the MENA region accounting 26.3%, Southeast Asia accounting 24%, and Europe Asia, America and Africa accounting for the rest. The Islamic finance market is fragmented, with a large number of players trying to grab a significant chunk of the developing markets. In some regions, like Asia and Africa, it is moderately growing with the presence of a large number of local players and some foreign players. However, the GCC is a highly competitive market with a large number of international players. Bank Al-Rajhi, Dubai Islamic Bank,



and Kuwait House Finance are among the major players present in the region. In terms of Islamic finance assets distribution, about 70 percent is under the Islamic banking sector, followed by 19 percent under Sukuk, five percent under Islamic funds, four percent under other IFIs and the remain-

ing 2 percent under takaful sector.

Furthermore, Fintech's adoption in Islamic social finance space is particularly an interesting area of innovation, promising greater access, coverage, efficiency and governance benefits to all stakeholders involved. The Global Islamic Fintech Report 2021, Malaysia was ranked at the top of the list based on the GIFT index factors across five different categories (talent; regulation; infrastructure; Islamic Fin/Tech market and ecosystem; capital). Malaysia leads the other 64 countries in terms of capital growth and FinTech ecosystem conduciveness.

Alhuda Centre of Islamic Banking & Economics (CIBE) continued its commitment to

promoting the global growth of Islamic banking and finance. Alhuda CIBE is a leading provider of training, research, and consultancy services in the Islamic finance industry. In recent years, Alhuda CIBE has expanded its reach to new markets, including Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair, the Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda CIBE said that, we are committed to promote the global growth of Islamic banking and finance. He believes that Islamic finance is a sustainable and ethical financial system that can benefit people of all faiths. He also said that, he with his dedicated team of experts is devoted to design ideal products for banking, microfinance,

insurance, capital market and other financial institutions. The Socio-Economic aspects of financial industry together are the best solution for sustainable development of economy, and Islamic Finance is the best alternative.

As the global Islamic banking and finance industry continues to witness significant growth, Alhuda Centre of Islamic Banking & Economics (CIBE) emerges as a pivotal player in advancing and promoting the principles of Islamic finance worldwide. With its unwavering commitment to providing cutting-edge education, consultancy, and advisory services, Alhuda CIBE has played a paramount role in the expansion and development of this dynamic sector.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
49,493.47	48,771.71
Day's High	Day's Low
49,520.37	48,767.59
Index Value	Change
12,734,129,685	+721.76
Percentage	Time
+1.48%	13 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,599.60	-45.18
Percentage	Time
-0.59%	13 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,690.85	+59.71
Percentage	Time
+0.18%	13 Oct, 12:55 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,315.99	-178.67
Percentage	Time
-0.55%	13 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	175.25	177
Bahrain Dinar	743.21	751.21
Canadian Dollar	201	203
China Yuan	38.29	38.69
Danish Krone	39.54	39.94
Euro	290	292.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.72	36.07
Indian Rupee	3.37	3.48
Japanese Yen	1.4	1.47
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.29	912.29
Malaysian Ringgit	59.23	59.83
New Zealand \$	166.04	168.04
Norwegians Krone	25.95	26.25
Omani Riyal	725.82	733.82
Qatari Riyal	76.98	77.68
Saudi Riyal	73	73.7
Singapore Dollar	199	201
Swedish Korona	25.8	26.1
Swiss Franc	308.26	310.76
Thai Bhat	7.66	7.81
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	76
UK Pound Sterling	344	347.5
US Dollar	275.9	278

People want real economic change, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the speed with which Pakistan is dependent on loans is increasing and the ability to bear the burden of debt is decreasing in the same proportion.

Lenders and friendly countries are backing away; therefore, Pakistan must learn to survive on its own, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that currently, our focus is on new investments from Arab countries, for which we are working diligently through SIFC's platform.

Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that if the SIFC initiative is saved from traditional laziness

and incompetence, it may be possible to achieve an investment of 75 billion dollars.

If the capital from the Arab countries comes under the new model, then the same model can be used to make other failed institutions of the country viable, he added.

The business leader said that successful foreign investment can attract other countries to Pakistan, for which we should improve our policies for permanent relief instead of temporary relief.

Attention must be given to all the sectors of the economy according to their importance, which is imperative for success.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that people do not want political but real economic change, but a few thousand people who benefit from this flawed system do not want change.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that at present, the vast majority of the country's population is worried and wants to improve the situation



so that they have something, but they are not in a happy situation.

Until 2013, the country's debt was equal to 63.3 percent of GDP, which reached 74.3

percent at the end of 2023, and the interest payment on loans has reached 7500 billion rupees. Immediate privatization of failed companies is the only solution to the problems as it will save one thousand billion rupees annually along with temporary revenue.

To improve the situation, the energy sector has to be improved, dependence on IPPs has to be reduced, and solar has to be increased, while the tax burden has to be reduced for the poor and shifted to the rich.

Anti-smuggling, hoarding, and anti-corruption measures have to be continued with full force on a regular basis, he demanded.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that if the conflict between the Palestinians and Israel goes on for a long time, it will change the world situation rapidly, oil prices can jump and the priorities of the Arab countries regarding Pakistan can change.

Dry fruits

ISLAMABAD: Vendors display dry fruits on the green belt at Mandi Morr area to attract customers and sell as such vendors are doing such Business from the decades in twin cities.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Sunridge expands its horizon with three new stores offering a wholesome blend of bakery and grocery products

ISLAMABAD: Sunridge Mart, a retail extension of Sunridge Foods has announced the grand opening of three new stores, strategically located to cater to the growing demands of customers. These three new outlets, all in prime locations of Karachi including Chartered Accountant Avenue Clifton, Dhorajee, and Badar Commercial Phase 6 in DHA, are aimed to provide an exceptional shopping experience that combines delicious bakery products made with the finest Sunridge products and ingredients, along with a wide range of grocery products.

The concept of Sunridge Mart serves as a commitment to promoting healthier lifestyles. As part of its pledge to nutrition, Sunridge is introducing a delectable range of fiber-rich products that will not only entice taste

but also contribute to a healthy well-being overall for customers. With an emphasis on nutritious and fiber-fit offerings, the company aims to empower customers to make healthier choices and embrace a lifestyle that champions wellness. Furthermore, the expansion of Sunridge Foods into Sunridge Mart has resulted in the creation of both direct and indirect job opportunities for 3,000+ individuals. The future investment plans of Sunridge also involve a nationwide expansion with the goal of inaugurating 36 outlets, initially focusing on Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad while later expanding into the suburbs of Punjab and Sindh.

The recently inaugurated Sunridge Mart is spread over an area of 1260 square feet and offers a wide variety of products for customers.

Master Changan becomes the first automaker in Pakistan to achieve volume exports

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: An export ceremony was held in Karachi, during which Master Changan's CEO Mr. Danial Malik said, "We are taking our next major step to achieve our vision of making Master Changan a part of Changan's global vehicle supply chain under the 'Vast Ocean Plan', while putting Pakistan on the map for producing and exporting high quality vehicles to the world. Kenya and Tanzania are one of the many countries where Master Changan Motors plans to leave its mark, as we look to expand our export volumes."

The ceremony was attended by Chief Guest, Mr. Asad Rehman Gilani, Secretary Industries and Production; Mr. Asim Ayaz, General Manager Policy from the Engineering Development Board; Rizwan Bhatti CEO PIDC; Asad Altaf, Corporate Head HBL.

Earlier this year, on 18th April, Mr. Zhu Huarong, Chairman of Changan Automobile, made a significant announcement at the 2023 Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition by launching the 'Vast Ocean' plan, a strategy to accelerate the company's international expansion and propel it towards becoming a world-class brand. Changan Automobile plans to invest US\$10 billion in



the overseas market, with a product focus on intelligent low carbon core technology. Changan's focus is to increase its global footprint to Europe, America, Middle-East and Africa, Asia Pacific and CIS, entering 90% of the global markets by 2030. As Changan's RHD manufacturing hub, Master Changan Pakistan will play a major role in Changan's 'Vast Ocean' plan to cater to RHD markets globally.

The export of 'Made in Pakistan' vehicles is completely dependent on the Federal Government's policies to promote and

incentivize the automotive industry. To this end, Pakistan's automotive industry has already submitted proposals to help make auto exports viable in the long term. Danial Malik also said, "We sincerely thank our government for the auto export policy 2021-2026. However, the auto industry needs the government to create policies that increase volumes locally which in turn will improve economies of scale, support deeper localization and encourage automakers to improve their global competitiveness."

SECP raising awareness about the Islamic capital market

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), in partnership with the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) and the IBA Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance (IBA-CEIF), held sessions to raise awareness about the Islamic capital market. Speaking to the senior management of PSX, SECP Commissioner Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi stated that the convergence of conventional equities into Islamic can create enormous opportunities for Pakistan's stock market. He emphasized joint efforts to create a robust, transparent, and innovative ecosystem that attracts both domestic and international investors.

Director Ahmed Ali Siddiqui of IBA-CEIF emphasized the need for the development of innovative capital market products in response to global financial changes.

The other session focused on "Shariah Disclosure requirements under the Companies Act, 2017 for Listed Companies" to raise awareness among CFOs, senior finance managers, and auditors about the obligations of Listed Companies under the Fourth Schedule of the Act.

Chairman of the Shariah Advisory Committee of SECP Dr. Mufti Inshad Ahmad Ajaj,

easypaisa Karobar to Revolutionize Digital Banking Services for Merchants



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: easypaisa, Pakistan's leading digital financial services platform has launched easypaisa Karobar powered by Dukan, a platform designed specifically to address unmet banking needs of two million retail merchants across the country. Being Pakistan's first digital banking app for retailers, easypaisa Karobar enables merchants to manage their financing needs digitally, reduce operational complexities, and become part of the digital economy.

The easypaisa Karobar app streamlines merchant operations with advanced features, enabling cashless payments from the easypaisa Wallet to distributors. The app also provides flexible digital lending options for daily stock purchases to retailers.

Monis Rahman, CEO and Co-founder of Dukan commented on this development, "As a fintech providing digital banking and e-commerce infrastructure to connect retailers, distributors, and manufacturers with embedded financial services, we are delighted to partner with easypaisa. This first-of-its-kind partnership actions a strong alignment of vision between Dukan and easypaisa to bring prosperity to small offline businesses through digitization at scale."

Through this platform, FMCGs and manufacturers can digitize their supply chains with granularity down to individual retail merchants, converting cash to digital payments, allowing merchants to avail credit for stock purchases from easypaisa, and offering unprecedented reporting and analytics to increase business efficiency.

ICCI for promoting domestic commerce to enhance exports and stabilize the economy

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The government should focus on promoting domestic commerce that would stimulate economic activities, enhance exports and stabilize the economy. This was said by Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) while addressing a seminar on "The State of Domestic Commerce in Pakistan" organized by ICCI in collaboration with the Policy Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

Faad Waheed said that

domestic commerce is an important segment, which provides employment to 40 percent of the non-agricultural workforce, but the development of domestic commerce and domestic markets has been neglected in the policy-making even though it contributes significantly to the GDP. He stressed that the government should improve the infrastructure for domestic commerce in wholesale and retail sectors and focus on developing a network of business centers, markets and shopping malls to make Pakistan a thriving economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nadeem ul Haq, Vice Chancellor, PIDE highlighted the too many regulations, complicated documentation & registration processes, complexity and multiplicity of taxes, high cost of compliance, fear of penalties and difficult access to formal finance to businesses as the main hurdles in the growth of domestic commerce and stressed that the government should address these issues to promote this important sector of the economy.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that



the government should give better focus to promotion of domestic commerce that will provide Pakistan a strong platform for international trade as it encompasses wide ranging sectors and sub-se-

ctors of the economy including transport, storage, communication, wholesale & retail trade, construction, entertainment, tourism, real estate and domestic marketing etc.

Research Economic PIDE gave a detailed presentation on The State of Domestic Commerce in Pakistan with necessary remedial measures to make it a vibrant segment of the economy.

Shaheen Afridi makes strong claim ahead of Pakistan-India World Cup 2023 clash

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi, who makes up one of the most potent pace attacks with Haris Rauf and Hasan Ali, had strong words to say to Indian fans ahead of his side's highly anticipated ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixture against arch-rivals India at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.

Indian fans reportedly blocked the left-arm pacer and vied him for selfies when he made his way out of the stadium after getting done with bowling and fielding practice drills.

The pacer reportedly told them, "Zaroor selfie loonga, but five wicket lena ke baad (I will definitely take one, but only after I've claimed five wickets)."

It is pertinent to mention that the Pakistan team and fans would back Shaheen Afridi to send India on the ropes when the sides renew their cricketing rivalry in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixture on Saturday.

The fast bowler has come under criticism for his performances in the ongoing tournament. In two matches, the pacer has bagged just two wickets and conceded 103 runs.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, in the press conference ahead of the fixture, admitted



that his side will look for wickets from the pace spearhead who has yet to fully fire at

the tournament.

"He is our main bowler. Shaheen [Afridi]

himself has a belief that he is a big match bowler," said the captain.

Lighting Up the Cricket World Cup: TCL's Electrifying Commercial

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's Leading LED TV Brand, is thrilled to introduce its captivating Commercial Ad in collaboration with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for the Cricket World Cup. Boasting a stellar lineup of Pakistan's formidable men's cricket squad, including standout players like Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, and Hasan Ali, this Commercial Ad is a pulsating blend of music that energizes and resonates strongly with the younger generation. It has taken the cricketing world by storm, igniting passion and anticipation among cricket fans and enthusiasts.

The video has already achieved a remarkable 1.5 million views on various online platforms, securing a prominent position among the top 3 trending topics on X (formerly known as Twitter). Furthermore, it has garnered numerous enthusiastic comments from online users,



who have praised the video for its impact and resonance upon its release.

The heart of this ad beats with the idea of cricket as a unifying force in Pakistan, with a special focus on its magnetic pull for the younger generation. As players

gear up, the ad masterfully evokes the contagious excitement and anticipation it ignites in fans of all ages, from families and kids to the spirited youth. It showcases cricket's timeless appeal, uniting people of all generations as they gather around their screens, featuring the

remarkable 98" QLED TV C735 (with TCL proudly holding the title of the Global Top 198" QLED TV Brand). This television serves as a wellspring of inspiration for both the players and the multitude of cricket enthusiasts in Pakistan. In a beautiful visual narrative, the ad skillfully encapsulates the essence of togetherness and anticipation, echoing the enduring spirit of cricket in Pakistan.

In addition to this thrilling Commercial Ad, TCL proudly reaffirms its enduring partnership with PCB. This steadfast collaboration since 2022 has served as a pillar of TCL's unwavering commitment to a sport that resonates deeply within the hearts of millions of Pakistanis, uniting the nation through their shared love for cricket.

Alongside PCB and in conjunction with Peshawar Zalmi during the PSL, TCL has tirelessly dedicated its efforts to support and propel cricket, nurturing the

development of emerging talent and enriching the nation's sports culture. This partnership symbolizes not only TCL's devotion to cricket but also its promise to elevate Pakistan's sports ecosystem and community bonds through the spirit of the game.

Majid Khan Niazi, Head of Marketing at TCL, expressed their pride in being the associate partner of the Pakistan cricket team, stating, "Cricket holds a special place in the hearts of Pakistanis, and this Commercial Ad is a testament to our shared passion for the sport. We are extremely proud to be associated with the Pakistan cricket team."

TCL extends a warm invitation to cricket enthusiasts nationwide to partake in the excitement of the Cricket World Cup. Stay tuned for further updates, exclusive behind-the-scenes moments, and captivating content as we embark on this exhilarating cricketing odyssey together.

Zong 4G Announces Exciting Partnership with MYCO

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecom operator, enters cricket season with its exciting partnership with MYCO, a live-streaming platform, for this edition of the ICC Cricket World Cup. This collaboration aims to bring the thrilling action of the ICC Cricket World Cup directly to the screens of cricket enthusiasts across Pakistan, absolutely free through the My Zong App on the MYCO platform.

Cricket fever is at its peak in Pakistan! The sport holds a special place in Pakistan and the ICC Cricket World Cup is the ultimate occasion for fans to come together. Understanding that the passion for cricket runs deep within the nation, Zong 4G partnered with MYCO to make sure that its customers don't miss the action of the

World Cup, and guess what? It's all absolutely free! Thanks to the My Zong App, customers can now catch all the cricketing excitement on the MYCO platform in HD without signing up.

My Zong App (MZA) ensures you won't miss a single moment of the World Cup action and provides customers the chance to benefit from exciting promotions and exclusive offers for added excitement throughout the tournament.

"Cricket is a sport that has an unmatched following in Pakistan, and Zong 4G is dedicated to bringing the best cricket experience to our customers," said the official spokesperson for Zong 4G, "Our collaboration with MYCO for the ICC Cricket World Cup reaffirms our commitment to providing seamless connectivity and entertainment to our valued subscribers."

Jasprit Bumrah opens up on Pakistan match in World Cup 2023

Sports Desk

LAHOR: India pacer Jasprit Bumrah is relishing the prospect of playing the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixture against Pakistan at his home ground Ahmedabad on Saturday.

Pakistan and India will renew their cricketing rivalry on Saturday when they square off at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium. It will be the eighth meeting between the two sides in the tournament's history.

However, Pakistan have a healthy 73-56 overall advantage since their first one-day international clash back in 1978.

Jasprit Bumrah, who leads India's pace attack with Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj, shared about his excitement of playing his first one-day international at the 132,000-seat stadium in a conversation with an Indian sports channel. The pacer said the

prospect of playing the fixture in front of lot of people will be a sight to behold.

"Yes, obviously playing at home, I have not played a One-Day international there, though I have played a Test match there," he said. "So, the atmosphere is going to be exciting. I am sure a lot of people are going to come and see the match, so it will be a sight to see. So, yeah hoping for the best over there as well."

The pacer said he would bowl according to the preparation and what is required on the pitch.

"I just go with my preparation, I go with the process that I feel is right to read the wickets and try to find the best answers that work on that wickets. As simple as that I'm not thinking about the results. So, I like on that day what I have to do, I look at my preparations and I am a little detached person," he said.

Cheezious Pakistan Unveils Soul-Stirring World Cup Anthem 'Khel Khushiyon Ka'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In the midst World Cup event Cheezious Pakistan has emerged as the ray of hope, delivering a sensational World Cup anthem titled "Khel Khushiyon Ka" that resonates deeply with the emotions and sentiments of every Pakistani.

Hashim Nawaz, renowned for his role in the Pindi Boys, "Khel Khushiyon Ka" has transcended the realm of ordinary anthems, touching hearts with its lyrical brilliance and profound message, addressing the myriad issues associated with this year's World Cup.

The lyrics of song, "Sab ko bata do, ham ne banana, maidan e jang ko maidan e aman ha! Sir ko jhukka ke hum detay shikast, Khushiyon ko banteyn, hum mitatay ghum," encapsulate the essence of the Pakistani spirit when it comes to cricket. The anthem reflects our unwavering support for our beloved cricket team and our collective yearning for joy and victory.

Zohaib Hassan, the Head of Marketing at Cheezious Pakistan, expressed that the primary objective behind "Khel Khushiyon Ka" was to create an anthem with lyrics that resonate deeply with the people. This anthem goes



beyond the clichés of diss tracks or rap jingles, instead aiming to connect with the hearts and

minds of all Pakistanis. "Khel Khushiyon Ka" is a heartfelt tribute to our Boys in Green and the

unshakable passion we hold for cricket.

As the ICC World Cup unfolds, "Khel Khushiyon Ka" promises to be the anthem that unites the nation, ignites the spirits of cricket enthusiasts, and reminds us all that cricket is more than just a game; it's the embodiment of our joy, pride, and unity.

"Khel Khushiyon Ka" is now available for streaming on all major social media platforms of Cheezious, ensuring that every Pakistani can partake in this musical celebration of our love for cricket. The Link of full song is attached below:

Here's what Yuvraj Singh told Shubman Gill before India-Pakistan match



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh, considered to be one of the country's greatest all-rounders, shared a piece of advice for opening batter Shubman Gill ahead of the side's ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 fixture against Pakistan at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on Saturday.

Shubman Gill was sidelined from the side's ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 matches against five-time winners Australia and Afghanistan as he was suffering from dengue fever.

Shubman's Gill chances of playing the fixture against arch-rivals Pakistan increased significantly after he took part in practice drills ahead of the crucial fixture.

Yuvraj Singh, speaking with the media, revealed that he has advised Shubman Gill to play for the country as he played the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 on home turf while battling cancer.

"Shubman Gill ko maine tagda kar diya hai [I have strengthened Shubham Gill]," he was quoted saying in a report. "I told him that I had played in the World Cup while battling cancer, so I got ready quickly to join the team. Hopefully, he will be ready for the India vs Pakistan game."

"When you have a fever and dengue it is really tough to play a cricket match and I have experienced that. So I hope that if he is fit then he will definitely play."

India captain Rohit Sharma has not confirmed the star batter's participation in the fixture.

U-16 hockey, wrestling trials begin today

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Sports Board Punjab (SBP) is going to conduct another phase of talent hunt programme with under-16 hockey and mat wrestling trials at district and divisional level from Oct 13 to 15 following successful completion of tehsil level trials under Talent Hunt Programme.

The under-16 hockey and mat wrestling tehsil level trials were held in three categories—school, club and open from Oct 8 to 10. Thousands of players from all nine divisions of the province participated in these trials with full devotion.

Dr Asif Tufail, in a statement on Thursday said that these under-16 trials are being organized as part of Sports Board Punjab's revolutionary 2-year Annual Sports Calendar Programme.

"This programme will help a lot in finding promising male and female athletes from far flung areas of the province".

Zone-III Blues beat Zone-V Green in A. S. Natural Stone U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-III Blues defeated Zone-V Green by 2 Wickets in the A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at Student Cricket Ground Liaquatabad. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi and Sponsors by A. S. Natural Stone.

Correction of Name

It is to notify that I, Muhammad Anees S/o Muhammad Rafique, having CNIC # 37405-1034900-3 have corrected the spelling of my father's name from 'Muhammad Raifiq' to "Muhammad Rafique" for all future purpose.

PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD INVITATION TO BID

For SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF OUTDOOR SPECTATORS CHAIRS AT PINDI CRICKET STADIUM
The Pakistan Cricket Board invites sealed bids for Supply & Installation of Outdoor Spectators Chairs at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

The PCB has reserved the funds for the procurement planned during the financial year 2023-24. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the Contract for the Supply & Installation of Outdoor Spectators Chairs at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be collected from the office of Infra & Projects Department, Pakistan Cricket Board. Price of the Bidding Documents is Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) in the form of pay order or bank draft in favour of Pakistan Cricket Board by 27th October, 2023 on working days from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The original Bid along with two (02) copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in sealed envelope(s) must be delivered at the address given below on or before **30th October, 2023** by 1100 Hrs. Bids will be opened on the same day at 1130 Hrs in the presence of Bidder's representative at the office given below.

This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk and Pakistan Cricket Board website at www.pcb.com.pk

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